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Welcome **April/May 2021**

THE PARISH MAGAZINE OF ST. MARTIN'S WEST DRAYTON

Challenge

alleluia!
Christ has Risen!

May all who enter the Church find the peace of Christ and feel welcome.

The great gift of Easter is Hope.



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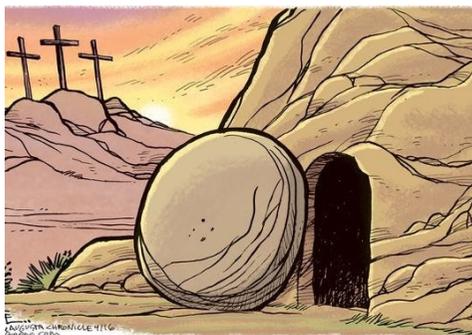
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"HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN...!"

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From the Vicarage

Dear friends,

What does a dinosaur, a sloth and a unicorn have to do with Easter? They're all made of chocolate and ready for you to buy at a well known supermarket whose catalogue has just come through my door with the post – but does that really answer the question?! Traditionally we eat chocolate eggs and bunnies at Easter, eggs symbolic of new life, and the stone rolled from Jesus' now empty tomb, and the bunnies linked with the ancient goddess of spring time, Eastre.

Perhaps a sloth is a reminder of one of the old deadly sins, slothfulness, laziness, a reluctance to make an effort. Last year we all had a shock because churches were closed for Holy Week and Easter but how many of us would honestly have gone to services anyway?

This year there will be services at St Martin's, although we will have to adapt them because of continuing Covid restrictions.

We will remember again Jesus' last days, his death, burial and resurrection. Perhaps this story matters more than ever after a year of tragic Covid deaths and disruption. Over the years, Christians have sought to explain what happens on the cross, sometimes with complicated theories.

But in the end there is a very simple 'secret' to be discovered and shared. God is with us, and God's love endures to the end and is eternal. God is with us in the real world that we inhabit, including our moments of isolation and distress. What we all need is a love that sticks around, however bad things are, however long it takes, and that is the love Jesus shows us as he hangs on the cross and is risen up on Easter day. God is not distant but utterly devoted to being with us. Such presence, such love, is not extinct, like a dinosaur, nor a fairy tale like a unicorn, but a gift to be received not with the slowness of a sloth, but with eagerness, wonder and joy.

With my blessing,

Revd Rosy

ST MARTIN'S IS OPEN

Sundays 10.15am Holy Eucharist with music
all ages are welcome

Wednesdays 10-11am Peace and Quiet Hour
*Pop in and out any time to light a candle, sit, think, read, pray,
enjoy the tranquility of this ancient holy place.
All faiths and none are welcome.*

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP

Palm Sunday (March 28th) 10.15 Holy Eucharist with music
Maundy Thursday (April 1st) 7pm Holy Eucharist with music
Good Friday (April 2nd) 12-2.30pm Private Prayer;
2.30pm The Good Friday Liturgy with music
Easter Sunday (April 4th) 10.15am Holy Eucharist with music
*There will be some changes in our services
due to Covid regulations.
Everyone is most welcome.*

ANNUAL SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

which will include our Annual Parish Meetings
Tuesday 20 April at 7pm in the church
*Everyone is welcome to come,
as we give thanks for the blessings we have received,
recommit ourselves to God,
and look forward in hope to where God is leading us.*

Cherishing Creation

While Covid has naturally been at the forefront of our minds, climate change and environmental issues continue to be a concern, vital to human well being and the survival of all other living creatures. As Christians it should go without saying that we have a responsibility to love and care for God's earth. There are plenty of ideas as to how this can be done, both as individuals and as a church.

You might like to have a look at the Diocese of London's website – under Mission there is a heading Environment and Sustainability.

At St Martin's we now have two Eco Champions, Ann and Astrid, who will be taking a lead on environmental concerns and practical ways forward. If you have an idea to share, please be in touch with them via the church gate post box.

Thank you for your Financial Gifts

St Martin's remains extremely grateful for all gifts, be they large or small. Each one is wisely spent and much appreciated.

There is always a bill to pay, some are legal safety requirements, eg fire precautions and electrical inspections this year will cost well over £3000.

There is now the opportunity to give on line if you visit the St Martin's website.

Thy Kingdom Come (www.thykingdomcome.global)

Why not join with many others across the world in prayer from Ascension Day (May 13th to Pentecost (May 23rd).

Lots of resources on line and some will be available in church.

These include a new children's video series called *Cheeky Pandas*.

The hope is that Christians may be refreshed and encouraged in their faith, as well as making a special point of praying for five people to feel the love of God in their lives.

Revd Rosy



The Editor's Easter Quiz

- 1) Who plays Hannah Brown in the 1948 American musical film *Easter Parade*?
- 2) Where is the venue of the most famous Easter egg roll in the world?
- 3) Easter Island belongs to which country?
- 4) What is the Sunday before Easter called?
- 5) In 1873 which company introduced the first chocolate Easter egg in Britain?
- 6) Which governor of the Roman province of Judaea presided over the trial of Jesus?
- 7) Which poet wrote the poem *Easter, 1916*? (It describes the poet's emotions regarding the events of the 1916 Easter Rising.)
- 8) Which light fruit cake, with two layers of almond paste or marzipan, is traditionally eaten during the Easter period?
- 9) What was the name of the hill where Jesus was crucified?
- 10) The Saturday before Palm Sunday is named after which biblical character?
- 11) At the Last Supper, which food did Jesus liken to his body?
- 12) Which Russian jewellery firm is famed for designing elaborate jewel-encrusted eggs?
- 13) On what Christian holy day are hot cross buns traditionally eaten?
- 14) How many pieces of silver did Judas trade the life of Jesus for?
- 15) What was Simon of Cyrene made to do by the Romans?
- 16) Who directed the 2004 American biblical drama *The Passion of the Christ*?
- 17) Nick Easter is a former professional sportsman in which sport?
- 18) Which Christian holy day of prayer and fasting falls on the first day of Lent?
- 19) At Easter, the British monarch distributes small silver coins known as what?
- 20) A sign was affixed to the top of the cross stating "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" which according to the Gospel of John was written in which three different languages?



"COULD YOU MAKE IT A QUICK SERMON? I GET MY EASTER BASKET RIGHT AFTER CHURCH."

PRAYER PAGE



A New Day

Dear Lord Jesus,
we have this day only once.
Before it goes,
help us to do the good we can,
so it's not wasted. Amen.

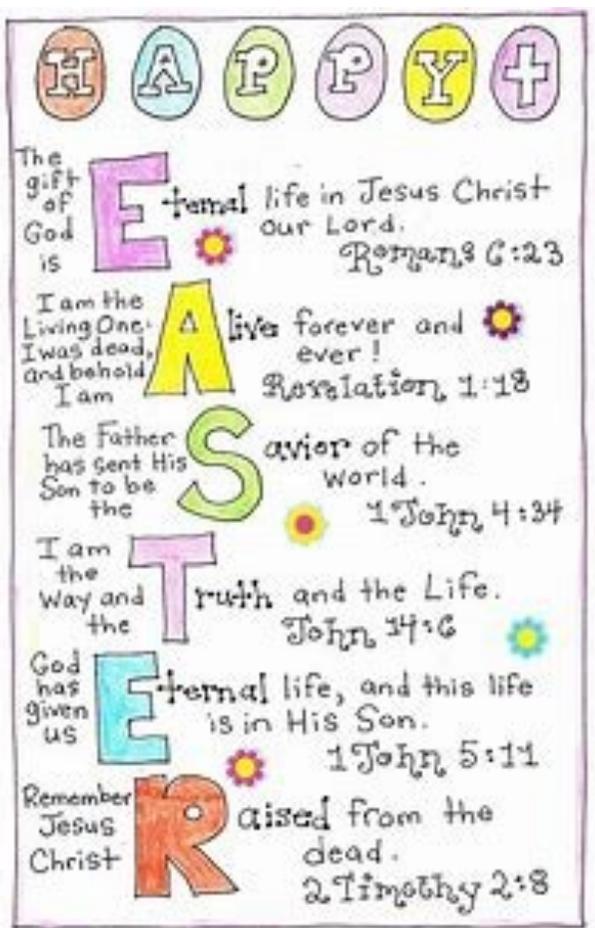
Please God

Heavenly Father,
guard my little tongue today,
make it kind when I play;
keep my hands from doing wrong;
guide my feet all day long. Amen.

Before Going to Sleep (*Church of South India*)

God our Father, by whose mercy
the world turns safely into darkness
and returns again to light;
we place in your hands our unfinished tasks,
our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,
knowing that only what you bless will prosper.
To your love and protection
we commit each other and all those we love,
knowing that you alone are our sure defender,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.





Easter thoughts



Suffering Lord,
heal our wounds.
Compassionate
Christ,
teach us love.
Good Shepherd,
seek and save us.
Crucified Jesus,
forgive our sins.
Risen Lord,
renew our faith.
Ascended Christ,
reign in us
now and always.

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Editor's Easter Quiz Answers

- 1) Judy Garland
- 2) The White House
- 3) Chile
- 4) Palm Sunday
- 5) Fry's (J.S. Fry & Sons)
- 6) Pontius Pilate
- 7) W. B. Yeats
- 8) Simnel cake
- 9) Calvary, or Golgotha
- 10) Lazarus Saturday
- 11) Bread
- 12) Faberge
- 13) Good Friday
- 14) 30 pieces of silver
- 15) Carry the cross for Jesus
- 16) Mel Gibson
- 17) Rugby
- 18) Ash Wednesday
- 19) Maundy money (distributed on Maundy Thursday, the day before Good Friday)
- 20) Hebrew, Latin and Greek



Answer:

The British were sat in a lighthouse.

Hall Activities

Monday

Tae Kwondo 17:45 - 19:15

Tuesday

Zumba Gold 10:00 - 11:00
Drama Group 16:00 - 18:30
History Society 19:00 - 21:00
(Last Tuesday of the Month)
Craft Group 19:00 - 21:00

Wednesday

Irish Dance 19:00 - 21:00

Thursday

Little Soldiers 10:00 - 11:15
0-3 year olds + carers
(not in school holidays)

WI 14:15 - 16:15
(3rd Thursday of the Month)

AA 7-10pm

Friday

Tae Kwondo 17:30 - 20:30

Saturday

Zumba Gold 10:00 - 11:00

Items for inclusion in the August/September issue of Challenge must be with the Editor by Sunday 23rd May 2021 Items not received by this date will, if appropriate, be included in the next issue.

Email: smartinschurch@live.co.uk

From the Church Registers Confirmations Sunday 7th Feb 2021

We were pleased to welcome our Area Bishop Pete to lead our worship on this joyful and encouraging occasion.

Those who were confirmed from St Martin's were

Dareen Dizar and Isobelle Sperring

and from two other parishes

BaïBaï Conteh and Catherine Patterson.

May their faith continue to flourish
as we worship, follow and serve Jesus together.



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