



From the Curate

Dear Friends,

May is the month when many of us will be spending a lot more time in our gardens. I know that Chris, John and Linda have already made a good start in the Church Hall garden and will be working hard to make things look super for the show next month. Everything seems to take off in May ... and that unfortunately means the weeds as well as the flowers, so that means getting down to work (on our knees if necessary) to sort things out ... though after a long hard winter it is a joy to be out in the fresh air.

Gardens have, over the ages, been celebrated as spiritual places, places not only to work but also to relax and contemplate. The poet, Dorothy Gurney, wrote 'one is nearer to God in a garden than anywhere else on earth' and indeed gardens feature in three key moments in the Bible. The opening chapters of Genesis see the story of man's creation and fall set in the Garden of Eden, the garden of Gethsemane witnessed Jesus' earnest prayer before his betrayal, and the garden tomb was the setting for the resurrected Christ's appearance to Mary Magdalene. Mary mistook Jesus for the gardener ... not so strange a thing to do in one who created life in the beginning and who is to make everything new again.

Many gardeners believe that their plants flourish if they talk to them; the jury may be out on that one, but our lives will flourish if we spend time talking to God. Not everyone finds prayer easy ... like gardening, we may well see the benefit if we are helped by someone more experienced.

Rogationtide (which this year falls in the last few days of May) is a special time when we ask God for growth ... specifically for the produce of the earth and man's industry. It would also be a good time for all of us to make a special effort to grow on our own relationship with God ... and to have space to consider the needs and way forward for this parish.

With every blessing,

Sonia Marshall.

Parish Directory

Priest in Charge	The Revd Janet Donaldson	vicar@dsj.org.uk
Curate	The Reverend Sonia Marshall	curate@dsj.org.uk
Churchwardens		churchwarden@dsj.org.uk
	Tony Masters Adrian Hallam	
Assistant Churchwardens	John Worthington Doris Bellairs	
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Parochial Church Council		
Chairman	The Revd Janet Donaldson	chairman@dsj.org.uk
Vice-Chairman	Adrian Hallam	
Hon. Secretary	Roger Bridgeman	
Hon. Treasurer	Simon Marshall	treasurer@dsj.org.uk
Covenant Secretary	Peter Wilde	
Electoral Roll Officer	Kim Hallam	
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Synod Members		
Diocesan Synod	Canon Niccy Fisher	
	<i>The above plus</i>	
Deanery Synod	The Reverend Sonia Marshall Simon Marshall	
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Choir Master	John Worthington	music@dsj.org.uk
Organist	Philip Spratley	
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Organisations		
Bellringers	Richard Muspratt	ringers@dsj.org.uk
Church Hall Bookings	Tony Masters	churchhall@dsj.org.uk
Church Ladies' Fellowship	Anthea Wray	
Church Coffee Group	Carole Mills Margaret Flegg	
Church Flowers	Pauline Brooksbank Christine Masters	
House Group	Doris Warner	
Rose & Sweet Pea Show	TBA	roseandsweetpea@dsj.org.uk
Just People	Richard Gamman	youth@dsj.org.uk
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In this Month's Priory News ...

Dear All,

As you can see, this edition is slimmer than usual. Our closing date was early as we went on holiday. Unfortunately, we haven't received enough contributions to extend to 12 pages so, ironically, several items we have had can't be included. My apologies to Richard, Alistair and Margaret; where suitable, your copy will be carried over to June's edition.

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I'm particularly sorry we haven't room for Richard's photos of Just People's Passion Play to go with Paul's excellent review. Congratulations to all involved. Being away, I missed the performance and also the ACPM. Thank you, Alistair, for taking and sending me the minutes in Roger's absence. I only have space here to reflect the thanks given to Sonia, all who have served as churchwardens and PCC members, and to Philip and John for their contribution to our church music. I would like to add my welcome to those taking on new responsibilities. I hope by the time you read this, that the full minutes and the Passion Play photographs will be available on the Parish Website.

Dave and I have been producing Priory News for 2½ years now. We have enjoyed doing this but we feel the time has come to hand over the reins. Dave has spent many hours every month to produce the magazine and introduced numerous changes, such as the hyperlinks, to improve it. I'm sure you'll agree that we owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

Please consider carefully if you could take over producing Priory News, maybe sharing the task with one or two others. We will be producing June's edition and would be happy to help our successors with the production of the July issue, if necessary. Please phone or email if you'd like to talk about this without any strings attached. I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmest wishes,

Bet.

Cover picture: Pat's, Over the Garden Gate. Photo courtesy of Judy Stevens.

Thank you to those who have sent in articles for Priory News. Contributions and suggestions are very welcome. Please let us have your prayers, poems, pictures, comments, reminiscences and anything else you'd like to share. **NB: pictures containing recognisable children must be accompanied by authorisation to publish from their parents or guardians. We will not publish the names of children pictured unless specifically requested to do so by their parents or guardians.**

Please send copy to:
priorynews@dsj.org.uk

*Please let us have your contributions for the **June** edition of Priory News **BEFORE** the deadline, **Friday 20th May**. Thank you for your help.*

Church Calendar for May

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

1ST SUNDAY 10:00am Sung Eucharist
6:00pm Choral Evensong

2nd Monday [St George](#)

3rd Tuesday [St Mark, evangelist](#)

4th Wednesday [Philip and James, apostles](#)

5th Thursday 9:30am Holy Communion
10:30am Home Communions

6th Friday *Practice Night:*
6:45pm Choir
7:30pm Ringers

8TH SUNDAY THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00am Holy Communion
10:00am Sung Eucharist
6:00pm Evening Prayer

15TH SUNDAY THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:00am Sung Eucharist
6:00pm Evening Prayer

22ND SUNDAY THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8:00am Holy Communion
10:00am Sung Eucharist
6:00pm Evening Prayer

29TH SUNDAY THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:00am Sung Eucharist
6:00pm Evening Prayer

2ND JUN THURSDAY THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

7:30pm Sung Eucharist

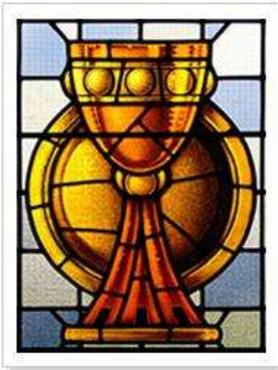
5TH JUN SUNDAY THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10:00am Sung Eucharist
6:00pm Evening Prayer



HOUSE GROUP

7:30pm Wednesdays
at 45 Crowson Way, DSJ.
All welcome!



Wardens' World

Half-listening to Radio 4 while busy with something else, as I often do, I caught a discussion about the desirable qualities of the ideal husband and the importance of honesty within a marriage. It was fairly light-hearted, so why should I not add my four penn'orth. Now, in the opinion of this humble keyboard-basher, honesty within marriage is a bit of a minefield and needs to be treated as carefully as a bucket of nitro-glycerine. Imagine your heart's desire propped up in bed with a nasty dose of the 'flu. Beneath bloodshot eyes set in a face of alabaster the tremulous lips croak out 'I must look an awful sight.' Beware - this is not a statement but a loaded question, a critical moment for all is there to be won or lost; hesitation is fatal, as is a completely truthful answer. For marital harmony demands a certain economy with the truth, such as the immediate reply 'To me you always look gorgeous' or if you can't stomach this (and I wouldn't blame you) 'In a day or so you will be back to your usual beautiful self.' As for the ideal husband, well there is no shortage of advice on this but I reckon a good outward sign would be some form of expensive body-piercing, thus demonstrating the ability to purchase jewellery and withstand a certain amount of suffering, both being desirable for any long-term satisfactory relationship between the sexes.

I also saw a TV programme recently about the state of our railway network from the passenger's point of view. Appropriately it was presented by Richard Wilson who is, I suppose, Britain's favourite grumpy old man. There were the usual complaints about overcrowding, Byzantine fare structures, delayed and cancelled trains etc. but my favourite item concerned the passengers who have been charged excess fares for getting off the train before the end of the journey they paid for. I've spent plenty of time on trains stranded or delayed, especially when I used to travel regularly to London. I have endured many a long and lonely despairing hour when the silence is broken only by the mobile phones 'I'm on the train ... I'm still on the train ... send help, can't hold out much longer ... Meanwhile weeds grow between the tracks, moth and rust do corrupt and I find myself thinking 'Are we doomed to be exiled here forever, yea even unto the third and fourth generation?' Yes, overhead electrification is a wonderful thing – until the wires come down.

Tony Masters.



The Passion Play

Set in the 'Modern Era' and acted out in front of a backdrop of a brick wall typical of any inner city suburb, Just People presented us with a refreshingly up to date take on the familiar Passion Play. The action started in the dining room where Jesus, played by Joey, is 'set up' by Judas. Swiftly, we were then transported to the hillside where Jesus's impassioned plea for companionship was declaimed eloquently by Joey. Yes, I did write Jesus - the inner city, modern King of the Jews. Next, we found ourselves in a back street bar with sleazy jazz piano accompanying the action. Peter, played by Ben, gave an indignant and then sorrowful performance as the

betrayer Peter. The dialogue was at its most dazzling in the courtroom, and then we were taken on the road to Golgotha and left on that hill itself.

Throughout, the story remained true to the Bible, but was given a creative zest and real life edge by its script writers Richard and Ted and director Ali. Ali told me afterwards, "We were determined not to use hoodies. We wanted to keep the play true to the story and modernize by using different language."

Ted, Richard and Kim had clearly worked hard on props. What struck me more than anything was the excellent standard of line learning and acting from the whole cast. On behalf of all of us lucky enough to be in the audience that evening, I would like to thank Richard, Ted, Kim, Ali and the entire cast.

Paul Boswall.

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee is appealing not for your money but for your support. We are looking to recruit new members to support and reinvigorate the fund raising activities of the group. Ill health has curtailed current fund raising and planning. If you think that you would like to join the group or have any good ideas, please contact us.

Victoria Worthington.

Easter Quiz Answers

1. Mardi Gras or carnival takes place around the World on Shrove Tuesday. What does Mardi Gras literally translate to in English?
Ans: Fat Tuesday.
2. Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper but which Jewish festival took place at the same time as the Last Supper?
Ans: Passover.
3. The monarch gives money to the poor on Maundy Thursday in a ceremony that historically included the washing of the feet of the poor. Who was the last monarch to perform this ritual?
Ans: James II.
4. Which artist painted the famous mural in Milan depicting The Last Supper?
Ans: Leonardo da Vinci.
5. Jesus was crucified at Calvary also known as Golgotha; what do these words mean in Hebrew?
Ans: The Place of a/the Skull.
6. Who was the male star of the 1980 British film, "The Long Good Friday"?
Ans: Bob Hoskins.
7. Who was the first person to speak to Jesus after he had risen from the dead?
**Ans: John: "Mary Magdalene",
Matthew: "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary",
Mark: "Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome",
Luke: "Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women".**
8. Easter is a movable feast and can occur between March 22nd and April 25th; how is this date decided?

Ans: The 1st Sunday following the full moon on or after 21st March.

9. From what does the name Easter derive?

Ans: Eastre, the Teutonic goddess of Spring.

10. Who wrote the song “Easter Parade”?

Ans: Irving Berlin.

11. Who wrote the poem entitled “Easter 1916” about the Irish Easter uprising?

Ans: William Butler Yeats.

12. Which Scottish football club play their home matches at Easter Road?

Ans: Hibernian.

Bet Washbrooke.

LunchBox

Every Tuesday, “LunchBox” at Deepings Methodist Church serves a 2-course meal for people living on their own or who have difficulty in providing meals for themselves.

There are currently several vacant places. If you know of anyone who would benefit from a weekly meal in company, please contact George Carter on 342539.

Adrian Browne.

Rotas for May

		Servers	Sidespersons	Intercessors
Sun 1st	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER			
	10:00 am	Paul Boswall John Sellars	Team B: Joy Cunningham, Ann Meekings	Nicky Fisher
Sun 8th	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER			
	8:00 am	Geoff Armstrong	George Knowles Ken Rimmer	
	10:00 am	Chris Halley Simon Marshall	Team C: Cled Bennett, Adrian Hallam, Tim Hitchborn	Bet Washbrooke
Sun 15th	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER			
	10:00 am	Simon Marshall John Sellars	Team D: Kim Hallam, Graham Hardy, Trevor Harwood	John Marsh
Sun 22nd	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER			
	8:00 am	Geoff Armstrong	George Knowles Ken Rimmer	
	10:00 am	Simon Marshall John Sellars	Team E: Liz Bridgeman, Bill Flegg, Margaret Flegg	Janet Donaldson
Sun 29th	THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER			
	10:00 am	Paul Boswall Chris Halley	Team F: Doris Bellairs, Christine Masters, Val Wilde	Martin Fisher
Thu 2nd Jun	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD			
	7:30 pm	Chris Halley John Sellars		
Sun 5th Jun	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER			
	10:00 am	Paul Boswall Simon Marshall	Team A: Doris Bellairs, Kim Hallam	Sonia Marshall

		Bread & Wine	Coffee	Flowers	Cleaning	Brasses
	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER					
Sun 1 st	10:00 am	Pat Feek Doris Warner	Pat Feek Doris Warner	Mr Bond	Janet Lill Marion Stevens	
	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER					
Sun 8 th	10:00 am	Peter & Val Wilde	Val Wilde Doris Bellairs	Carole Mills (for CLF)	Janet Lill Marion Stevens	Jean Shepherd Doris Bellairs
	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER					
Sun 15 th	10:00 am	Bill & Margaret Flegg	John & Sue Marsh	Janet Lill	Dick & Anthea Wray	
	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER					
Sun 22 nd	10:00 am	Caroline Herron Linda Sellars	Johanna Jones	Christine Masters	Dick & Anthea Wray	
	THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER					
Sun 29 th	10:00 am	Joy Cunningham Carole Mills	Liz Spratley Linda Sellars	Sue Marsh	Josie Waghorn Joy Cunningham	Marion Stevens Janet Lill
	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER					
Sun 5 th Jun	10:00 am	TBA	TBA	Joan Dyke	Josie Waghorn Joy Cunningham	

Readings and Readers for May

		OT Reading	OT Reader	NT Reading	NT Reader	Gospel Reading
	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER					
Sun 1 st	10:00 am	Acts 2.14a,22-32	Joy Cunningham	1 Peter 1.3-9	Bill Flegg	John 20.19-end
	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER					
Sun 8 th	8:00 am	Acts 2.14a,36-41		1 Peter 1.17-23		Luke 24.13-35
	10:00 am		TBA		Roger Bridgeman	
	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER					
Sun 15 th	10:00 am	Acts 2.42-end	Liz Bridgeman	1 Peter 2.19-end	John Marsh	John 10.1-10
	THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER					
Sun 22 nd	8:00 am	Acts 7.55-end		1 Peter 2.2-10		John 14.1-14
	10:00 am		Liz Spratley		Niccy Fisher	
	THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER					
Sun 29 th	10:00 am	Acts 17.22-31	Peter Wilde	1 Peter 3.13-end	Simon Marshall	John 14.15-21
	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD					
Thu 2 nd Jun	7:30 pm	Acts 1.1-11	TBA	Ephesians 1.15-end	TBA	Luke 24.44-end
	THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER					
Sun 5 th Jun	10:00 am	Acts 1.6-14	Cled Bennet	1 Peter 4.12-14,5.6-11	Ann Bennet	John 17.1-11