

Good News Parish Magazine April 2021

High Downs Parish

*Serving the villages of Eastling,
Otterden, Stalisfield and
Throwley*

for current and past editions go to:
<http://www.goodnews.rf.gd>



Easter Day Services

Wychling 6.15am Sunrise Service
Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion
Holy Communion at 10.30am also at Oare, Newnham and
Doddington

Morning Worship for Easter 10.30am at Norton and Teynham

Throwley Half Marathon

Sunday 11th April

Run, Cycle, Walk

Undulating Open Road Course

Entry £10 to Throwley Church

Contact David.bridgford@outlook.com for details



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on

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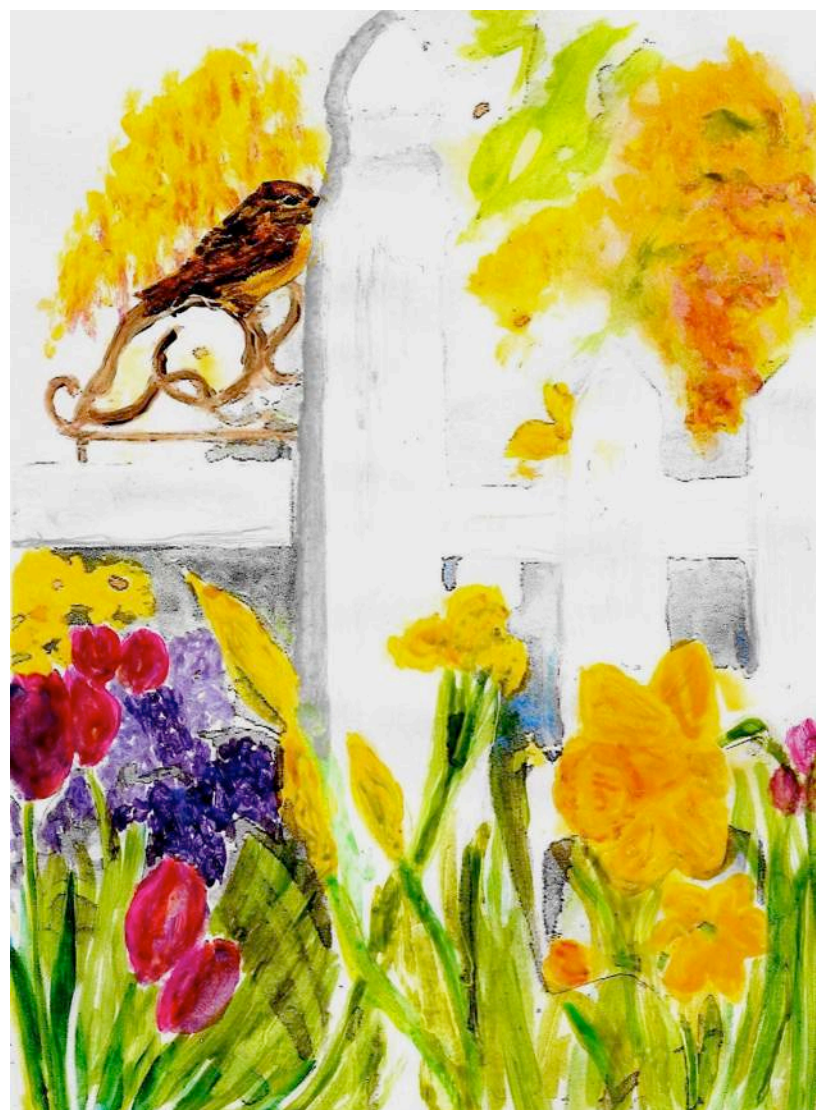
Tickets & Enquiries:

Shirley Pritchard

Tel: 07885 827 444

Cost: £6 per person £10 per couple

*(Proceeds to St. Mary's Church,
Stalisfield)*



Anniversaries

Last year Jane & I celebrated our 40th Wedding Anniversary. However, when I say celebrated - we did, but not in the way we had originally planned, as the Covid pandemic took its toll on our plans. However we did manage a couple of days away at the hotel we had stayed in for the first night of our honeymoon some 40 years beforehand, for which we are very grateful to God that we were still able to do so.

I was reminded about that because, as I am writing, there is much talk about a different sort of anniversary altogether - the first anniversary of the first Covid lockdown. We have just had Mothering Sunday and Mothering Sunday 2020 was the first Sunday of that lockdown and this year Mothering Sunday fell on what was the end of a year of online Sunday services - quite an amazing milestone even if one we would never have expected.

Anniversaries come in all shapes, sizes and feelings - some that are full of joy and some that are full of immense sadness. (I believe God is very much with us, both in the joy and in the sadness!)

We are coming up to the great Anniversary that is Easter. The anniversary of the death and then the resurrection of God's Son Jesus. This anniversary brings with it both those feelings - immense sadness followed by amazing joy.

Jesus had spent 3 years teaching people about God - God who loved them. He had shown much about God too - he had healed many people, he had fed 5000 people in a miraculous way, he had shown that he had a say over creation in the calming of the storm on the Sea of Galilee. He had attracted many to listen to him and to follow him.

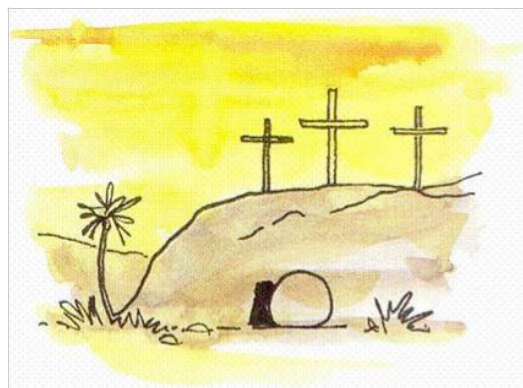
However he had attracted much opposition from the religious authorities and Good Friday marks the 'anniversary' of the day that Jesus was put to death on a cross - he was crucified.

For his family (his mother is recorded as being there), for his friends, for his followers this must have been a devastating time and one of immense sadness and tragedy.

I don't know how you mark this particular anniversary, if you do. As the local church we will mark it with a service of reflection at 2pm on Good Friday, ending at 3pm - the time that the bible says that Jesus died. The shops have been marking it and maybe you have joined in in this way by selling Hot Cross Buns - a traditional Good Friday food.



So things for Jesus' followers of the time were completely turned aside down - life totally disrupted by Jesus' death.



But that wasn't the end because now comes the anniversary that we call Easter Day - the anniversary of Jesus being raised from the dead - Jesus is alive. Here is the joy of Easter; here is the hope of Easter that takes us beyond the anniversary itself to life. For the hope of Easter is about life; it is about Jesus' victory over death that through Him we can share in.

For me the anniversary of the first lockdown due to Covid has been a thought provoking one, especially as a year on we continue with restrictions but now we can see the possibility of coming through to something different, which brings some hope.

Easter is about true hope, the true hope we have in God who loves us to the extent that he sent Jesus to be God with us in human form; to show us what the invisible God is like.

So we have cause, even in the midst of the current restrictions, to truly celebrate this anniversary called Easter.

Praying you God's blessing this Easter, *Steve*

Prayer Pointers

April 2021

Mondays - As we look ahead to freedom from Covid restrictions, we pray for new Christians and their new freedom in Christ.

Tuesdays - Give thanks for the vaccine roll out; Pray for those in doubt about vaccination.

Wednesdays - Give thanks for our NHS and pray for all carers and those being cared for.

Thursdays - Pray for our young people and their mental health.

Fridays - Give thanks for the lives of all who have died in the last year.

Saturdays - Pray for those returning to work or reopening a business.

Sundays - Give thanks for services resuming in our churches and pray for a special Easter blessing in your home.



Easter Lilies

St Mary's Church, Eastling.

Please give donations towards the buying of Easter lilies in memory of loved ones to Bay.

The lilies will be included in the Easter flower arrangements church, to be enjoyed at the Easter Day service and for times of quiet contemplation afterwards.
Bay Lees. 07922 484 648



Communal decorating in Eastling Church on 3rd April from 10am.

Please remember to wear a face mask in Church.



THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

Enjoy the arts presented by world class lecturers from the comfort of your own home.

Our next lecture is available on Zoom:

'Stamford Raffles – Art Collector and Discoverer of Singapore'

Presented by Denise Heywood

13th April at 2.30 pm

This lecture tells the story of Raffles, a scholar and polymath, looks at the art objects he collected, reveals the mystical temple in Java and its radiant carvings, and shows the architectural heritage of Singapore, inspired by his vision, and its revival today as innovative art galleries and museums.

Art historian, author, lecturer, photographer and journalist, Denise Heywood worked in Cambodia in the 1990s and has been a scholar of Southeast Asian art ever since. She has published several books, writes for many art, literary and travel publications and has appeared on television and radio. She has led cultural tours to Southeast Asia and France and lectures on cruise ships.

Future dates for your diaries (both Zoom presentations):

On **12 May** at 2.30 pm **Helen Ritchie** on
'**Making Visions: The Jewellery of Artist Charles Rickett**'.

On **9 June** at 2.30 pm **Giles Ramsay** on
'**Shakespeare and Birth of Modern Show Business**'.

More information about each lecture is available on our website: theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

If you would like to become a member or if you would like to watch one or any of the above lectures as a guest please contact Christine Willis, Membership Secretary, on 01233 756377 email: cmwillis75@gmail.com A link to enable you to log in will be forwarded to you. There is a small charge of £4 per lecture.

Our Society has a membership of over 180 and covers a wide area across the Weald and North Downs. Although currently unable to meet in The Millennium Hall, Egerton our members have continued to enjoy lectures via Zoom



Free Art Classes

For local residents

at Stalisfield Village Hall

Run by a local charity - In A Space Arts.

*Sessions start on Thursday 15th April,
10am - 12pm, outside at the back of the hall.
Maximum of 5 people with priority for the over
60's group.*

*Moving inside the hall from May 20th,
participant numbers can increase from June
24th, subject to Government Covid guidelines.
No specific art skills required, it's about getting
together and having fun.*

*Booking essential email: info@inaspace.org
or call Rose West on 01227 250363*

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Eastling Annual Parish Meeting and the Village Hall AGM

The Annual Parish Meeting for Eastling will be held remotely on 22nd April at 8pm.

Residents are cordially invited to attend the meeting and there will be a time set aside for questions and comments from parishioners. The agenda will be published on the notice board and Parish Council website, login details will be available from the clerk-eastlingpc@gmail.com

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there will not be a Village Hall AGM this year.

As with last year, a copy of the Chair's Report, along with the Financial Statement for 2020, will be published on the Village Hall website in April. Any questions/queries from the public should be addressed to the Chair at:
kavallach6@btinternet.com

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Police 101 Emergency 999

There have been reports of vehicles touring in the local area making notes of properties and there is the problem that they might be involved in not only burglary but also the theft of dogs so please be aware and report any concerns.

With the relaxation of Covid rules please let us all be sensible so that we can do our part in containing this virus.

Have a good month and take care, Alan.

The second half of February and first half of March have been unbelievably busy. All County Council Committees have meetings scheduled before the start of the Election period on 19th March. Once we get past that date my diary will slim down to just Parish Council meetings, Planning Committee and Regulation Committee panels. Case work, which is currently busier than ever, will of course continue. On 11th of March the last Full Meeting of the current County Council took place. With almost a quarter of existing Councillors choosing not to restand the new Council will look very different, even before the Electorate have their say.

March Newsletter

With the ongoing concerns with the Swale Local Plans most Parish Councils are holding one, or in most cases more, extra meetings. This has resulted in three Parish Councils in an evening becoming commonplace. The record so far is five on one evening. Don't forget you now have till 30th April to get your comments in. Some Parish Councils which are less effected by the Local Plan and which only meet every other month I have already said my goodbyes to. Many Parish Councils are trying to fit in their Annual Parish Meetings for residents before the seventh May with uncertainty as to how Meetings can be held, online or face to face, after that date.

Andrew Bowles KCC member - Swale East

Stalisfield Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting,
Annual Parish Council Meeting
and the monthly meeting will be
held remotely on

Tuesday 4th May at 6pm.

Login details will be available
from the
Clerk to Stalisfield Parish
Council

Email: stalisfieldpc@gmail.com



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High Downs Parish

Rector Reverend Canon Dr. Steve Lillicrap
01795 522510 highdownsvicar@gmail.com

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)
4 Glebe Cottages, Eastling

Churchwardens

Eastling Andrew Baxter (01795 890598)

Administrator Janet Payne
E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden

Jenny King (01795 890366)

Administrator Shirley Pritchard (07885 827444)

Throwley Gaynore Moss (01795 890995)

Parish Office Email: eastlingchurch@gmail.com
[facebook.com/highdownsbenefice](https://www.facebook.com/highdownsbenefice)

THROWLEY CHURCH Annual Meeting

Tuesday 20th April, 7pm

Contact Gaynore for details - gaynoremoss@hotmail.com

HIGH DOWNS PARISH Annual Meeting

Sunday 2nd May, 10.30am, Eastling Church

CONTACT THE *GOOD NEWS* EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the May 2021 magazine, send your submission by 20th April 2021 to:
goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on ccgi.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews or www.goodnews.rf.gd

Church Electoral Roll

Application Closes 11th April

If you are not the Church Electoral Roll and would like to be, then please complete a form, leave with the church warden

If you are already on the Church Electoral Roll and wish to stay, then you need do nothing more.

If you wish to be removed from the Church Electoral Roll, then please let the church warden know.

Sunday Services

Our Rector, Revd Dr Steve Lillicrap, will continue with 9am Morning Prayer every day on www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk - also on the YouTube Channel 'Breakthrough at Lynsted'.

More information is updated weekly on St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You':
<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/>

Holy Week at Lynsted, on Zoom

Orders of service will be available to download from www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk, with printed copies in Church.

Monday 29th, Tuesday 30th, Wednesday 31st March
7.30pm Evening Prayer

Maundy Thursday 7.30pm Last Supper with Communion

Good Friday 2pm Last Hour of the Cross

Saturday 7.30pm Evening prayer

1st April Good Friday

Hebrews 10. 16 - 25, John 18. 1 - 19.42

Doddington 10am - 4pm Stations of the Cross
Visit for prayer or self contemplation

4th April Easter Day

Acts 10. 34 - 43, Mark 16. 1 - 8

Wychling 6.15am Sunrise Service

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion by ext
Holy Communion at 10.30am also at Oare,
Newnham and Doddington

11th April Easter 2

Acts 4. 32 - 35, John 20. 19 - end

Throwley 10.30am Morning Worship
Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion

18th April Easter 3

Acts 3. 12 - 19, Luke. 36b - 48

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship
Norton 10.30am Holy Communion by ext

25th April Easter 4

Acts 4. 5 - 12, John 10. 11 - 18

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion by ext

2nd May Easter 5

Acts 10. 44 - 48, John 15. 9 - 17

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion
Wychling 5.30pm Evensong

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Email: kdgardens@outlook.com



Winter's End

by Audrey Keen

There is poetry in every season Mother Nature sends
Her paintings are magnificent her music never ends.

She shares with us her feelings in her many moods which make
The sweet wild flowers open or the grass and green leaves quake.

"The magic of the Springtime", I've heard those words before
But never have they meant so much as they do now and more.

When the white veiled mists of winter lift and sun breaks through
the cloud,
And the ever present song of birds is stronger now and loud.

Wild creatures wake from winter's sleep to stretch and yawn and
clean
And walk the woods and scented flowers where winter time has
been.

Wild pheasants fly across the ride for months they will be free
From booming guns that flush them from a leafless hedge or tree.

Wrens and yellowhammers build here where I live
As blackbirds sing and yaffles call and cuckoos I forgive;
Their selfishness I overlook, their colour I'll not see,
Because their unique sound is a special joy to me.

And when the buds begin to swell and all is warm and still
I think that spring has come at last to me upon the hill.

But I remember Mother Nature takes her time to send
The special days in April when I see the winter's end.



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Tuesday 18th May, 1pm - 3pm

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Throughout the tour, Graeme will share his gardening knowledge and expertise with you.

£10.00 per person. Booking is required.

Herb Walk

Wednesday 19th May, 10am - 12pm

This relaxing walk with local herbalist, Mandy Rickard, will introduce you to some different herbs used throughout history to treat illness and maintain health.

It's a great chance to see, smell and taste the plants in a beautiful garden setting and reconnect with nature that's right on your doorstep.

£15.00 per person. Booking is required, to get your tickets please visit our website.

Willow Weaving Course

Thursday 20th May, 10am - 5pm

Trottscliffe Willow will be running a one-day willow weaving course to make any small animal of your choice to take home.

All tuition, materials and equipment are provided for you to make your own unique sculpture.

£70.00 per person. Booking is required, to get your tickets please visit our website.



Belmont House & Gardens,

Throwley, Nr Faversham, Kent ME13 0HH

W: www.belmont-house.org E: events@belmont-house.org

T: 01795 890228



Walking and Talking

During the pandemic, I have enjoyed walking. In many ways, getting out daily for a good walk has not only helped me physically, but also bolstered my mental well-being. Often, I have arranged to walk with a friend,

and we have enjoyed good conversation and fellowship.

Today I was walking alone, and I noticed it seemed further and to take longer. When you are walking and talking, you hardly notice the distance or the time. I am not usually able to think much when I am walking alone, but today the reminder came into my head of a saying: 'If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.'

It made me thankful for all the friends who have encouraged me this year and helped me to keep going. We can walk alone, and sometimes that's a good thing; but it is easier to be able to walk through life with others.

Who has walked with you this year? Do they know that you appreciate their companionship on the journey?

By the Revd Tony Horsfall of Charis Training.

More details at: www.Charistraining.co.uk.

"I can't remember where....."

The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs.



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SPRING

Spring has arrived with armfuls of blossom

Petals of every colour and hue,

Rain and sun caressing the earth

Inspiring spring bulbs into view.

Now is the time of new beginnings

Giving us pleasure all season through.

by Megan Carter

Canon Paul Hardingham considers the eternal promise of Easter

Easter Hope

"So many people right across the country are anxious about employment, anxious about food, isolated from loved ones and feel that the future looks dark."

These are words from the Archbishop of Canterbury's sermon on Easter Day 2020. Who would have thought that we are experiencing the same uncertainties this Easter!

Yet the Easter story remains one of hope overcoming darkness and despair. The women arrived at the tomb on Easter morning with mixed emotions, as they came to anoint Jesus' body. *'But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.'* (Mark 16:4). They were confused, as they tried to make sense of Jesus' death. Their hopes were dashed with an uncertain future. In the current pandemic, we too are left asking: *Where is God in all this?*

The young man at the tomb reminds them that God is still in control: *"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are*

looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." (Mark 16:6).

The women had forgotten Jesus' promise to the disciples that He would die and rise from the dead. Jesus' resurrection is also the sure foundation of hope for us in the present crisis. He turns our confusion and fear into joy and wonder! We can trust Jesus' plan for the future of our world and lives, despite the fact that things can't return to the way they were: *"There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, a new normal, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful. We must dream it, build it, make it, grasp it, because it is the gift of God and the call of God."* (Justin Welby).



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Churches Open for Private Prayer

Throwley and Eastling church buildings will continue to be open for private prayer.

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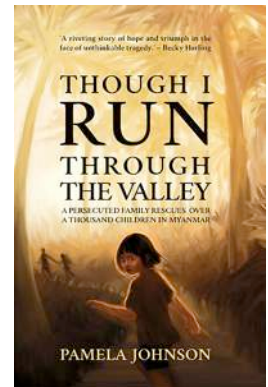
BOOK REVIEW

Though I Run Through the Valley

By Pamela Johnson, Authentic, £9.99

Amid decades of war and political strife in Myanmar one family has fought back with their weapon of choice - the Bible. Three generations of Emmerline's family have been living out their love for God by rescuing children who have been orphaned, abandoned or made destitute by their country's upheaval.

Daring to trust God, the family has made many sacrifices to provide a home for orphans so that the children of Myanmar can hope for a better future. Read this, and you will better understand what it was like being a Christian in a predominantly Buddhist Myanmar at a time of ethnic cleansing and military dictatorship. Royalties from the sale of this book will go to Vision Beyond Borders and the Daw Gyi Daw Nge Orphanage



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26th April: Mark, disciple, apostle, writer of the second gospel

Mark, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and His 12 apostles, is considered the traditional author of the second gospel. He is also usually identified as the young man, described in Mark 14:51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind.

Papias, in 130 AD, said that in later years Mark became Peter's interpreter. If so, then this close friendship would have been how Mark gathered so much information about Jesus' life. Peter referred to him affectionately as his 'son'.

Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys. When Paul was held captive at Rome, Mark was with him, helping him. Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, perhaps in Rome, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus. Mark died about 74 AD.

Early in the 9th century Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist is the lion, and is much in evidence in Venice.



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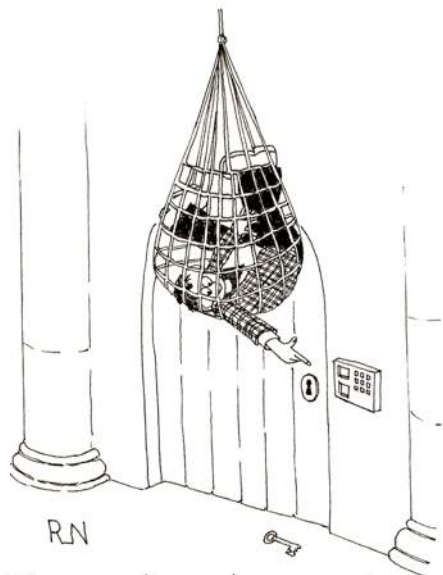
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Saying good-bye

An inexperienced curate was sent to do a graveside burial for a homeless man with no family or friends. Not knowing where the cemetery was, he made several wrong turns and got lost. When he eventually arrived, the hearse was nowhere in sight, the backhoe was next to the open hole, and the workmen were sitting under a tree eating lunch.

When the curate looked into the open grave and even found the vault lid was already in place, he felt very guilty. The homeless man deserved something, even though it was late. And so, the curate delivered an impassioned burial service, sending the deceased into the great beyond in some style. The workmen looked on in silence, but as the curate returned to his car, he overheard one of the workmen remark: 'I've been putting in septic tanks for 20 years and I ain't never seen anything like that!'

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Suppose the Government had chosen an entirely different policy for dealing with coronavirus. Instead of building temporary hospitals and instructing us to wash our hands, observe social distancing, and then locking us down, they had let the pandemic run its course? Hundreds of thousands of people would have died: mainly those who were old, as well as some younger people with pre-existent health deficiencies.

As these potential casualties were already costing the National Health Service much more per head than anyone else, their (slightly) premature deaths would have saved the Exchequer billions and freed up resources to improve the health and standard of living for the rest of the more vigorous population. Only the fittest would have survived. Isn't that the law of nature?

Instead, the policy was deliberately to sacrifice the economy. At all costs, human beings were to be saved, whatever their longer-term

John Barton considers the Government's policy on Covid-19.

Covid-19: should we have sacrificed the economy, or us?

prospects. Consequently, many businesses have gone under, unemployment has shot up and may get worse when the dust clears. Family relationships have been curbed, children may have lost a year's schooling, and leisure, hospitality and travel have been hampered.

Why? Why choose this policy and not that?

The answer is a religious one. Perhaps without realising why, policy-makers chose to act as though each human being has a value which can't be measured by their state of health or wealth or status. That's not what 'nature' intends. It's what the Christian faith demands. Everyone, everyone without exception, is unique and marked with God's image. Everyone has the potential for adoption as a child of God. Christ

died for each one. You can't put a price on that.

Some countries have this faith ingrained in their national character. Some do not. In some, life is cheap, disposable and valued only by its usefulness for production or warfare. The fittest survive. Even then some are sacrificed as warriors, like suicide bombers paying the price of an ideology.

Christianity doesn't happen by accident. It is the outcome of missionary activity and the conversion of one-time unbelievers. They then saw other people in a new light: equally worth saving, whatever the cost.

Dreadful as it is, Covid-19 will eventually be controlled. In its wake will be a history of survival, not of the fittest, but of the God-given value of every human being.

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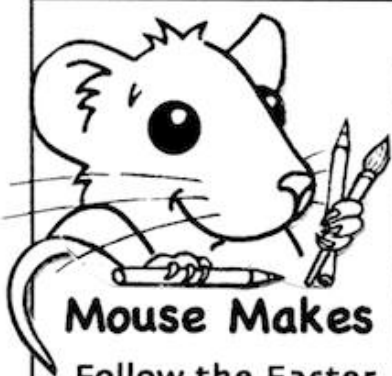
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Follow the Easter story using the Bible references, then look for the words in the wordsearch puzzle



Into Jerusalem

read Matthew 21:1-11

DONKEY • ROAD
BRANCHES • PALMS
KING • HOSANNA

Last Supper

read Matthew 26:17-30

PASSOVER • ROOM
BREAD • WINE
BODY • BLOOD
CUP • MEAL

Betrayal and Death

read Matthew 26:36 - 27:56

KISS • MESSIAH
CHRIST • SON
CRUCIFY • JESUS
CROWN • THORNS
ROBE • TREE
NAILS • CROSS
DARKNESS • QUAKE
DEATH • LOTS

Easter Wordsearch



Burial and Resurrection

read Matthew 27:57 - 28:20

TOMB • STONE • LINEN • BODY
BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING
MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN
GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL
GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT
SAVIOUR • PRAISE

EASTER

In praise of the afternoon nap



A short nap in the afternoon

improves your memory and keeps your brain more agile.

People who nap tend to speak more fluently, have greater mental agility, and remember things better than those who do not break up their day with sleep.

Even a five-minute nap can offer your brain a chance to down-time and replenish itself, so that it is 'good to go' again. If you want longer than five minutes, try to stop at 40 minutes, before you enter the deepest stage of sleep.

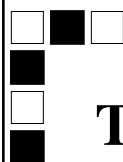
If you do carry on, sleep for two hours, which is a full sleep-cycle.

The study was published in the British Medical Journal.



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