

holy trinity church

parish magazine

March 2016



30p



**He Is
Risen!
Hallelujah!**

Resurrection Prayer

Loving Father,

Thank you for Jesus; for his life and death, but most of all for His resurrection, which makes all things new and possible.

Thank you for the reality that He defeated death by his work on the Cross and offers life forever with Him to all who believe in Him and receive Him into their lives as Lord and Saviour. Thank you for that incomprehensible but very real resurrection peace that we can know even in our darkest times by the presence of your Holy Spirit in us.

In joy and thankfulness we praise and honour you this Easter-time.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Helen Morrow found this hidden away on a sheet of paper in an old Bible of her Grandad's (the Bible is copyright 1917, but the poem is later, the other bits of paper (notes prayer cards and invitations are 1947, so I think it's probably from around then).

The power of a smile

It costs nothing -but creates much...

It happens in a flash - but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever ... yet it cannot be bought, borrowed or stolen.

And if I should be too tired to give you a smile, will you, please, leave one of yours...
For nobody needs a smile so much as those who have none left to give

Author unknown

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From the Vicarage

On 19th February 2009, the Robbie family arrived at the vicarage in two removal vans from Wolverhampton. The 7th anniversary of my induction as vicar falls on 10th March this year. In this letter from the vicarage I hope to answer questions some people have started asking about the extended study leave and family holiday I have this summer. We also have a couple of big events each side of the summer to look forward to. Before that, it's Easter.



First, what is extended study leave and what will I be doing? The bible teaches us that rest is important. We are to rest from our labour on the 7th day, the Sabbath. Farm land was to rest every seventh year and one day every true Christian believer will fully and finally enter God's rest (but, of course, there will be no rest for the wicked). The Church of England has established a pattern of service for the clergy and licensed readers, which includes a sabbatical rest of up to 12 weeks every 7 years or so. When my time as a vicar is added to my curacy, I will have served continuously for 11 years and so am due a rest.

The sabbatical is not a holiday but a change of responsibility and rhythm. My sabbatical is broken into three parts. First, five weeks of study at the London Theological Seminary. My former church history and doctrine lecturer from college, Gary Williams, will be supervising my study programme. I will be reading about Archbishop Cranmer's theology of communion and writing a catechism (a list of questions and answers) to help new and old Christians understand what we are doing when we take communion in an Anglican church.

Then the Robbie family are off to Sydney, Singapore and Malaysia. We will be staying with friends in each place. I'll be studying in Singapore and Malaysia for half of each day and doing touristy things with Amanda and our kids on the other half. I am planing to visit church leaders to research the ways the fast growing Asian churches are making disciples of Jesus Christ in multi-cultural and urban poor communities. I may do some preaching or teaching, if asked, and already have a preaching engagement in a church in Singapore in August.

For holiday, we will be doing tourist stuff in Sydney, and we are spending two nights in the national park of Malaysia, Taman Negara, in virgin rainforest. At the end of our time away we are spending 6 days on an island, Pulau Tioman, off the east coast of peninsular Malaysia, snorkelling and jungle trekking. Amanda and I have been before, and want our children to be able to connect with places associated with their parents' early married life.

When we get back from the Far East, I then have two weeks at the end to write up and get ready for being strapped back in the harness, ready, God willing, for another seven years.

I plan to write a blog of what I study and visit, so you can follow what I am up to.

Before I go, we have the 175th anniversary of Holy Trinity church, which opened in June 1841. We are planning an exhibition to show three things: how the building has changed; how the people have changed; how the gospel has remained the same. Please pray for the anniversary to enable us to remember and reveal that we worship the faithful God and to give thanks for the faithfulness of generations which came before us. Glen Scrivener, the Australian evangelist who gave us 3-2-1 Gospel will be joining us for Sunday 12th June, which is also the Queen's 90th birthday celebration weekend.

After I get back, we are planning a big church weekend away at the Qunita centre on the Wales/Shropshire border. I hope to be able to share some lessons from my extended study leave on the weekend away, over a meal and a quiz on the Saturday night. There's lots of other reasons to come along. Please see the flier in church for more information.

During this lent season, may the wonder of the passion of the Christ, fill your heart afresh with pure joy and delightful assurance of his love, grace, forgiveness and may we hear his call to pick up our cross and follow him on the road of self-sacrificial love and good deeds.

Your brother in the Lord Jesus, Neil

Prayer Focus - Prayer



The Ven John Barton considers what you need to remember when you pray. This is part two of a two-part article.

Some hints about prayer, as Easter approaches

Acknowledgments are always appreciated. Parents enjoy giving to their children, but they also teach them to say ‘thank-you’. When Jesus healed ten lepers, only one bothered to express his thanks. For a couple of weeks, try saying just ‘thank you’ prayers. If you are out of the habit, you may find gratitude needs fresh effort, but makes a big difference to the day.

Why is prayer needed? Think of yourself as one of God’s agents in your neighbourhood. He wants you as a conduit; when you pray, you are opening up a means of collaborating with God’s will. C. S. Lewis suggested that God passes on to human beings any responsibility which they can take. Work and prayer are two ways of accomplishing what God wants.

Dealing with doubt. You may find yourself asking if it’s all an illusion. A group of Rabbis met after the Holocaust to put God on trial. How could He have let his people suffer in that way? They considered the evidence, then pronounced a guilty verdict, or more precisely said, “He owes us something”. Then they went to pray as they had always done. Prayer is instinctive. Try doubting your doubts.

Is prayer superstition? There’s a joke about a driver who was desperate for a parking place and promised God he would go to church next Sunday and put £10 in the plate if God found him one. Nothing happened. He increased the offer to £100, but without success. Finally, he offered £1,000 and immediately found a space. “The deal’s off”, said the driver, “I found one anyway.” A former Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, was asked if answers to prayer were just coincidences. He replied, “the more often I pray, the more often coincidences happen.” By the way, bribing God doesn’t work!

You are not alone. Not only is Jesus alongside you when you pray, so are billions of others, even if you can’t see them. We join with ‘angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven’ as well as the Church across the world, every time we pray. The pattern prayer taught by Jesus begins “Our Father”, so it’s for all of us.

Palm Sunday: Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to his own people in their capital city, and yet he came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war-horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into his path. They knew his reputation as a healer, and welcomed him. But sadly the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put him to death. On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday – time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. (see John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

The Thief on the Other Cross: A Good Friday Monologue

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

I don't belong here. I really don't. Paradise is the last place I expected to end up after all I've done. Let me tell you my story.

I am — I *was* — an armed robber, I guess you'd call it. Me and Jake and the others would live in caves in the Judean hills near the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. We made our living by violence. We wouldn't take on people in the big groups that passed. They traveled together for safety. But a family alone would be an easy mark, as well as anyone fool enough to travel by himself.

Brandishing a strong staff would usually do the trick. Threaten them with a beating and they'd give up without much of a fight. But I've been known to break a few bones in my day, God forgive me. I don't think I actually killed anyone, but then I never stayed around long enough to find out.

The first time I meet Jesus is when I am invited to a party in his honour in Jericho at the home of a rich tax collector named Zacchaeus. I am introduced, we shake hands, and Jesus looks me in the eye for a *long* moment. He can see right into me, who I am, every crime I have ever committed. Then he smiles this big friendly smile. "You know," he says, "there's forgiveness for you in my Kingdom. How about it?"

I drop my eyes, say something non-committal, and shuffle away. The next day I'm in the crowd, hanging on every word he says. Jesus is talking about his Kingdom, comparing it to a mustard seed, calling it the Kingdom of Heaven. I want so much to go up to him after he has finished and take him up on that forgiveness thing, but I just can't bring myself to do it. I wish I had. It isn't much later when me and my friend Jake -- the guy on the third cross -- get caught by a Roman patrol. The others run off, but they catch us, beat us silly, drag us into Jerusalem, and throw us in prison. No mercy for the likes of us.

And so it happens that on the same day that they crucify Jesus, they crucify me and Jake -- one of us on his left, the other on his right. This isn't any normal crucifixion. Mobs of people are there just because of Jesus. Self-righteous Pharisees are swaggering and mocking. "If you're some kind of messiah," one sneers, "come on down from that cross. If you're a saviour, save yourself — *if you can!*"

Jake begins cat-calling, too, if you can imagine that. I yell over at him, "You miserable thug, don't you have any fear of God? Can't you see that we're going to die just like he is? Show a little decency! We're getting exactly what we deserve, but he ain't done nothing wrong."

Jake quiets down and the Pharisees lose interest. But I can't get Jericho out of my mind. I can't forget Jesus' eyes, his words, his invitation. And so I call over to him, though it's getting hard to breathe and talking makes it that much harder.

"Jesus!" I say. He turns his head towards me. "Jesus, I was there in Jericho. I met you at a party at Zacchaeus' house. Remember?"

He looks at me for a moment and then nods his head just a little. He *does* remember. "I never forgot what you said. I wanted to say yes, but just couldn't. And now look at me — look at *us!*" He is in bad shape — exhausted, in excruciating pain, back oozing, breath labored. He isn't going to last long. I can see that.

But somehow I can see *beyond* all that. He *was* the Messiah, *is* the Messiah, no matter what those priests and Romans and Pharisees have done to him. And when he dies, he will be with God. In a few hours, maybe less, he will be vindicated. He will reign in that Kingdom he told us about.

"Jesus," I call again, quieter now. He opens his eyes. They are the same eyes, the same piercing, loving, honest eyes.

"Jesus," I say, "when you come into your Kingdom, would you remember me?" His words are laboured, his lips parched, but I can still hear him pretty well. "Truly, I say to you...." His voice cracks, then is stronger for a moment. "Truly, this very day you will be with me in Paradise."

His eyes droop. He is fading quickly now. But I believe him. *I do!* That's what gets me through those next few hours until they break my legs to kill me. I *do* believe him! And then I find myself here in heaven, in Paradise. I sure don't deserve to be here, but here I am anyway. I guess that's what a man like me gets when the King himself grants a pardon. Full forgiveness. Pretty amazing, don't you think?

This story is fictional, of course, though it is based on the account in Luke 23:32-43. The criminals described by the Greek word lestes, "robber, highwayman, bandit."

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Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man did rise?

At the end of St Luke's Gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: "You crucified Jesus, but God raised him up!"

How did they know this? Because of experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So did they pretend they had seen Him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds. He recovered in the tomb, and escaped. The disciples nursed Him back to health. But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life-changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: "He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: 'Follow thou me', and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is."

Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.

parishpump



The Ven. John Barton considers Easter in light of the evil in the world.

The world at its worst and the world at its best

At the very time Christians celebrate the great Easter Festival commemorating Christ's victory over evil, we are confronted by news of death, barbarity and terror across the world. Unless we choose to live in fantasyland, we must look for the connection between the daily news and the Bible.



Syria - 2016

First, Jesus Christ did not escape death. Nor did He promise His followers a trouble-free world. Actually they themselves can expect an above average share of suffering.

Secondly, we believe that Christ's death was no accident. The Crucifixion was a calculated risk: God's costly and unexpected intervention in human affairs. The Christian claim that God's Son was put to death is deeply offensive to religious groups who cannot believe that a remote and all-powerful deity to whom human beings should yield has Himself submitted to our brutality. Yet it is in this way that God perseveres with his creation without violating it.

Thirdly, Christ's way of sacrifice, forgiveness and reconciliation is God's ultimate offer to the human race. We are going to learn it, if necessary the hard way, however long it takes.

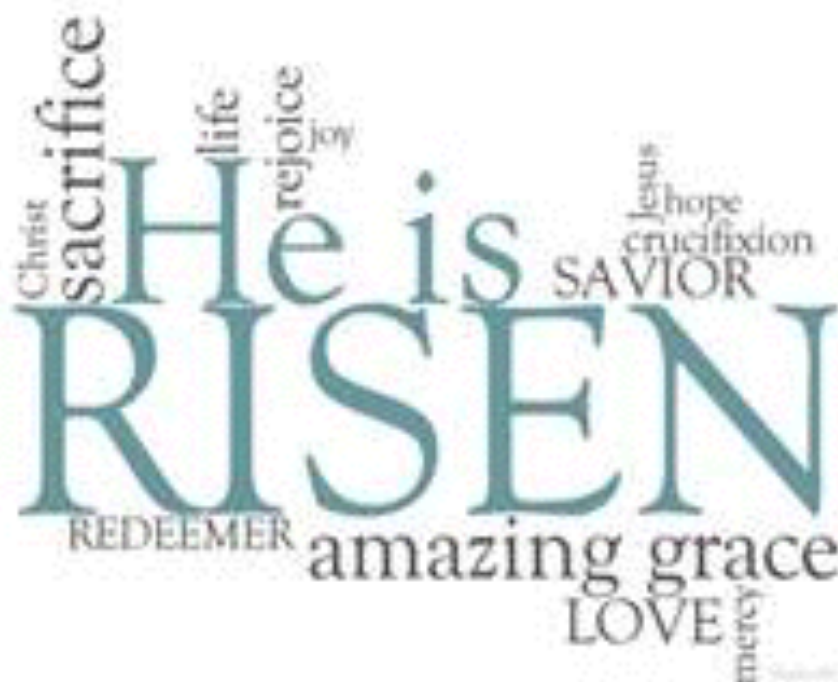
The first reaction of the people who witnessed the resurrection of Jesus Christ was of fear. Incredulity, too, but fear. In the last book of the Bible, an encounter with the Risen Christ is described like this:

“I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters..... When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.”

That is the natural response to a heavenly vision. Only then can we hear the words spoken by this terrifying figure:

“Do not be afraid: I am the first and the last, and the living one. I was dead, and see I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of death and the world of the dead.”

God’s rule over the world – the world at its worst and the world at its best – was reasserted at the first Easter. This is no domestic, ecclesiastical event. It is God’s glorious yet solemn challenge to his rebellious creation: the grip of evil and death is terminally weakened. Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!



One of our editors, Mark Taylor, has kindly sent in the following on Mothering Sunday:

Mothering Sunday - and Mother Church

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigors of Lent were relaxed more than was normal for a feast day. It is called Mothering Sunday as a reference to the Epistle reading for the Day (Galatians 4:21-31). The Lenten Epistles follow from each other with teaching about our life as Christians and how we are to follow Christ. On Midlent Sunday the Epistle talks of bondage and freedom; the bondage of the Law and the Old covenant as compared to the freedom in Christ, "the promised one", and the New Covenant. Verse 26 reads "But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."

We gain our freedom from Christ and, as it was seen before the Reformation, the Church.

Thus Mothering Sunday is about the freedom that we gain through the promise of Jesus Christ delivered through our Mother the Church. People were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

On the other hand, Mother's Day is a secular festival invented in 1904 and is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in May in most countries in the world. The British Isles seem to be the exception. In recent years Mothering Sunday has been hijacked to take the place of a special, secular day to give thanks for our mothers.



I came across this true story on Facebook, and thinking of our Lent course thought you might like to read about Relationships being made out of tragedy.

Take a Gander at This Amazing, Yet Little Known, 9-11 Story

From a flight attendant on Delta Flight 15, written following 9-11:

On the morning of Tuesday, September 11, we were about 5 hours out of Frankfurt, flying over the North Atlantic.

All of a sudden the curtains parted and I was told to go to the cockpit, immediately, to see the captain. As soon as I got there I noticed that the crew had that “All Business” look on their faces.

The captain handed me a printed message. It was from Delta’s main office in Atlanta and simply read, “All airways over the Continental



United States are closed to commercial air traffic. Land ASAP at the nearest airport. Advise your destination.”

No one said a word about what this could mean. We knew it was a serious situation and we needed to find terra firma quickly. The captain determined that the nearest airport was 400 miles behind us in Gander, Newfoundland. He requested approval for a route change from the Canadian traffic controller and approval was granted immediately — no questions asked. We found out later, of course, why there was no hesitation in approving our request.

While the flight crew prepared the airplane for landing, another message arrived from Atlanta telling us about some terrorist activity in the New York area. A few minutes later word came in about the hijackings. We decided to LIE to the passengers while we were still in the air. We told them the plane had a simple instrument problem and that we needed to land at the nearest airport in Gander, Newfoundland, to have it checked out.

We promised to give more information after landing in Gander. There was much grumbling among the passengers, but that’s nothing new! Forty minutes later, we landed in Gander. Local time at Gander was 12:30 PM that’s 11:00 AM EST.

There were already about 20 other airplanes on the ground from all over the world that had taken this detour on their way to the US.

After we parked on the ramp, the captain made the following announcement: "Ladies and gentlemen, you must be wondering if all these airplanes around us have the same instrument problem as we have. The reality is that we are here for another reason."

Then he went on to explain the little bit we knew about the situation in the US. There were loud gasps and stares of disbelief. The captain informed passengers that Ground control in Gander told us to stay put.

The Canadian Government was in charge of our situation and no one was allowed to get off the aircraft. No one on the ground was allowed to come near any of the air crafts. Only airport police would come around periodically, look us over and go on to the next airplane. In the next hour or so more planes landed and Gander ended up with 53 airplanes from all over the world, 27 of which were US commercial jets.

Meanwhile, bits of news started to come in over the aircraft radio and for the first time we learned that airplanes were flown into the World Trade Center in New York and into the Pentagon in DC.

People were trying to use their cell phones, but were unable to connect due to a different cell system in Canada . Some did get through, but were only able to get to the Canadian operator who would tell them that the lines to the U.S. were either blocked or jammed.

Sometime in the evening the news filtered to us that the World Trade Center buildings had collapsed and that a fourth hijacking had resulted in a crash. By now the passengers were emotionally and physically exhausted, not to mention frightened, but everyone stayed amazingly calm. We had only to look out the window at the 52 other stranded aircraft to realize that we were not the only ones in this predicament.

We had been told earlier that they would be allowing people off the planes one plane at a time. At 6 PM, Gander airport told us that our turn to deplane would be 11 am the next morning.

Passengers were not happy, but they simply resigned themselves to this news without much noise and started to prepare themselves to spend the night on the airplane.

Gander had promised us medical attention, if needed, water, and lavatory servicing. And they were true to their word.

Fortunately we had no medical situations to worry about. We did have a young lady who was 33 weeks into her pregnancy. We took REALLY good care of her.

The night passed without incident despite the uncomfortable sleeping arrangements.

About 10:30 on the morning of the 12th a convoy of school buses showed up. We got off the plane and were taken to the terminal where we went through Immigration and Customs and then had to register with the Red Cross. After that we (the crew) were separated from the passengers and were taken in vans to a small hotel. We had no idea where our passengers were going. We learned from the Red Cross that the town of Gander has a population of 10,400 people and they had about 10,500 passengers to take care of from all the airplanes that were forced into Gander! We were told to just relax at the hotel and we would be contacted when the US airports opened again, but not to expect that call for a while.

We found out the total scope of the terror back home only after getting to our hotel and turning on the TV, 24 hours after it all started. Meanwhile, we had lots of time on our hands and found that the people of Gander were extremely friendly. They started calling us the “plane people.” We enjoyed their hospitality, explored the town of Gander and ended up having a pretty good time.

Two days later, we got that call and were taken back to the Gander airport. Back on the plane, we were reunited with the passengers and found out what they had been doing for the past two days.

What we found out was incredible.....

Gander and all the surrounding communities (within about a 75 Kilometer radius) had closed all high schools, meeting halls, lodges, and any other large gathering places. They converted all these facilities to mass lodging areas for all the stranded travelers.

Some had cots set up, some had mats with sleeping bags and pillows set up. ALL the high school students were required to volunteer their time to take care of the “guests.” Our 218 passengers ended up in a town called Lewisporte, about 45 kilometers from Gander where they were put up in a high school. If any women wanted to be in a women-only facility, that was arranged.

Families were kept together. All the elderly passengers were taken to private homes. Remember that young pregnant lady? She was put up in a private home right across the street from a 24-hour Urgent Care facility. There was a dentist on call and both male and female nurses remained with the crowd for the duration.

Phone calls and e-mails to the U.S. and around the world were available to everyone once a day. During the day, passengers were offered “Excursion” trips.

Some people went on boat cruises of the lakes and harbors. Some went for hikes in the local forests.

Local bakeries stayed open to make fresh bread for the guests.

Food was prepared by all the residents and brought to the schools. People were driven to restaurants of their choice and offered wonderful meals. Everyone was given tokens for local laundry mats to wash their clothes, since luggage was still on the aircraft. In other words, every single need was met for those stranded travellers.

Passengers were crying while telling us these stories. Finally, when they were told that U.S. airports had reopened, they were delivered to the airport right on time and without a single passenger missing or late. The local Red Cross had all the information about the whereabouts of each and every passenger and knew which plane they needed to be on and when all the planes were leaving. They coordinated everything beautifully. It was absolutely incredible.

When passengers came on board, it was like they had been on a cruise. Everyone knew each other by name. They were swapping stories of their stay, impressing each other with who had the better time. Our flight back to Atlanta looked like a chartered party flight. The crew just stayed out of their way. It was mind-boggling.

Passengers had totally bonded and were calling each other by their first names, exchanging phone numbers, addresses, and email addresses. And then a very unusual thing happened.

One of our passengers approached me and asked if he could make an announcement over the PA system. We never, ever allow that. But this time was different. I said “of course” and handed him the mike. He picked up the PA and reminded everyone about what they had just gone through in the last few days. He reminded them of the hospitality they had received at the hands of total strangers. He continued by saying that he would like to do something in return for the good folks of Lewisporte.

“He said he was going to set up a Trust Fund under the name of DELTA 15 (our flight number). The purpose of the trust fund is to provide college scholarships for the high school students of Lewisporte.

He asked for donations of any amount from his fellow travelers. When the paper with donations got back to us with the amounts, names, phone numbers and addresses, the total was for more than \$14,000!

“The gentleman, a MD from Virginia , promised to match the donations and to start the administrative work on the scholarship. He also said that he would forward this proposal to Delta Corporate and ask them to donate as well.

As I write this account, the trust fund is at more than \$1.5 million and has assisted 134 students in college education.

“I just wanted to share this story because we need good stories right now. It gives me a little bit of hope to know that some people in a faraway place were kind to some strangers who literally dropped in on them.

It reminds me how much good there is in the world.”

“In spite of all the rotten things we see going on in today’s world this story confirms that there are still a lot of good people in the world and when things get bad, they will come forward.

*This is one of those stories that need to be shared. Please do so...

One of the passengers on the plane and chief promoter of the fund was Shirley Brooks-Jones. Below is part of an article taken from Canadian Expat Network written by Sean Mitton.

Memories and relationships were created that fateful week that will last a lifetime. Brookes-Jones has been back almost 20 times since then and was in Lewisporte for 10 days for interviews with NBC former news anchor, Tom Brokaw, for the story that was aired during the 2010 Olympics. On September 6th Brookes-Jones will attend an event in Atlanta, hosted by the Canadian Consulate and on September 7th travels to Lewisporte where she will stay with Bill & Thelma Hooper, who she considers her second family. Bill served as Lewisporte Mayor during 9/11. Today, as we approach the 10th Anniversary of 9/11, the Lewisporte Area Flight 15 Scholarship Fund has presented 134 college scholarships and has grown to nearly \$1.5 million.



Picture shows Shirley Brooks-Jones with Bill and Thelma Hooper

St David's Day – time for daffodils

1st March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom 'an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request' - but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever 'requested' that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!

We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church. Tradition has it that he was austere with himself, and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.



St Patrick – beloved apostle to Ireland

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well... the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England, between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country. He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near-starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before; now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh, and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

David Winter looks back on a different era in air travel.

The mighty Hindenburg

Eighty years ago this month the Germans launched the world's largest and most luxurious airship, the 'Hindenburg'. Although there were fixed wing planes already crossing the Atlantic and taking passengers, the public were fascinated by the massive dirigible, which provided space, comfort and even the freedom to move about during slower but leisurely flights across borders and oceans.

Airships – 'zeppelins' as the Germans called them - had been around for about 25 years. They were used by the Germans in the Great War as bombers – one was shot down over London.

The Hindenburg was spectacular and luxurious, and its maiden flight was reported world-wide. Was this how people in the future would cross continents, meals and drinks provided as they quietly glided through the sky? It might have been, but for the airship's tragic end the following June.

As the Hindenburg attempted to moor at the end of a flight in New Jersey, USA, with a full complement of passengers and crew, a fire broke out on board. Quickly the whole airship was engulfed in flames and 36 people were killed. The disaster was recorded by newsreel cameras and seen across the world. Shocked at what they had seen, people decided airships were not for them. The end of the mighty Hindenburg also marked the abrupt end of the airship era.



Editor: We continue our column that looks at memorable dates in the month (this time, March) down the years. Here is a range from which to pick and choose, as your space allows.

All in the month of MARCH

125 years ago, on 14th March 1891 that the first underwater telephone cable between England and France was laid. The first phone call between London and Paris was made in April.

Also 125 years ago, on 23rd March 1891, that football goal nets, invented by British civil engineer John Alexander Brodie, were used for the first time.

80 years ago, on 5th March 1936 that the Supermarine Spitfire fighter plane made its first flight, in Eastleigh, Southampton, UK.

60 years ago, on 23rd March 1956 that Pakistan became the world's first Islamic Republic.

50 years ago, on 4th March 1966 that John Lennon famously declared that the Beatles were 'more popular than Jesus' in an interview for the London Evening Standard.

30 years ago, on 3rd March 1986 that Queen Elizabeth II signed the Australia Act, severing Australia's remaining legal ties with Britain and granting it full independence.

25 years ago, on 21st March 1991 that the British Government announced that the controversial 'poll tax' was to be scrapped and replaced by a new property tax (council tax) from April 1993.

20 years ago, on 13th March 1996 that the Dunblane Massacre took place. Thomas Hamilton, a former scout leader, entered Dunblane Primary School and shot dead 16 children and a teacher and wounded 15 others, and then committed suicide. As a result, private ownership of handguns became illegal in the UK.

Also 20 years ago, on 20th March 1996 that the British Government announced that there was a probable link between BSE and vCJD. This meant that a form of mad cow disease could be passed on to humans who ate infected beef.

10 years ago, on 1st March 2006 that the Senedd – the National Assembly for Wales's debating chamber – was officially opened by the Queen in Cardiff.

Also 10 years ago, on 21st March 2006, that Twitter, the online social networking service, was founded. The website went live in July of that year.

People and News

Birthday Celebrations - March 2016

5th David Partridge

20th Mark Banks

22nd Malaika

31st Doreen Lucock



*Happy Birthday to you
Happy Birthday to you
May God Bless you and keep you
Happy Birthday to you.*

*Happy Birthday to you
To Jesus be true
May the Lord bless you richly
In all that you do*

Remembrance - March 2016

6th Mrs Sadler - In memory of a dear husband.

13th Mr & Mrs E. Blakemore - In loving memory of our dear father and mother from Nigel Gaunt and Elsie Walton.

20th Mr & Mrs S. Brookes - to thank God for our son's progress.

27th Miss C. Biddlestone - In memory of Enoch & Sarah Biddlestone and son Arthur.

Grant unto them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them . May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER TIME

Every Sunday morning at 10.00am before the morning service there is a time for quiet prayer.

All welcome. Please join us if you are able.



TUESDAY EVENING PRAYER TIME

Every Tuesday evening at 8.00pm.

A time time for open intercession or quiet prayer run by Kevin. All welcome. Please join us if you are able.

West Bromwich Food Bank - in March in addition to the generously donated food parcels, **£45** in cash, donated by Holy Trinity congregation was also handed over. Many thanks for your very kind and generous gifts.



MIDWEEK MORNING PRAYER TIME

Every Monday and Wednesday mornings at 8.00am there is a time for quiet prayer. All welcome. Please join us if you are able.



League of Friends Sandwell Hospital

**WELCOME THE
DONATIONS
of BOOKS and
MAGAZINES**

**PLEASE KEEP THEM
COMING**

If you need any further information please see Madeline Page.
Thank you all very much for your generous



“Urban Catechism”

Thursdays at 7.30pm and
Sundays at 4.30pm.

Please see Neil or sign up on the list at back of church.

West Bromwich Food Bank

The Food Bank collect and stores food ready to freely distribute to individuals or families in crisis (who cannot afford to feed themselves).

- * Milk (UHT or powdered) * Sugar (500g) * Fruit juice (carton) * Soup
- * Pasta sauces * Sponge pudding (tinned) * Tomatoes (tinned)
- * Cereals * Rice pudding (tinned)
- * Tea Bags/instant coffee
- * Instant mash potato
- * Rice/pasta * Tinned meat/fish
- * Tinned fruit * Jam * Biscuits or snack bars * Or cash donation



Catechism:- a summary of the principles of Christian religion in the form of questions and answers, used for religious instruction.

Urban:- in, relating to, or characteristic of a town or city.



Good news for ex Ministry Trainee Tommy Merry. Tommy has been offered and accepted a new job as the new vicar of Fenton.

Tommy writes, *I have been appointed as Team Vicar of Christ Church Fenton and St Paul Mount Pleasant. Part of the Stoke Team.*

Licensing will be [Sunday 5th June](#) at Christ Church Fenton [at 4pm](#).

Blessings, Fr Tommy



Christ Church Fenton

Support Birmingham City Mission through eBay!

BCM now have a range of items for sale on eBay, in addition to those in our shops. Follow the instructions below.

- * 20th century collectables;
- * Good Christian books;
- * Clothing;
- * The odd antique;
- * Plus miscellaneous items!

1. Go to ebay.co.uk;
2. Scroll down to bottom (left) of page;
3. Click on 'eBay for charity';
4. Click on 'Find a charity to support';
5. Type in 'Birmingham City Mission';
6. Click on 'view';
7. Click on 'See all items';
8. Bookmark the page for future reference!



Events for your Diary

EASTER FLOWERS - Saturday 25th March

Easter is a time to remember Jesus as the risen Christ.

We would like our church to reflect the new life Jesus bought for us on the cross. So we plan to celebrate by decorating our church with flowers, lambs, eggs all things that remind us of new life.

Some years, at Easter, we have had a table with lilies and a place for you to write the name of someone who has died that you would like to remember. This year we're extending this "in memory" idea to the windows so there will be 2 ways you can donate or help with decorating the church for this coming Easter.

1. Donate towards the general flowers around church and for the pedestal arrangements, as usual. Please give any donations to Doreen, Chris or Madeline. OR



2. Sign up to put flowers on a window – a bit like at Harvest-time. Decorate a window with flowers and perhaps an Easter theme, as you see fit, in memory of someone, or it can be for more than one person, dear to you. They do not have to have been church members at Holy Trinity or known to the wider congregation. In this case please see Tess.

Christine will put the window list out at the back of church and also some cards on which you can write names to go on the windows. Do sign up if you can and we hope we can get all the windows taken.

All the flowers on the windows will be given to church members after the Sunday evening service or on Easter Monday.

Gods blessings

Liz, Sue, Tess, Dor Dor.



Holy Trinity Church APCM is on Sunday April 24th after the 10.30am service. Please pray for the church members who will serve as PCC members and Wardens. Also think and pray about whether you would like to serve the church in anyway. If you would like to serve but would like more information please talk to Neil, Ian, Gary or Christine.



Events for your Diary



Mothering Sunday Service at
Holy Trinity
Sunday 6th March - 10.30am and
6.30 pm services



Sunday 20th March
10.30am & 6.30pm
services



Thursday 24th
March



Friday 25th March
Walk of Witness
2.00pm Good Friday
Meditation



Easter Sunday 27th March
10.30am & 6.30pm services

**He Is Risen! He is Risen indeed!
Hallelujah!**

Olympic Holiday Bible Club

Tuesday 29th - Thursday 31st March 2:00 - 3:59pm

Limited places available

Book your places with Helen ASAP

(07823889765)

Total cost £3.00



Please pray for leaders, helpers, children and parents.

**Find Holy Trinity
on Facebook**

www.facebook.com/

Vicar: The Revd. Neil Robbie

**holy trinity
church**

**1 burlington road
west bromwich**

