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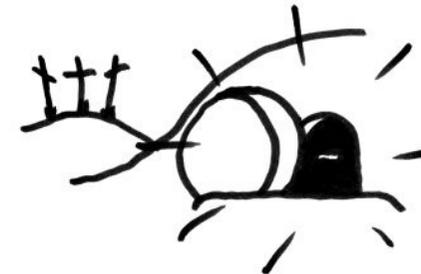
Rector	The Revd Canon Paul Richardson	07801 365280 or 829616
Associate Priest (part-time)	The Revd Jacqui Clark	01225 769940
Assistant Curate	The Revd Ben Rundell-Evans	730384
Parish Administrator	Catherine Brown	724389
Licensed Lay Ministers	Chris Cox John Stott	728716 739011
Churchwardens	Peter Crofts Mike McClelland Jane Scorer Bob Simpson	725740 724632 720168 725728
Hon. Treasurer	Ian Brown	739253
PCC Secretary	Liz Overthrow	722404
Electoral Roll Officer	The Revd Roy Overthrow	722404
Organist	Chris Totney	01672 562886
Bell Ringers	St John's: Liz Merritt St Mary's: Barry Osborn	726767 725389
Flower Guild	Heather Blyth	724347
Parish Magazine Distribution	Peter Crofts	725740
Parish Magazine Editor	The Revd Roy Overthrow	722404
Mothers' Union	Juliet Bazeley	829610
Children's Church	Catherine Brown	739253
Parish Safeguarding Officer	Jerry King	723830
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Devizes St John & St Mary

PARISH MAGAZINE

APRIL 2019





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If you would like to read this magazine electronically, please go to this page on our website:

<http://www.stjohnwithstmary.org.uk/about-us/church-life/overview-of-church-life>



Bible readings for April

1 <i>Mon</i>	Jeremiah 17. 5-18	17 <i>Wed</i>	John 13. 21—32
2 <i>Tue</i>	Jer 18. 1-12	18 <i>Thu</i>	John 13. 1-17, 31b-35
3 <i>Wed</i>	Jer 18. 12-end	19 <i>Fri</i>	John 18. 1-end of 19
4 <i>Thu</i>	Jer 19. 1-13	20 <i>Sat</i>	Matt 27. 57-end
5 <i>Fri</i>	Jer 19. 14-20.6	21 <i>Sun</i>	Luke 24. 1-12
6 <i>Sat</i>	Jer 20. 7-end	22 <i>Mon</i>	Matt 28. 8-15
7 <i>Sun</i>	John 12. 1-8	23 <i>Tue</i>	John 20. 11-18
8 <i>Mon</i>	Jer 21. 1-10	24 <i>Wed</i>	Luke 24. 13-35
9 <i>Tue</i>	Jer 22. 1-5, 13-19	25 <i>Thu</i>	Luke 24. 35-48
10 <i>Wed</i>	Jer 22. 20-23. 8	26 <i>Fri</i>	John 21. 1-14
11 <i>Thu</i>	Jer 23. 9-32	27 <i>Sat</i>	Mark 16. 9-15
12 <i>Fri</i>	Jer 24	28 <i>Sun</i>	John 20. 19-end
13 <i>Sat</i>	Jer 25. 1-14	29 <i>Mon</i>	John 15. 18-21
14 <i>Sun</i>	Luke 19. 28-20	30 <i>Tue</i>	Mark 13. 5-13
15 <i>Mon</i>	John 12. 1-11		
16 <i>Tue</i>	John 12. 20-36		

Easter Week takes precedence over all saint's days, and saint's days are transferred to the next available date.

So the church will celebrate:

George, martyr, patron of England on 29 April

Mark the Evangelist on 30 April





Lent lunches

4 & 11 April (12 noon – 1.15pm)

Thursday Lent lunches
in St John's Parish Rooms

This is an opportunity to meet and eat with
people from other churches.

The donations go to
Christian Aid and CAFOD.

(Many thanks to those making soup!)

Good Friday

19 April at 11.00am

United Service

in the Market Place

followed by walking the crosses
up Roundway Hill

April, as ever, begins with April fools, and this year towards the end of the month we also celebrate the Easter feast. This April we see a development from the court jester, to the crucified and resurrected Christ. So often the Church of England can be considered as a bit of a court jester on the stage of society. Not a serious voice, but a comforting thought - a public institution perhaps like the BBC often nicknamed as 'dear old aunty.' *Yes Prime Minister* portrays this very well in a scene where the Prime Minister is struggling with recommending the appointment of a Bishop to the Queen:

Prime Minister James Hacker:

How could the Church of England suggest an atheist as Bishop of Bury St Edmunds?

Sir Humphrey Appleby:

Well, very easily. The Church of England is primarily a social organization, not a religious one.

Prime Minister James Hacker:

Is it?

Sir Humphrey Appleby:

Oh yes. It's part of the rich social fabric of this country. So bishops need to be the sorts of people who speak properly and know which knife and fork to use. The sort of people one can look up to.

But what does it mean if we, as the Church of England, are to make the transition from April fools to the Easter feast. How does the Church of England change from a jolly caricature of a supposed 'golden age', and be serious about transforming lives and communities for the better? While the Church of England can be a force for much good, there is little doubt that the general opinion of the Church of England is that it is a quaint organisation which is most interested in preserving its existence and is currently in a state of managing its decline.

BUT... I know (or hope!) that many of us see a very different side of the Church of England. A church with compassion for the isolated, a deep concern for creation and among many other things, a love for God and neighbour which has the potential to continually transform communities into places of hope and love.

cont. over

While the Church of England's heart is in the right place, is it managing to achieve what it often strives to do or are we, as Sir Humphrey says, simply "a social organisation, not a religious one."? What does a transition from April fools to the Easter feast look like for the Church of England, and for us at St John's? Can the church be to its communities an embodiment of the crucified and resurrected Christ rather than the court jester that is nice to have around? I don't have an answer, but perhaps you do?

Ben

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place on Sunday 7 April at 12 noon.

There are forms on the table in the cross aisle in church to nominate Churchwardens and PCC members for election at this meeting. Please consider carefully whether you could serve in this way.

To nominate people, you must be on the Electoral Roll.

A Christian church is a body or collection of persons, voluntarily associated together, professing to believe what Christ teaches, to do what Christ enjoins, to imitate his example, cherish his spirit, and make known his gospel to others. – *R F Sample*

Easter Peace: it does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart. - *Anon*

NEW CODE OF PRACTICE ON ECUMENICAL COOPERATION APPROVED

The General Synod has given overwhelming backing to new guidance which will help Church of England congregations to share mission and ministry more easily with a range of churches in their areas.

Members voted in February in favour of a code of practice giving guidance to bishops, clergy, lay workers and Church of England Readers on how to work more flexibly with other Christian denominations in their communities.

The vote came after an overhaul of rules underpinning ecumenical relations was given final approval by the General Synod last year, opening the way for parishes to take part in joint worship and share buildings with more churches than previously possible.

The new rules include churches without a large national presence which will particularly affect newer independent evangelical, Pentecostal and Charismatic groups, including many black-led churches.

The Bishop of Chichester, Martin Warner, addressing the General Synod, said: "We hope and pray that this will be a sign of encouragement and enthusiasm, which will lead to the renewal and deepening of our life together and our witness to Jesus Christ."

Egg

Church notice: This being Easter Day, we will ask Mrs Cusworth to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

The bishop's visit

A bishop was visiting a small church in his diocese for Easter. He wanted the young people to understand what he had to say about the Good Shepherd, so he dressed up in his bishop's long, flowing robes and carried his crook. "Now," beamed the bishop, "do you know who I am?"

After a moment's silence, one child ventured "Little Bo Peep?"

PCC REPORT

The Parochial Church Council met on 21 March and the following topics were discussed:

- The Annual Accounts were presented by the Treasurer and approved in readiness for the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 7 April.
- The repair of the church path is to be undertaken by Wiltshire Council as soon as the stonework repairs to the church have been completed.
- The pruning of trees in St Mary's churchyard to be paid for by Chantry Court.
- The necessity of replacing the sound system.
- Repairing the stonework on the inside of the south door.
- The updating of the structure of the website.
- Plans for Christian Aid week.

If you want to know any more about any of these items, please speak to a member of the Parochial Church Council or the clergy.

Liz Overthrow
PCC Secretary



*They could have either a procession of crosses,
or a donkey. But not both.*

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

12-18 May

St John's and St Mary's plans to support anyone who wishes to, in conducting a house to house collection. We are also planning a coffee morning (volunteers required) in the Parish Rooms on the Thursday of CA week, 16 May, and, in addition, we encourage people to take part in the White Horse Walk or to sponsor walkers taking part.

Peter Crofts
725740

Walk the Wiltshire White Horses for CHRISTIAN AID

Step by Step—every Step Counts 27—30 April

The event will start with a Big Brekkie in Westbury, to which you are all invited – a great way to build your strength ready for the first day's trek. We are hoping that many walkers will choose to complete all four days of the walk, with each day covering between 12-17 miles, 60 in total.

Others may prefer to sign up for one or two legs/days of the hike. En route we will take in eight white horses around Westbury, Devizes, Cherhill, Broad Town, Hackpen, Marlborough, Pewsey and Alton Barnes.

Refreshments and a warm welcome will be provided by Christian Aid supporters along the route. We're raising funds for Christian Aid Week 2019 – which is focussing on Mothers in Sierra Leone who suffer from lack of medical support during childbirth (ten women in Sierra Leone die every day in childbirth).

If you can't walk that far then please consider sponsoring a walker. Every little counts.

For more info visit www.devizeschurches.org.uk

MAUNDY THURSDAY

The mystery of Jesus

Jesus suffered in his Passion the torments which men inflicted on him, but in his agony he suffered torments which he inflicted on himself: *turbare semetipsum*. This is suffering from no human, but an almighty hand, and he who bears it must also be almighty.

Jesus sought some comfort at least in his three dearest friends, and they were asleep. He prayed them to watch with him a while, and they left him with utter carelessness, having so little compassion that it could not hinder their sleeping even for a moment. And thus Jesus was left alone to the wrath of God.

Jesus was without one on earth not merely to feel and share his suffering, but even to know of it; he and heaven were alone in that knowledge.

Jesus was in a garden, not of delight as the first Adam, in which he destroyed himself and the whole human race, but in one of agony, in which he saved himself and the whole human race.

He suffered this sorrow and this desertion in the horror of night.

I believe that Jesus never complained but on this single occasion, but then he complained as if he could no longer restrain his extreme sorrow: 'My soul is sorrowful, even to death.'

Jesus sought companionship and consolation from men. This was the only time in his life, as it seems to me; but he received it not, for his disciples were asleep.

Jesus will be in agony even to the end of the world. We must not sleep during that time.

*Blaise Pascal
(1623-1662)*



BISHOP'S LETTER

The Rt Revd Dr Andrew Rumsey, Bishop of Ramsbury

The cross before us in Passiontide is so familiar we can forget how strange an emblem it makes. As the symbol of faith in an invisible God, it is utterly and undeniably physical - not 'spiritual' at all, whatever we might mean by that.

For a faith whose kingdom is not of this world, how earthly and human is the cross; our own brutal idea, sawn and sledgehammered into the ground. Striking, too, that the mark of a faith so often spoken of as a private matter should be so unavoidably public and political. Crowds abound in the Passion story, with Christ at the centre; a blatant spectacle.

Because it is in these ways the opposite of what we might expect, the cross pitches our faith in reality. And just as it is true to the things we can see, the cross is equally true to all we cannot, but which is just as real; things like the fear of failure, or our longing for justice. For many, the cross becomes their personal signpost, standing for direction when they are lost and life in the midst of death. Which is surely the most shocking thing about the badge of our faith; that something so bleak and hopeless could, after all, be reckoned as so wondrous.

+Andrew

You are what you think about

Negative thoughts can actually harm you, physically. In a recent study by the universities of Exeter and Oxford, it was found that if you listen to that critical inner voice, you will end up with an increased heart rate, consistent with feelings of being under threat and distress.

On the other hand, positive thoughts have the opposite effect. Those in the study who were encouraged to be kind to themselves when things went wrong, reported more self-compassion, connection with others, and had feelings of relaxation and safety.

No wonder that Paul urges us: "Brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things... And the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4. 8,9)

THE MOSAIC FELLOWSHIP

This is the first of three articles introducing the Mosaic Fellowship. The articles will cover the following topics:

- The Mosaic Fellowship: Background
- The Mosaic Fellowship: Aims and Objectives
- The Mosaic Fellowship: Practical Considerations

The Mosaic Fellowship: Background:

For some time we've been using three overarching terms to describe the character of St John's and St Mary's as a church community i.e. *Inclusive*, *Eucharistic* and *Contemplative*. For a number of years we've been considering what it means to be a 'contemplative' community and this exploration has been instrumental, for example, in the development of our 'Reflection' group and our contemplative Compline service. The Mosaic Fellowship is also rooted within this exploration.

The Mosaic Fellowship is a group that will be open to anyone who is interested in exploring, and engaging with, the ancient and authentic contemplative tradition of the Christian church, and who wishes to explore and participate in a contemplative expression of Christian life and faith. It will remain under the authority of the incumbent and the PCC, will be grounded within the rhythms of our parish community rule, and will maintain a commitment to corporate life and worship. In this sense, the Mosaic Fellowship is very much an expression of our community life, and not an alternative to it.

What do you need to join? Well, nothing really, with the possible exception of 'willingness'. A willingness to explore contemplative spirituality from a Christian perspective; a willingness to consider a different but truly ancient and authentic expression of the Christian life; a willingness to embark on a journey of discovery and transformation grounded in contemplative practice; and a willingness to engage with others and learn together. Oh, and perhaps a willingness to not know, to acknowledge that there are things we don't know, things we can't know, and that that's okay.

So, if any of this sparks your interest, please look out for two more articles to come entitled '*The Mosaic Fellowship: Aims and Objectives*' which will explain more about the purpose of the group and its goals, and '*The Mosaic Fellowship: Practical Considerations*' which will explain about membership, leadership, oversight and meetings. Also, please do come and have a chat with me if you want to know more or have any questions.

Chris Cox LLM
728716

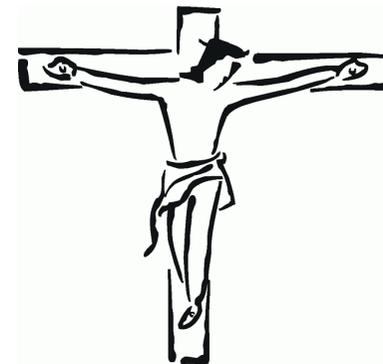
GOOD FRIDAY

Thou hast given thyself for redemption:
Soul for soul,
Body for body,
And blood for blood,
Man for man,
And death for death.

O strange and unspeakable mystery:
The Judge was judged,
He who loosed the bound was bound,
He who created the world was fixed with nails,
He who measures heaven and earth was measured,
He who gives creatures life died,
He who raises the dead was buried.

What is this new creation?
The Judge is judged and is silent;
The Invisible is seen on the cross and is not ashamed;
The Infinite is contained and does not complain;
The Impassible suffers and does not seek vengeance,
The Immortal dies and says nothing,
The King of heaven is buried and endures it.
What is this strange mystery?

St Melito of Sardis
d.c.190



EASTER

Rise, heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise
Without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise
With him mayst rise:
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold, and much more just.

Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part
With all thy art.
The crosse taught all wood to resound his name,
Who bore the same.
His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key
Is best to celebrate this most high day.

Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song
Pleasant and long:
Or since all musick is but three parts vied
And multiplied;
O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part,
And make up our defects with his sweet art.

*George Herbert
(1593-1633)*



Mothers' Union

Wednesday 4 April at 2.30pm
Our Childrens' Sunday School
Catherine Brown

Regular Events

First Sunday of each month:

Fairtrade stall in church after the 10.30am service

Third Sunday of each month

Ministry of Healing during Parish Communion

Tuesdays

9.30am to 11.30am

Mums and Toddlers meet in the parish rooms

7.15pm for 7.30pm (third Tuesday in every month)

Reflection in St John's (No meeting in April)

Details from Judy Bridger (724625)

Wednesdays

2.30pm (first Wednesday of the month)

Mothers' Union meets in the Parish Rooms

Details from Juliet Bazeley (829610)

Thursdays

7.30pm

Bell Ringing Practice

Details from Liz Merritt (726767)

Fridays

Choir Practice

7.00pm Junior Choir

7.45pm Full Practice (ends 8.30pm)

Details from Chris Totney (01672 562886)



From the registers

No Baptisms
No Weddings
No funerals

What a quiet month!

◇◇◇◇◇◇◇◇

Parish Office Opening

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri, 10.00am–12 noon

CLOSED: Tues, Thurs, Sat, Sun

724389 or email admin@stjohnwithstmary.org.uk with enquiries

Parish Magazine

Copy deadline for the May 2019 issue of the parish magazine to Roy Overthrow by 19 April on roy.overthrow@btinternet.com or on 722404

Website

stjohnwithstmary.org.uk

The views expressed in this magazine are those of individual contributors. They do not necessarily represent the official views of the staff and PCC of the parish or of the diocese of Salisbury. The editor reserves the right to select or edit material submitted for publication.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER IN PASSIONTIDE

(Monday 8 April ~ Friday 12 April)

'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10)

During Passiontide, and in preparation for Holy Week, St John's church will be hosting a week of silent contemplative prayer.

- Session 1: Monday (6.00pm ~ 7.30pm)
Introduction, instruction and contemplative prayer.
- Sessions 2, 3 & 4: Tuesday ~ Thursday (6.00pm ~ 6.45pm)
Contemplative prayer
- Session 5: Friday (7.00pm ~ 8.30 pm)
Contemplative prayer and the opportunity to discuss your experience of the week.

Refreshments will be available on Monday and Friday evenings and all sessions will be held in St Johns church except Friday 12th which will be in St John's Parish Rooms.

BOOK REVIEW

The Contemplative Response - *leadership and ministry in a distracted culture*

By Ian Cowley, BRF, £8.99

Here is wisdom and sustenance for all Christians who struggle to maintain a still, quiet centre in the midst of a 24/7 contemporary culture shaped by worldly ambition, consumerism and information overload.

Cowley explains: "I find that three particular words – achieve, acquire, indulge – seem to point to the compulsions I recognise in my own heart and in what I see being constantly reinforced by our society and culture." He hopes his readers "will come to see that they need to actively pursue the remedies that Christian spirituality and the teachings of Jesus Christ offer us: contentment, detachment and self-control. The need for us to talk about these things is as great now, perhaps, as it has ever been in the history of the Christian Church."

Services in April

Services are in St John's church unless otherwise stated

- 2 Tuesday: 6.30pm Holy Communion in St Mary's
- 3 Wednesday: 8.00pm Compline
- 4 Thursday: 10.00am Holy Communion
- 7 Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Lent**
Passiontide begins
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong
- 9 Tuesday: 6.30pm Holy Communion in St Mary's
- 11 Thursday: 10.00am Holy Communion
- 14 Sunday: Palm Sunday**
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.15am *Meet at St Mary's for the Blessing of Palm Crosses and procession through town to St John's for*
10.30am Parish Communion
6.30pm Evensong
- 15 Monday: Monday of Holy Week**
7.30pm Healing and Wholeness
A chance to reflect on the events of Holy Week in preparation for our commemoration of Christ's Passion
- 16 Tuesday: Tuesday of Holy Week**
6.30pm Stations of the Cross followed by Holy Communion in St Mary's
- 17 Wednesday: Wednesday of Holy Week**
7.30pm Sung Compline and address

April services cont

- 18 Thursday: Maundy Thursday**
No 10.00am service today, instead come to the Cathedral for the
11.00am Eucharist of Chrism
7.30pm Parish Communion with Washing of Feet for those that wish it, followed by the Watch of the Passion
- 19 Friday: Good Friday**
11.00am Churches Together in Devizes Service in the Market Place
2.00pm Liturgy of the Cross
- 20 Saturday: Easter Eve**
8.00pm Easter Vigil
Lighting new fire and first communion of Easter
- 21 Sunday: Easter Day**
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Parish Communion
A celebration of Christ's resurrection followed by an Easter egg hunt!
6.30pm Evening service in St Mary's
- 23 Tuesday: 6.30pm Holy Communion in St Mary's
- 25 Thursday: 10.00am Holy Communion
- 28 Sunday: Second Sunday of Easter**
8.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Sunday Thanksgiving with Communion
6.30pm Evensong
- 30 Tuesday: Mark the Evangelist**
(transferred from 25 April)
6.30pm Holy Communion in St Mary's