

Services and events for March/April

- 29th - Palm Sunday. Bath Gardens 10.15 Eucharist
10.30am
30th - stations of the Cross 7pm
1st - Holy Communion 7pm
2nd - Maundy Thursday. Holy Communion/ foot washing
7pm
stripping of the church/Easter Vigil. No seder meal
3rd - Good Friday, The Good Friday Liturgy 1.30pm
4th - Church clean from 9.30am
5th - Easter Sunday - Family Eucharist 10.30am
12th - Benefice Service at Great Longstone 10.30am
19th - Morning Praise 10.30am
Evensong 6pm
26th - Parish Eucharist 10.30am



Copy for May by 20th April please.



All Saints with St. Anne's

Parish Pump

APRIL 2026



*He was born in an obscure village.
He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty.
He then became an itinerant preacher.
He never held an office.
He never had a family or owned a house.
He didn't go to college.
He had no credentials but himself.*

*Nineteen centuries have come and gone
And today he is the central figure of the human race.*

*All the armies that ever marched,
And all the navies that ever sailed,
All the parliaments that ever sat,
And all the kings that ever reigned
Have not affected the life of man on this earth
As much as that*

One Solitary Life

Bird's Eye View April 2026



The latest news on the appointment of a new vicar.....None! The advertisement will now go into the Church Times after Easter, for reasons best known to the diocese.

There was a lively discussion about the state of our finances. It looks as if they are not quite as dire as we feared. Several people have responded positively to the letter to the congregation. Ahead of the APCM on May 3rd our treasurer is going to be asked about which funds are restricted and whether the accounts can be tabulated in a more user-friendly form. It does raise the question of whether we should give a small proportion of our income to local charities, as part of our mission is to serve our community. What do you think? The fact remains that however serious the cracked beam in the chancel is, it will be expensive to repair.

As we discussed the Annual Report we pondered again how difficult it has been to find priests for the Eucharist in the Benefice. It does keep us on our toes to find out where the services are going to be each week. For those who can navigate the church website,, the services are listed there and there is a notice at the back of the church with the services for this month. You will see that inexplicably there is a Benefice service at Great Longstone on the second Sunday this month, so please note.

We were most disappointed in the Diocesan Advisory Committee's response to our request for glass doors to be installed at the main entrance. They have told us to wait until we have a new vicar

Advance notice:

There is to be an exhibition of Steve Taylor's art work in the Newark from Friday 5th June. Full details in May Parish Pump.

* * *

From a parish magazine:

" The new automatic couplings fitted to the organ will enable Mr F..... to change his combinations without moving his feet."

O. M Witherby



but we still keep breaking those rules, and repeatedly need to be pointed towards Jesus.

In another session we reflected on biblical truths; for example, with regards to slavery, attitudes to women and to the role of government. Biblical teaching isn't always clear cut; verses can be found to back up a range of different opinions, which is why understanding the context is so important. It was interesting to discover that there are about 40 women named in the Old Testament who had important roles to play in Jewish history yet their stories are rarely heard. Zelophehad's girls for example, made Moses change both his mind and the law about property rights for women. (Numbers 27 and 36).

As the bombing of Iran had just begun, questions about obedience to governments seemed particularly relevant. John commented that the Bible shows us that throughout the world those who seek power are usually the least suitable people to exert it! He also suggested that we could use the Bible to help us pray that the mighty might be cast down from their thrones, the lowly lifted up and the hungry be filled with good things.

Having time for prayer and reflection was really valuable; you might hear more of John Bell's insights in my preaching!

Brenda

(I do hope so. Ed.)

even though the plans had been submitted, which Canon Tony had certainly approved, as making the church more open and welcoming to visitors.

If you think the PCC could be doing a better job, do consider standing for election at the APCM on May 3rd I'll even serve you coffee!.

Angela Bird



A Word from St. Anne's

The month of April sees the renewal of life all around us, both plant and animal, as the days get warmer and the sun shines for longer. It seems entirely appropriate that Easter coincides with all this, and helps to make Springtime such a glad season

The Easter story is so familiar to us, in the Church, that I wonder if we sometimes forget just how mind-blowingly extraordinary an event that first Easter was.

The followers of Jesus - not just His disciples but the band of women who attended Him, and all those who had been converted during His Mission of the previous three years - were all cast down in despair, cowed and in hiding, after seeing the Man they thought was the Messiah killed on the cross and buried in a tomb. Then He came back to them, as a real person, who talked with them and ate with them. He had defeated death itself, and demonstrated beyond all doubt - even to Thomas! - that hope was eternal. He came back as a person as real as they were, but at the same time "other" and had to return soon to another place, but would send a Holy Spirit to them as confirmation of the new reality He had demonstrated.

Suddenly, a group of despairing, despondent, defeated people became a band of joyful, fervent evangelists who set about preaching the Good News and set about converting people by the thousand to become followers of Jesus. The movement grew, and spread with amazing speed, throughout the Roman world, and beyond. There can be no other explanation for this, other than what they had witnessed was real. The world was turned upside down. Jesus had shown that death was not the end; not just for Him but for them, and for all of His followers, including us.

Roger Truscott

I recently attended a three day retreat at Royal St Katherine's Foundation in London, a beautiful oasis of calm in the heart of London's East End. The retreat was led by John Bell the hymn writer, member of the Iona community and minister in the church of Scotland. John with his depth of knowledge, wisdom, humility and gentle sense of humour was an excellent leader and he had many interesting stories to tell. The subject for the retreat was 'Ten things they never told me about the Bible.' People are expected to read the Bible, but seldom told how. So some give up, having no idea how to cope with ancient history which suggests God likes a fight, poems which are clearly Zionist, stories which defy logic, and letters which are unflattering to women.

We looked at the different types of literature found in the Bible such as laws poetry, folk tales, personal letters, business letters, prophecy and visions. The poetry and folk tales in the Bible are not meant to be seen as a factual record of events but have a richness that engages our imagination and deepens our understanding.

Sometimes the Bible gives us words that come directly from God, words that are to be pondered but not to be argued with, but there are other passages where scripture cannot be properly understood without looking at the context. In one session we looked at some of the figures whose stories are told in Genesis and Exodus. Famous and not so famous figures whose lives were full of deceit providing many examples of jealousy, adultery, murder, theft, sibling rivalry, incest and rape. It was in the light of such behaviour that God gave us the 10 Commandments, with clear rules about how to behave, but