

THE *Trinity* TIMES

The Parish Magazine of Holy Trinity Church, Henley-on-Thames

Just as the sparrow has found a home and the

swallow a nest where she may raise



Lord my King and my God. Ps 84:3

Her young, my resting place is in your house, O

May 2022

THE VICAR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Our journey to Easter this year has been profoundly shaped by the war in Ukraine. So, I want to think about how we view the story of Easter with 'conflict' as our backdrop. The first Easter took place in the arena of occupation; a separatist fighter, Barabas, was due to be crucified with Jesus, and set free as Jesus, though innocent went to the cross. It is plain that the authorities were caught up with the realpolitik of first century Palestine.

The Easter story reminds us that life, death and redemption are always set in the midst of war. The Cross and resurrection of Jesus are the crucial plays in the most important cosmic battle in the whole of history; between good and evil, love and hate.

Because of the cross, love and goodness will always win in the end, but it is a huge battle for them to gain the upper hand.

We live in the in-between times when victory has been assured, but fighting is fierce and on-going. Jesus tells his disciples that at the end of time as we know it, he will usher in a new Kingdom, but until then the fight is on. As Christians we are called to dare to believe that hope is possible; that we have the wherewithal to pray and pronounce the healing and gracious resurrection presence of the Kingdom here and now in, as it were, enemy territory. That is the challenging adventure that Christians live in, wherever they live in the world. War

and conflict are like volcanoes of hatred and evil erupting on the surface. In the face of such aggression, whether in Ukraine, Yemen, Sudan or Ethiopia.

Acts of kindness - of sacrificial love - might seem as pointless as the Saviour dying on the cross. We may want to yell at Jesus and tell him to ask for his legions of angels to swoop down and banish the evil. We might feel a better solution is to follow in the footsteps of Peter who severs the ear of the temple guard, but Jesus tells us as he told Peter – that is not the way to true peace and reconciliation. Oscar Romero, the Archbishop of San Salvador who was assassinated for speaking up for the poor against a corrupt regime wrote "*The violence we preach is not the violence of the sword, the violence of hatred. It is the violence of love, of brotherhood, the violence that wills to beat weapons into farming tools.*"

Love is neither theoretical nor weak. According to Romero there is a violence to love. Not a violence that hurts others, but a violence that resists all that hurts people and stands up to the powers that exploit and destroy God's beloved children. It is a violent passion that shouts, "No more! In the name of Christ, no more!"

It is vital for Christians to hold on to the fact that God's way, his sacrificial way of love, will win out in the end.

For Ukrainian Christians, as they pray fervently for peace, they understand that they are in the situation for the long haul. We may want to ask the question, why does God allow this to happen? I find people of little or no faith often want to ask that question precisely because they don't believe in the God who seems to allow it to happen.

We certainly want to ask God, where are you? But to think that the God who empties himself of power to come among us in the person of Jesus is inoculated to the suffering of his people is completely wrong.

Jesus models to us that he is the absolute opposite to an aggressive autocrat. He doesn't force himself on the world in strength. He allows hatred to bubble up precisely because he gives us free will to take the right path or to make our own path.

His reaction is an offensive of love. He sits with the child who has lost her parents, he inspires incredible acts of kindness from strangers, he is like the father who covers the body of his

child as a shell lands on the house. He gives strength and courage to the weary so that they can keep going.

When we dare to hope, it is not naïf optimism. The hope that Jesus' friends are called to inhabit is the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. In God's economy, death is never the end, goodness and light are never defeated. At times it looks as though it has been, but Jesus draws us deeper and closer to him so that our hope builds. Christians are called to be hope-filled even when the superficial signs are not promising. Christians are called to be agents of hope, praying and acting for the Kingdom. When we follow God he leads us in his mission to be alongside the broken-hearted, to give sacrificially, to show kindness and generosity to the stranger. It rarely has a victorious look to it, but then neither does the man hanging limp on a cross.

But ultimately the love of God wins and we are called to be the signs of that victory shining in the dark and fractured nature of our world as we live as people of the resurrection.

Best wishes.

Duncan

The Reverend Duncan Carter

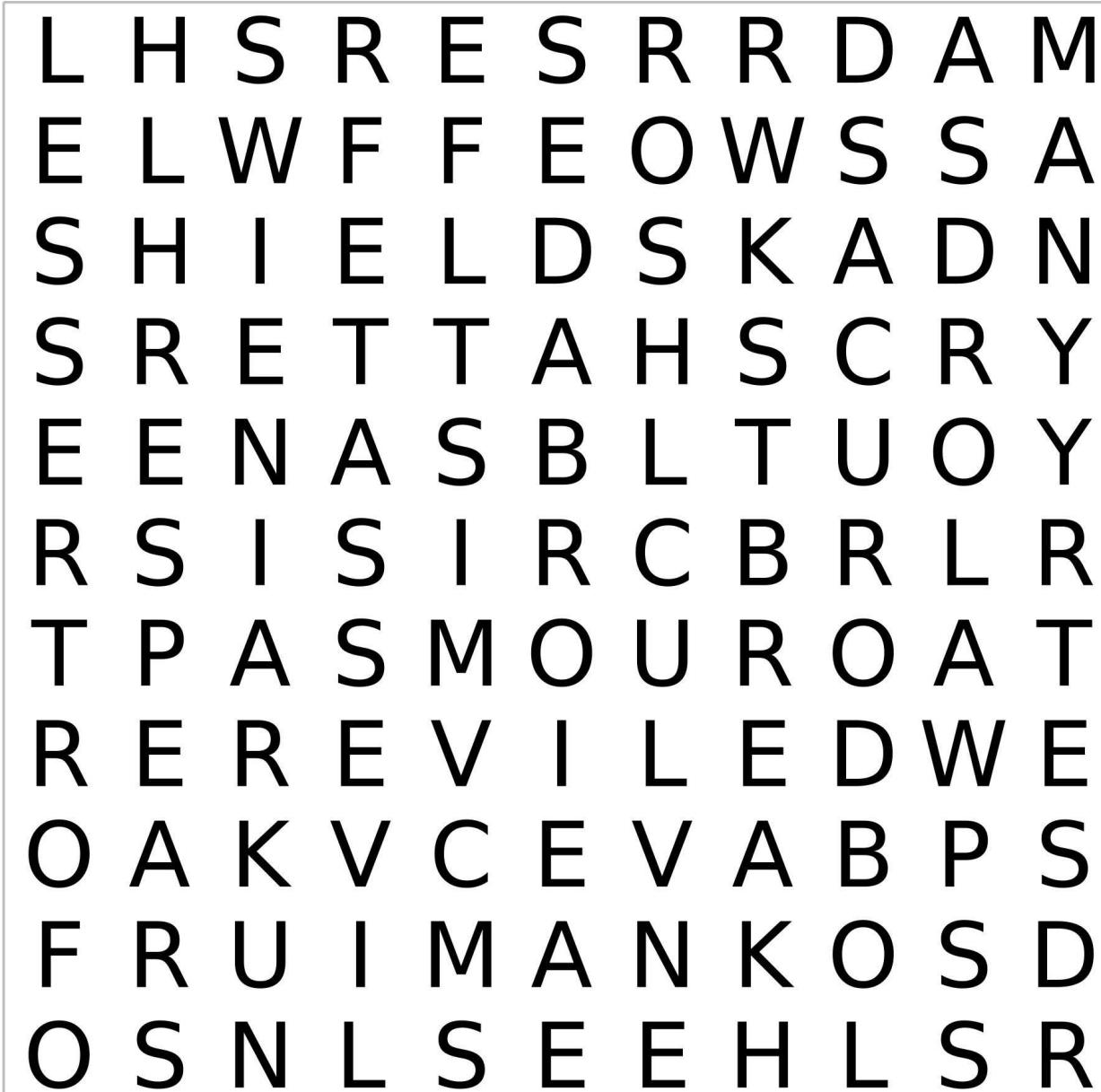


Children's Pages

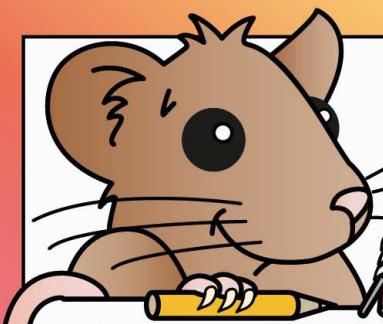
A Prayer for Ukraine

Lord, we pray for Ukraine, a nation in which 70% of the population call themselves Christian. You, Lord, make wars cease to the end of the earth; you break bows, shatter spears, and burn shields with fire [Psalm 46:9]. And so, we ask you now to save the lives of many people in Ukraine. De-escalate this crisis. We hear of wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6), but you Lord are our rock, our fortress and our deliverer. Our hope is in you. And so we address the nations now. In the name of Jesus we say: "Be still and know God! He is exalted among the nations; He shall be exalted in the earth [Psalm 46:10]. Kyrie eleison – Lord have mercy.

Ukraine	Bows	Fire	Lord	Hope
War	Shatter	Save	Our	In
Cease	Spears	many	Rock	You
Earth	Burn	Lives	Fortress	Be
Break	Shields	Crisis	Deliverer	Still



Children's Pages



Mouse Makes

Jesus said,
"This, then, is how
you should pray:

Our

in _____ hallowed be your

your
_____ come,
your _____ be
done, on
_____ as it
is in _____.
Give us this day our
daily _____.
And
_____ us our _____ ,
as we also have
forgiven our debtors.
And _____ us not into
temptation, but
_____ us from the
_____ one."

Read Matthew 6:9-13
to fill in the words.

"Give thanks to the
Lord for He is good,
His love endures
forever"
Psalm 136:1



"Never stop praying."
1 Thessalonians 5:17



"Do not be anxious about
anything, but in every situation,
by prayer and petition,
with thanksgiving,
present your requests to God."
Philippians 4:6

SERVICES in MAY

The Vicar, the Reverend Duncan Carter, will lead the morning services, with the assistance of the Licensed Lay Minister, Michael Forsdike. The Reverend Sam Brewster, will lead the Trinity at Four services.

SUNDAY 1st MAY

Third Sunday of Easter

10:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP

4:00 P.M. TRINITY AT FOUR

SUNDAY 8th MAY

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10:00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

4:00 P.M. TRINITY AT FOUR

SUNDAY 15th MAY

Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP

4:00 P.M. TRINITY AT FOUR

SUNDAY 22nd MAY

Sixth Sunday after Easter

10:00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION

4:00 P.M. TRINITY AT FOUR



THURSDAY 26th MAY

Ascension Day

6:00 P.M. HOLY COMMUNION

SUNDAY 29th MAY Seventh Sunday after Easter

10:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
& BAPTISM

4:00 P.M. TRINITY AT FOUR

SUNDAY 5th JUNE

Pentecost

Whit Second

10:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP

4:00 P.M. TRINITY AT FOUR

From The Registers

BAPTISM

23rd April Adèle Kenyon Nguyen



Reverend Duncan Carter

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The Vicar is always glad to see anyone needing help or advice. Talking through problems and praying with people are his top priorities. Do not feel worried about sharing your problems, whatever the concern, large or small. For your reference, his day off is Saturday.

Christian Aid Week

May 15th – 21st, 2022.

There has always been a Christian Aid group in Henley, made up of representatives from each of the churches. However, there is no longer a co-ordinated group, so I'm wondering where to start in trying to encourage a response to this year's appeal and to suggest ways in which we could each respond to Christian Aid.

This year, the theme is Hungry for Justice. Global poverty is rising, for the first time in a generation, because of many factors: among them Covid-19, conflict and the climate crisis. To this can also be added the effects of debt arising from poorer countries having to pay back loans. More on this can be found on the website of the Jubilee Debt Campaign, which is shortly rebranding itself as Debt Justice.

Christian Aid have decided to base their CA Week appeal on the situation in Zimbabwe, a country where drought is leading to widespread hunger. In rural Zimbabwe seven out of ten women rely on farming to earn a living, but, without rain, they cannot grow enough food and struggle to provide for their families.

Christian Aid has worked in Zimbabwe since the 1980s with partners like: Silveira House to

provide training for young people in skills like leatherwork and welding; Bio-Innovation Zimbabwe to help communities earn an income by harvesting wild indigenous plants; and Community Technology Development Organisation to train and equip farmers to adapt to the climate crisis.



How can we stand together with the women of Zimbabwe?

It can probably be summed up in three words: Give, Act, and Pray.

GIVE:

- (a) make a donation to Christian Aid, either direct or in some other way.
- (b) give time to do something (see ACT)
- (c) Set up a JustGiving page;

ACT.

- (a) Delivery Only. Rather than delivering Christian Aid envelopes and then going back to collect, simply deliver them with information on giving online, a drop-off address.
- (b) Take the 300,000 Steps challenge in May, i.e. take 300K steps during May (just under 10 K/day) and get as many sponsors as you can.
- (c) Organise a fund-raising event, like a Coffee Morning, a Big Breakfast, a sponsored walk, a sponsored silence(?!), a Hymnathon, etc., etc.

PRAY.

Mike Hails

The Story Behind ‘Thine be the Glory, Risen, Conquering Son’

Here is a hymn that is so well known and loved that it has simply burst the bounds of Easter, and gets sung regularly at other times of the year. It has two stories behind it.

First, the music. The rousing music did not start out as a hymn, but instead was written by Handel for his opera ‘Judas Maccabeus’, first performed in 1746. Originally the words ran ‘See the conquering hero comes’, for Handel’s opera tells the story (found in the Apocrypha) of the leader of the Jews, Judas Maccabeus, who led an army against the Syrians and restored worship at the Temple. With its triumphant refrain after each verse, the music is easy to learn and sing, and can be (and has been!) played to great effect either by the trumpets, on an organ in a large resonant church, or even on guitars (!).

Secondly, the words. They were not written until 1884, which was 138 years after the music. We owe them to the Revernd Raymond Budry, a Swiss pastor from Lausanne. Ordained in the Free Evangelical Church in Vaud, he spent 35 years as the pastor of Vevey on Lake Geneva.

Budry wrote the hymn in French ('A Toi La Gloire!') to console himself after the death of his first wife, and a year later (1885) it was published in *Chants Evangeliques*. Soon it found its way into English – translated by a Baptist minister from Kingston-upon-Thames, Richard Hoyle.

It is not clear who first had the happy idea of teaming *those* words with *that* music, but when they did, the hymn really took off. By 1904 it was being translated into other languages.

The theme of ‘battle’ is never far from this hymn, whether it was the battle of Judas Maccabeus, or the battle over sin which was won by Christ on the cross and in rising from the tomb. Easter, of course, marked the biggest victory over the biggest enemies of all time: sin and death.

What would Handel make of it, if he could know that his battle music had become one of the world’s most popular and well-known Easter hymns? He was a devout man, working for the poor, praying twice each day, and attending Saint Paul’s Cathedral. So, it seems pretty certain that he would be delighted.

Parish Pump



“It comes to something when the state of the pound is such that we **hope** to find lots of foreign coins.”

On the Perils of the Church Picnic

The Rectory
Saint James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

A Spring parish picnic is always a good idea – although you must bear some details in mind. First, whatever date you choose will turn out to be the wettest of the year. English picnics are invariably eaten under umbrellas while wearing Wellingtons and the sort of determinedly cheerful look that defies anyone to admit they would rather be home in front of the fire.

Second, no matter how early in the year, wasps will emerge from hibernation in huge numbers, and terrorise Mrs Hornby with the picnic baskets. And thirdly, someone will bring along their (hungry) dog. Last time Colonel Psmith's spaniel outdid herself: she leapt up, head butted a piece of Madeira cake out of Mrs Horngirdle's hand - and ate the lot – before even a crumb could touch the ground. A good piece of field work, that.

Half-way through the afternoon, some over-excited member of the party will decide to arrange a game of rounders. (Mr Poppinjay tried this one year, as in his youth he had been athletic.

Fortunately, the ambulance got there quickly, and the ankle healed well.) Then the mothers who join in will completely ignore the ball sailing past them, while they discuss some burning topic of Mother's Union gossip.

In the meantime, the young choir members, who were the reason for arranging the game in the first place, will have drifted off to the lake to throw stones at the ducks while no one is looking.

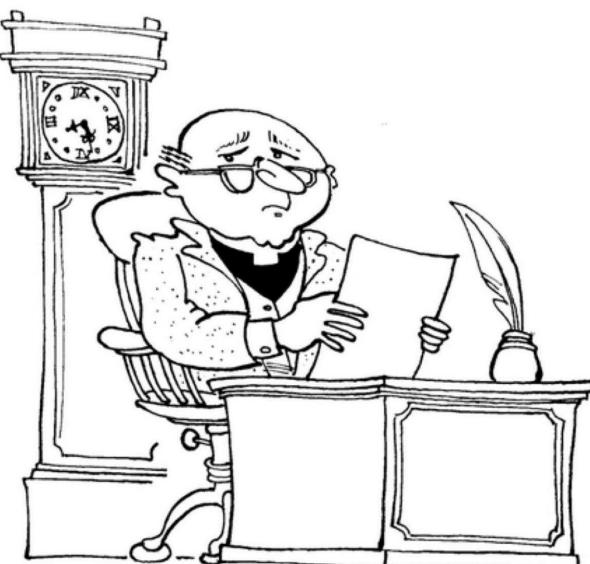
For our annual picnic, I use my own car, making sure it is so full of clerical robes and church magazines that no one else can fit in. Throughout the day, I keep returning to it to make sure no one has broken in to steal the Communion wine – and taking the opportunity to catch up on the cricket scores. By the middle of the afternoon, I usually remember that some urgent duty, such as blessing a traction engine, demands my departure.

The rest of the party, by now soaked, cold and knowing the coach to take them home is still several hours off, only wish they had such demanding work to tear them away.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Parish Pump



PARISH JOTTINGS

A Lovely Easter

We were blessed with lovely weather over the Easter Weekend and on Good Friday families took full advantage. Our Easter Trail was tremendously successful with a continual stream of children and accompanying adults walking round the churchyard following the events of that first Good Friday, with dramatic performances by Duncan as a Roman guard, Peter Greenman as Barabbas, and Kryssie Steiger and Emily Cantrell as the women at the tomb. The trail finished in church with hot cross buns. This was followed by a Churches Together service outside the Town Hall at midday and a joint Trinity / Trinity at Four Reflection in the afternoon.

On Easter Day the Sunrise Service took place in Mill Meadows at 7:00 a.m. for the first time in three years. The ducks and geese had their normally peaceful early morning disturbed by the sound of worship songs, led by Sam Brewster on the guitar and, for the last hymn, Peter Greenman on the flute. Eighteen people and one dog were up early enough to enjoy a great start to the day.



Reading and Prayers on Sundays

Now that services are coming back to normal after the pandemic it would be good to have more members of the church taking part in Sunday morning services again. Can you help? If you would like to take a turn reading the lesson occasionally or leading prayers and intercessions, have a word with Duncan, Michael Forsdike or Peter Jones.

Join the P.C.C.

Four members of the P.C.C. (Parochial Church Council in C of E speak but basically the church committee) stand down at the A.P.C.M. (Annual Parochial Church Meeting, i.e. the A.G.M.) on 8th May, having served their term of three years. They can, and we hope will, stand again for election but it would be beneficial for the church to hear some new voices as well. If you are on the Electoral Roll (C of E speak for our membership list) and are willing to put your name forward, please see Duncan or Peter Jones.

PJ



There was no more dozing off after the vicar started serving the extra-strength coffee **before** the service.



Spring sunshine in Holy Trinity churchyard

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The current parish magazine of Holy Trinity church, Henley-on-Thames.

Published monthly throughout the year. This issue is Number 326.

Holy Trinity church parish magazines have been produced since 1890.

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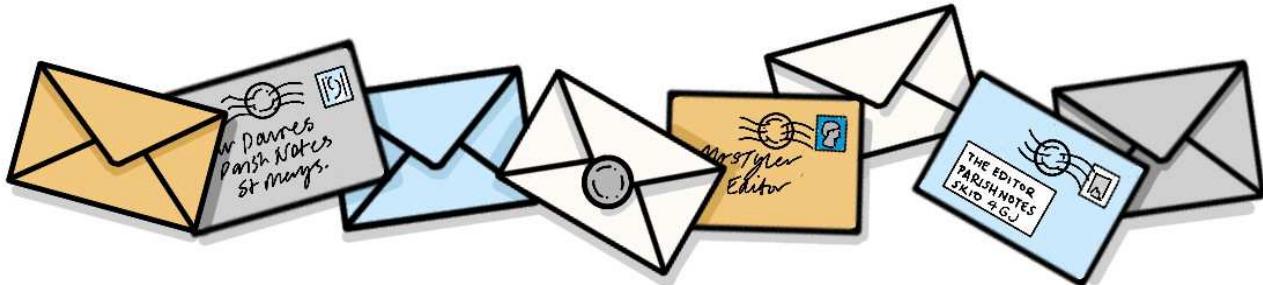
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Readers are invited to contribute articles, features, notices, etc., for publication in the Trinity Times. Submissions should be delivered to Richard Young, 11 Saint Mary's Close, (01491 578422), or E-mailed to the Trinity Times mailbox at 'magazine@holytrinityhenley.org.uk'.

For inclusion in the next magazine, submissions must be received by Sunday the 16th of May.