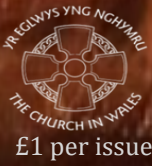


# Maelor Mission Area Magazine

Easter Edition



£1 per issue

## **We all suffer – He offers peace**

Easter Hope and New Life for our communities



# MAELOR MISSION AREA

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2026 - ALL WELCOME!

[www.maelormissionarea.org](http://www.maelormissionarea.org)



### PALM SUNDAY - 29th March

Penley Church - Holy Eucharist with Passion Reading	9.30am
Erbistock Church - Holy Eucharist	9.30am
Marchwiel Church - Eucharist with Passion Reading	9.30am
Overton Church - Sung Eucharist with Passion Reading	9.30am
Bronington Church - Morning Worship with Passion Reading	11am
Hanmer Church - Eucharist with Passion Reading	11am
Bangor-on-Dee Church - Eucharist with Passion Reading	11am



### HOLY WEDNESDAY - 1st April

Hanmer Church - Holy Communion with MU & Soup Lunch	12pm
Marchwiel Church - Compline; also live-streamed:	7pm



### MAUNDY THURSDAY - 2nd April

Bangor-on-Dee Church - Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar	7pm
Overton Church - Holy Communion	7pm



### GOOD FRIDAY - 3rd April

Hanmer Church - Liturgy of Good Friday with the Way of the Cross	2pm
Bangor-on-Dee Church - Liturgy of Good Friday	2pm
Marchwiel Church - Reflective Service	2pm

### EASTER SUNDAY - 5th April

Penley Church - Easter Sunday Eucharist	9.30am
Overton Church - Easter Sunday Sung Eucharist	9.30am
Marchwiel Church - Easter Festival Eucharist	9.30am
Erbistock Church - Easter Festival Eucharist	9.30am
Bronington Church Easter Sunday Eucharist	11am
Hanmer Church - Easter Sunday Eucharist	11am
Bangor-on-Dee Church - Easter Festival Eucharist	11am
FOFC Worthenbury Church - Easter Praise Service	3pm

# Maelor Mission Area Churches

The Maelor Churches are:

St Dunawd, Bangor on Dee.  
St Deiniol and St Marcella,  
Marchwiell

St Mary the Virgin, Overton  
St Hilary, Erbistock  
St Chad, Hanmer  
Holy Trinity, Bronington  
St Mary Magdalene, Penley



*St John the Baptist, Bettisfield  
St Deiniol, Worthenbury, as  
pilgrim and befriended churches  
respectively, remain open for  
prayer and festival services.*



## KEY CONTACTS

**MMA Lay Chair & MA Leader:**  
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07467 927690

*This magazine has been published by  
volunteers for well over a century.  
We hope you find it informative, useful,  
and interesting. You are welcome to  
respond to any item. If you have any  
enquiries please contact the Editor as per  
above.*

Our 'South Group' of churches  
Hanmer, Overton, Bronington and  
Penley are now being looked after  
by a team of local clergy until a  
new priest arrives, Please contact  
the church wardens first with any  
queries, or email  
MMA Administrator  
[maelor.maa@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:maelor.maa@churchinwales.org.uk)

**Rev'd Marcus Pipe**  
Rector of Bangor on Dee,  
Marchwiell and Erbistock  
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Horseman's Green. SY13 3EA.  
Tel 07919 445155 /  
01948 830564  
[marcuspipe@cinw.org.uk](mailto:marcuspipe@cinw.org.uk)

# SUNDAY SERVICES

Church	29th Mar Palm Sunday	5th April Easter Sunday	12th April Easter 2	19th April Easter 3	26th April Easter 4
<b>Bangor</b>	11.00 HC	11.00 HC	11.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 HC
<b>Marchwiell</b>	9.30 HC	9.30 HC	9.30 MW	9.30 MW	9.30 HC
<b>Erbistock</b>	9.30 HC	9.30 HC	9.30 MPr	9.30 HC	9.30 HC
<b>Hanmer</b>	11.00 HC	11.00 HC	11.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 HC
<b>Overton</b>	9.30 HC	9.30 HC	9.30 HC	9.30 HC	9.30 HC
<b>Holy Trinity, Bronington</b>	11.00 MW	11.00 HC	11.00 MW	11.00 HC	15.00 FW
<b>Penley</b>	15.00 Tea@3	9.30 HC	9.30 MW	9.30 HC	15.00 Tea@3

**KEY:** **FW**—Family Worship; **AA** —All-Age; **MPr**—Morning Prayer; **HC**—Holy Communion  
; **MW**—Morning Worship; **Tea@3** at the New Barn Opposite church

**Serving the Communities of  
Bangor-on-Dee, Bettisfield, Bronington,  
Erbistock, Eyton, Hanmer, Marchwiell,  
Overton, Penley, Horseman's Green,  
Tallarn Green & Worthenbury**

Across our Mission Area, our churches offer a warm welcome to all.  
Do come and join us for worship at a service, quiet prayer  
or simply to spend time in a place of peace.  
Many of our churches are open throughout the day, for more  
information please see our website: [www.maelormissionarea.org.uk](http://www.maelormissionarea.org.uk)

# Easter – Hope for Our Communities

In recent weeks, during the season of Lent, many across our Mission Area have been taking time to pause, reflect and prepare for Easter. Now we arrive at the joyful heart of the Christian year — a season that speaks of hope, renewal and new beginnings. We are reminded that the Christian story speaks into the realities of everyday life. The image on our cover reflects a truth that many people recognise — that suffering and struggle are part of the human experience. Whether through illness, loss, uncertainty or the pressures of modern living, each of us at times carries burdens that may not always be seen by others.

The events remembered during Holy Week show a love that does not turn away from pain. Christians believe that in Jesus, God shares fully in our human experience, walking with us even in the darkest moments. Yet the message of Easter is not one of despair. It is a message of peace, hope and new beginnings. The journey from the cross to the empty tomb reminds us that suffering is never the final word.

Across our Mission Area, Easter is a time to gather in worship, to support one another in friendship, and to look forward with renewed faith. In the quiet rhythms of parish life — in prayer, in community events, and in acts of kindness — signs of new life continue to appear. This Easter's cover artwork was created by someone from within our Mission Area. Whether you are a regular churchgoer or simply curious about the life of our churches, you are warmly welcome among us. May this Easter bring peace to your hearts and hope to our communities.

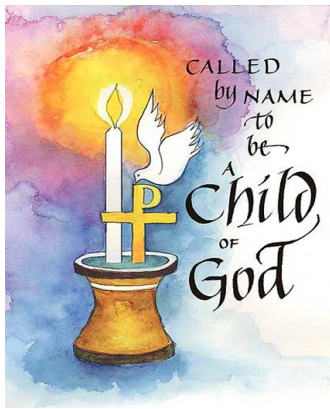
*Katie*

## Prayer – God of Promise

*God of promise and patient love,  
in this season of shadows and growing light we come before you with open hearts.  
You know the hopes we hold and the burdens we carry — our longing for peace, for understanding, and for a clearer sense of your presence in our lives.*

*Slow us down and help us to notice your work among us. Open our eyes to signs of new life and give us strength to walk together in faith. As your gathered people, we come to worship, to give thanks, and to offer our prayers and praise.  
You are the God who keeps promises, who walks beside us, and who will not let darkness have the final word. Amen.*

# CEREMONIES



## Baptisms

22nd Feb—Charlie Cooper—Hanmer

Heavenly Father,

In your love you have called us to know you, led us to trust you, and bound our life with yours. Surround these children with your love and protect them from evil.

Fill them with the holy spirit and receive them into the family of your church, that they may walk with us in the way of Christ, and grow in the knowledge of your love.

## Funerals



- 4<sup>th</sup> March – Trevor Wooldridge, Pentrebychan Crematorium
- 4<sup>th</sup> March - Doreen Jones, Pentrebychan Crematorium
- 10<sup>th</sup> March – Nicholas Simon, Marchwiell
- 17<sup>th</sup> March – Meryl Davies, Pentrebychan Crematorium
- 18<sup>th</sup> March – Joan Dance, Pentrebychan Crematorium



*We pray for the souls of the dear departed who have passed away recently and for their family, friends and relatives.*

*May the Peace of the Lord be with them at this difficult time.*

## **In Your Time of Loss**

Our churches are here to offer prayer and support following a bereavement. If you would like some support or to discuss a funeral or a memorial service, please contact: [maelor.maa@churchinwales.org.uk](mailto:maelor.maa@churchinwales.org.uk) | 07467 927690

*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins." - [1 Peter 4:8](#)*

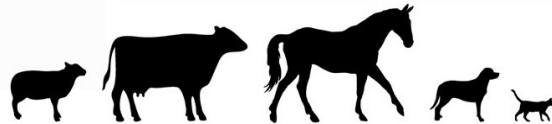
## Marriages

*Congratulations!*

**Saturday 21st March at Hanmer - Luke Baldock and Eleanor Barlow.**

Lord, bless this couple with such love; a love that is patient, kind, and humble. A love that rejoices in the truth and bears all things. May their love for each other reflect Your divine love, enduring all things and never failing.

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## From the desk of Rev Marcus Pipe



Our Mission Area has entered a period of significant change with several of our churches moving into an Interregnum. Times like this bring uncertainty and churches naturally wonder what the future might look like. Yet the Bible often reminds us that our ultimate security is not found in our own plans or structures but in God himself. Psalm 33 tells us: *“No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength.”* Human strength, organisation and careful planning are valuable but they are not where our deepest hope lies. Instead, the psalm points us towards placing our trust in the Lord, whose love and faithfulness never fail.

Psalm 139 offers another wonderful reassurance. The psalmist says to God, *“You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.”* Whatever season we find ourselves in, whether a time of stability or a time of change, God surrounds us with his presence. We are never outside his care.

Periods of transition can also be times of opportunity. Moments to pray more deeply, to listen carefully for God’s guidance and to support one another as a Christian family. While leadership may change, the mission of God continues and the faithfulness of God remains constant.

So as we move forward through Easter and beyond together, we can do so with confidence, not in ourselves but in the God who knows us, guides us and holds our future securely in his hands.

*Rev Marcus*

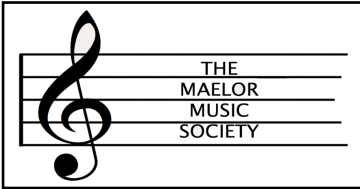


### **Maelor Mission Area YouTube Channel**

Rev Marcus has set up a new **YouTube channel** for the **Maelor Mission Area**, which will be used to stream **Compline services** and other events.

This means you can watch services **live** (where available) or **catch up afterwards** at a time that suits you. Please use the **QR code** to visit the channel and subscribe for updates.





# MAELOR MUSIC SOCIETY

55th Season:  
2025-26  
President: Bob Evers

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 6th. May, 2 pm at Glendower Place, Hanmer. All welcome.

Early notice to get your appetites fully restored after Lent! Our sumptuous summer party in Tallarn Green Village hall on Saturday July 4th at 12-30 for 1.

*New members are always welcome. For more info Contact Geoff Mason  
01978 710486 / 07722629545 / gcmason47@yahoo.co.uk*

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**Graham Powell - Bronington Resident**

# St Deiniol and St Marcella, Marchwiel

It's lovely to see all the bulbs growing and we have even had a bit of sunshine! Easter is an amazing time of year both in nature and in our church calendar. We at Marchwiel are now preparing for our Easter celebrations and services. Any volunteers for flower arranging or help in and around the church are always welcome.

We still need some willing volunteers to help with locking up the church on our weekly rota. If anyone is available to help please see a church member who can help arrange this. It is so nice to have our church open daily and we have many visitors who sign our Visitor Book. Some visitors just like to come and sit in the church quietly.

We would like to tell you about our **pebble pool and prayer table**. Many people have seen this in front of the church and enquired. The table has on it a small dish of stones alongside a dish of water. This is a "pebble pool". Each pebble placed in the pool represents a prayer, either for yourself, for



someone else or in memory of someone dear to you. Start by choosing a pebble and before you place it in the water, you may wish to take it in your hand and say in prayer in your heart, in your thoughts or quietly out aloud, or you may simply want to speak a name or need that you wish to remember. When you feel ready, place the pebble in the pool. Each week the pool is emptied and the needs and thoughts

symbolised by the stones are held in prayer by the Prayer Group who meet every Wednesday at 1,30 pm. Anyone is welcome to come to these meetings. There is also a book on the table for any other requests for prayer, which are also prayed for each week. In many ways it is like leaving a lighted candle but without the risk of burning the church down!

Please come and join us at Marchwiel church, everyone is welcome to the services, coffee mornings and any volunteers for flower arranging are always welcome!. *"Springtime is a season of hope and joy and cheer ..... there's beauty all around us to see, and touch and hear."* Helen Steiner Rice      *Suzanne & Tracy*

# St Dunawd's, Bangor on Dee



On **March 1<sup>st</sup>** St Dunawds Church held a **St David's Day celebration afternoon tea** which was a sellout. Thank you to everyone who supported this wonderful social occasion. The event was enjoyed by all who came and were served a splendid tea accompanied by endless cups of coffee or tea and the odd glass of prosecco! **Thank you to Barbara, Margaret and Christine** who made the event happen and also **thanks to many others behind the scenes** who made this memorable occasion a success. **Over £800 was raised for our beautiful church.**



On **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March** we will be holding our **Easter bingo** in Bangor on Dee **village hall**. Eyes down at **6.30pm**. There will be lots of chocolate prizes to be won so please come along and support our church. This is a very popular event so get there early!

Our **All Age worship** service restarted in February after our winter break. It was an enjoyable service and well attended. **Our next one will be on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 4pm, then on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm** Everyone welcome. Age no limit!



Our Monday Friendship club finishes in March. This has been well supported and local people have looked forward to the weekly get together. *Thank you to everyone who has helped to run the club and to those who have supported it.* We hope that you can attend and support as many of these events as possible. Further details will be available in the Maelor Mission Area magazine, in local shops and on our Facebook page.

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## St Hilary's, Erbistock



After a particularly long winter, the hedgerows are starting to green-up, the daffodils are out in force and it feels as if spring has finally arrived. The sun was shining as we came out of church last Sunday and the view from the church door looking over the river was timeless and beautiful.

There is so much horror in the world right now. We need the comfort of peace and stability. St Hilary's is open every day and judging by the comments in the visitors book, that is much appreciated but if you don't want to go inside, just come and spend some time sitting on the benches: enjoy the river flowing by, listen to the birdsong, and let the peace wash over you.

In the meantime, have a joyful and peaceful Easter.

*Chris*

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## Royal Maundy Money – Beneficiaries from our Mission Area



St Asaph Cathedral is preparing to welcome a truly historic occasion as His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla visit on Thursday 2 April for the Royal Maundy Service. This ancient ceremony, held on the Thursday before Easter, reflects Christ's call to love and serve one another. It is one of the oldest traditions of the monarchy, dating back to at least 1210.

This year's service will be particularly special, as it will be the first time the Royal Maundy has been held in North Wales and only the second time in over 800 years that it has taken place anywhere in Wales. The Cathedral — the smallest ancient cathedral in the UK and a place of Christian worship for around 1,450 years — will be at the heart of this national event. During the service, the King will present Maundy Money to 154 recipients: 77 men and 77 women, reflecting the King's age. These individuals have been recognised for their faithful Christian service to their local churches and communities.

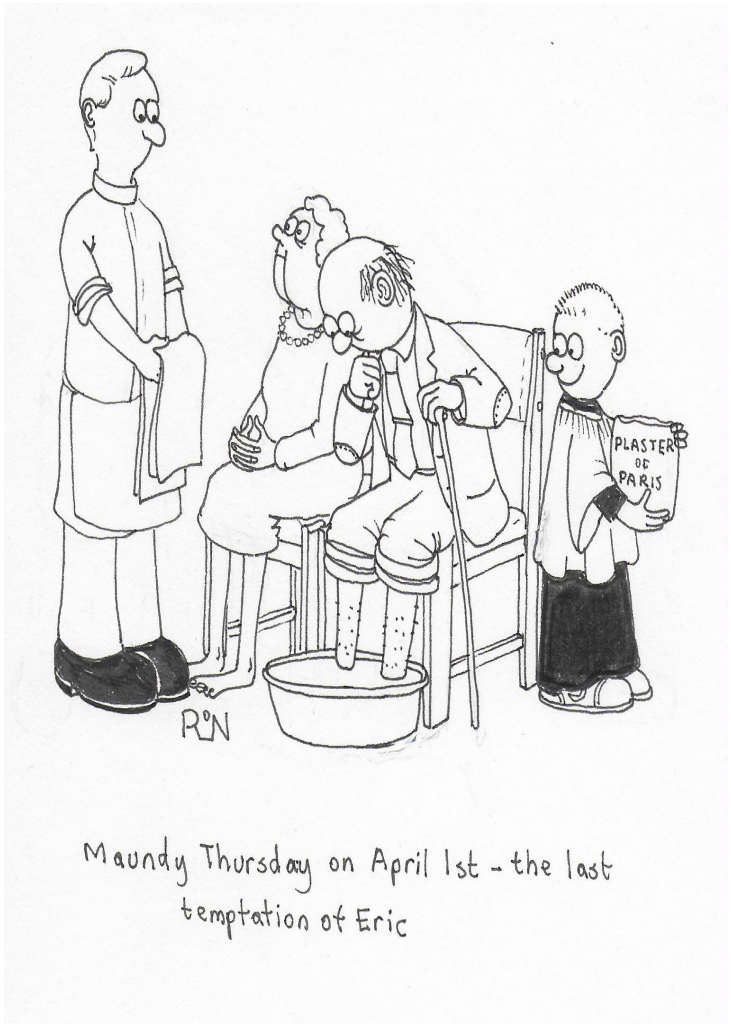
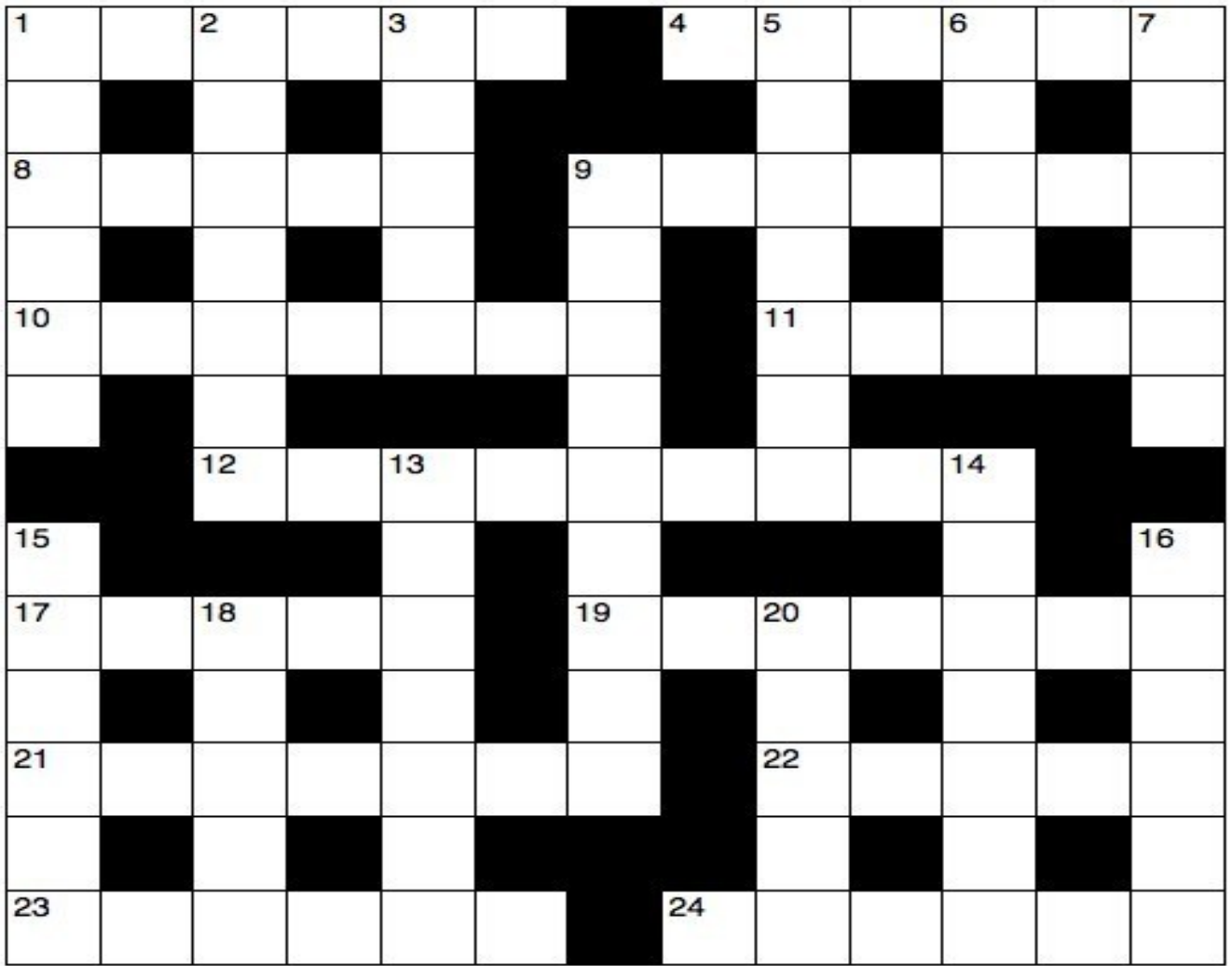


We are especially delighted that **Olive Burch and Michael Vellacott from our Mission Area** will be among those honoured. Both have given longstanding and devoted service, and we look forward to hearing about their experience when they share with congregations at Hanmer and Marchwiel on Easter Sunday. The service itself will include specially commissioned Welsh music, celebrating the return of the Royal Maundy to

Wales. The procession will be led by the Cross of Wales, gifted by the King to the Christians of Wales and previously used at his Coronation. Each recipient will receive two purses: a white purse containing silver Maundy coins and a red purse with commemorative coins marking significant national milestones.

The visit places St Asaph — and North Wales more widely — in the national spotlight, highlighting the importance of Christian service, heritage and community spirit. For the Cathedral and the wider region, this promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime moment and a joyful reminder of the enduring call to serve God and neighbour.

# CROSSWORD



Maunder Thursday on April 1st - the last temptation of Eric

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# Crossword Clues

## Across

- 1 Relating to the whole universe (6)
- 4 The disciple who made the remark in 8 Across (John 20:24) (6)
- 8 'Unless I see the nail marks — — hands, I will not believe it' (John 20:25) (2,3)
- 9 He urged King Jehoiakim not to burn the scroll containing Jeremiah's message  
(Jeremiah 36:25) (7)
- 10 Baptist minister and controversial founder of America's Moral Majority, Jerry — (7)
- 11 'Look, here is — . Why shouldn't I be baptized?' (Acts 8:36) (5)
- 12 Repossessed (Genesis 14:16) (9)
- 17 Port from which Paul sailed on his last journey to Rome (Acts 27:3-4) (5)
- 19 'Moses was not aware that his face was — because he had spoken with the Lord'  
(Exodus 34:29) (7)
- 21 Roonwit, C.S. Lewis's half-man, half-horse (7)
- 22 Grill (Luke 24:42) (5)
- 23 'The lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the— apostles' (Acts 1:26) (6)
- 24 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in — and you came to visit me' (Matthew 25:36) (6)

## Down

- 1 Coastal rockfaces (Psalm 141:6) (6)
- 2 Academic (1 Corinthians 1:20) (7)
- 3 Publish (Daniel 6:26) (5)
- 5 For example, the Crusades (4,3)
- 6 11 Across is certainly this (5)
- 7 He reps (anag.) (6)
- 9 Liberator (Psalm 18:2) (9)
- 13 Man who asked the question in 11 Across was in charge of all her treasury (Acts 8:27)  
(7)
- 14 They must be 'worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine' (1 Timothy 3:8) (7)
- 15 The human mind or soul (6)
- 16 'O Lord, while precious children starve, the tools of war increase; their bread is — ' (Graham Kendrick) (6)
- 18 'We played the flute for you, and you did not — ' (Matthew 11:17) (5)
- 20 Bared (anag.) (5)

*"Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it will not stay there."*  
— **Clarence W. Hall**

## Thank you and Au revoir!



Lent has felt rather like Easter come early! I've been touched by kindness from people over the last couple of weeks in moving farewell celebrations. Staff and children at St Mary's, St Chad's and Madras Schools offered imaginative and exciting Collective Worship reminding me of the times when I'd led them in some of our nation's celebrations and commemorations including the Coronation and DD and VE anniversaries. I was presented with some wonderful memory books with pictures, paintings and photos of some of these and other occasions (and several bottles too!)

Bettisfield put on a fabulous 4 course St David's Day Dinner culminating in an activity where tables were asked to create Welsh Dragons from a lucky dip set of materials. The results were fantastic – a really big thanks to Tim and Jane Hough and everyone from the Village who gave me a great send off with a very generous financial gift. Wine was also on the table at Penley Church the following morning and had the approval of David who looked up about the wonderful array of bottles that had been selected to say farewell. Another set of thanks to all at this tiny church that has resurrected and found an exciting way forward to share faith and fellowship in the church and at the new Madras Community Hub opposite with Tea @ 3 on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. I'm also looking forward to spending National Trust Vouchers which Bronington have given me – at the same time I blessed the new refreshment facility which has been installed at the back of the church, and provides, hot water, a Belfast Sink, storage and a safe place to serve and drink coffee.

After moving house to Wolverhampton, I returned for my last Sunday on March 8<sup>th</sup> and was overwhelmed by the number of people who came to my farewell at Overton; this was matched by another extremely generous wine voucher – it will go all way to turning a lot of water in wine – there is a huge cellar in the Rectory to fill! And a wonderful books on clocks which are starting to settle chime and play. Finally everything was rounded off at Hanmer with the gift of a picture of the church and school done by local artist Geoff Beckett. As you read this, I'll be having a very much needed holiday and rest in Cambodia and Thailand. Then in April it's time to settle in to prepare for the start of ministry in Wolverhampton. Invitations have been sent out to each Church and I hope as many of you will be able to come to support me on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April for the Licensing by the Bishop of Lichfield which is a Sung Eucharist at 7pm. Just go down the A41 and the Tower of the Collegiate Church will appear on the city's skyline! People from parishes in the North East, Fareham (Hampshire), Moseley (Birmingham) and Chester Cathedral will look forward to meeting you and sharing stories of my past!

Saying goodbye, I'd never predicted that I would only be here for 3 years – *God moves in mysterious ways – his wonders do perform – William Cowper*. How true that is for where I will find myself and the story we all share at Easter when Christ's resurrection reveals the depth and height of the power and love of God in all its wonder and fullness. Looking forward, David and I give thanks to the people who have shown generosity, kindness and love to us – that will be our memory – as the late Dag Hammarskjöld, former general secretary of the United Nations reminds – *for all that has been, thanks, for all that will be, yes!*

*Fr Jeremy*

**The Licensing of Revd. Canon Jeremy Dussek  
as Rector Designate of the Collegiate Church of St Peter  
and of St John in the Square, Wolverhampton**

The Churchwardens of St Peter's and St John's invite you to the licensing of Revd. Canon Jeremy Dussek as Rector Designate of the Collegiate Church of St Peter and of St John in the Square, Wolverhampton by Michael, Bishop of Lichfield with the Bishop of Wolverhampton on  
**Monday 13th April at 7.00pm**

Light Refreshments will be served following the service.

Please note:

The Collegiate Church of St Peter is in the Centre of the City on Lich Gate. The nearest parking to the church is at the Civic Centre (WV1 1RL), Broad Street (WV1 1JD) and Fold Street (WV1 4LP) carparks, with some on street parking available around the church after 6.30pm

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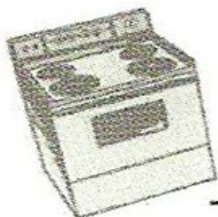
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# St Chad's, Hanmer



It is difficult to write on the Sunday of Fr Jeremy Dussek's final service in Hanmer about anything but our loss of our Priest and our hope for a new Priest very soon. Fr Jeremy has been an excellent and exciting Priest and will be very difficult to replace.

It may be that things will happen quickly or we may have the rest of the year lacking a Priest. Our past experience suggest that we may have another long wait. I have known seven Vicars of Hanmer over the past 55 years; Clifford Millward-Hopkins, Gerald Davies, Tim Blewett, Clive Tucker, David Butterworth, Clive Hughes, and Jeremy Dussek. There have been others who have provided cover in the transition periods between them. All have been different although all had the same strong faith to share. They have served various groupings of churches and this year our active grouping is Hanmer, Bronington, Penley and Overton. A new Priest will follow in a distinguished line of much respected clergy.

In St Chad's Church we are blessed with an excellent administrative team who manage a very active church. We are blessed with an experienced team of volunteer retired priests who will be providing our Holy Communion services. We have suffered losses from our Worship Leader team who provide our other services twice a month but have been working hard to train and extend that team. However, without a Priest we lack leadership and drive and inevitably decisions are put on hold. We pray that inspiration may soon come to a priest looking for a group of churches where they can be respected and supported, whilst having opportunities for growing and expanding our church life.

Holy Week at the start of April is planned to be very busy in St Chad's Church this year. The sequence of Mission Area Lent Frugal Lunches has its final gathering Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at St Chad's Church shared with our Mothers' Union with Holy Communion at 12noon followed by the lunch. Our Lent Group have been discussing the five sections of 'The Greatest Story Ever Told' by Bear Grylls. Their fifth meeting is planned for 2.30pm In Glendower Maundy Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April when they will be discussing the section involving Mary Magdalene. From 2pm till 3pm on Good Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April in or church there will be Ante-Communion and meditations on the Stations of the Cross painted by Rev Richard Diggle. Holy Week culminates with Easter Communion with Rev Judy Hunt at 11am Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

*Bill Barlow*

At last spring is here! The birds are singing and the daffodils are out, cheering us in the hedgerows and gardens. Soon it will be Easter!

On Monday 23rd February, Hanmer Church was full as we attended Joy Lea's funeral. The service was a wonderful tribute to a dear and special MU friend. As I write, Hanmer School are meeting in church very soon with the MU and kind volunteers for Know Your Church. It will be an afternoon of learning, friendship and fun. On 25th March, our MU will be well represented in St. Asaph Cathedral for the 150 years Celebration Service. I will report on our visit next month.

The Lady Day Communion Service for our MU will be held in Hanmer Church at 12.00 noon on Wednesday 1st April. This will be followed by a Lent Soup Lunch. Everyone is included and the service and lunch is open to all.

*Anne*

## New Mission Area Website



Our New **Mission Area Website** is now live! (but still under construction) We'd like the New site to be more used by the MA family and visitors and to be a treasure trove of information about the churches and **regular** service and event information.

There are also be links to the Church social Media pages for people to find out about new / one off events. If there's anything you'd like to be included for your church or If you would be interested in writing any content for the magazine—particularly articles about the **history of the churches / church projects** or to write a paragraph or two about **regular groups**—please get in touch using the information set out below.

### **How to Contribute: Creative Magazine Contributions and Website /**

**Magazine Articles:** If you would like to share anything with your mission area family then please email them to **maelor.maa@churchinwales.org.uk**. You can send the full version to be printed here (space allowing) and / or provide a link for people to see a picture or listen to a song etc that you have created, by link or QR Code etc (if you need help arranging this please contact me).

**Full Magazine article:** Also if you do like writing articles and you have an idea about a specific topic for a full article then please contact me before you write it to discuss, though if you already have things you've written for other reasons that you'd like to put forward please do send them in!



This year seems to be advancing at breakneck speed, it seems almost impossible we are thinking about April already! Our Cafe Monique is now up and running, tastefully fitted out in pink beige and cream. Anyone would think we were setting up a new home, but it has been fun! Jeremy did his last service with us on 1st March and after the service we served HOT crossed buns in his honour. He also blessed the new kitchen and everyone took home a daffodil as it was

St David's day. On Mothering Sunday, we enjoyed the presence of Richard Diggle, and small posies of flowers were distributed to all present. On Palm Sunday, the children from the village school are invited to write the prayers and attend, to read them themselves if they wish. Hopefully the weather will be kind as we plan to process from the War Memorial carrying our Palm crosses as on the first Palm Sunday, before going in to Church for the service. The first of the Lent Lunches for this year was hosted by ourselves, Richard officiated at an intimate and gentle Holy Communion service, before an assortment of soup, cheese, crackers and fruit was served. It all seemed to go very well and certainly no one appeared to be in a hurry to leave!

We have now compiled a list of fund raising social activities, to include Talks, a Lunch time meal in the grounds of Fenn's Cottage, a Table Top sale in the summer, Harvest Supper etc. Dates to be confirmed nearer the time! Exalt are doing their usual Passover meal on **Maundy Thursday** and their children's activity on **Good Friday**. On **June 12th** the postponed Ceilidh from last year, has been booked again. We appreciate their arrangements of these events.

**Our next Breakfast Club is arranged for Saturday April 25th at the Sun Inn Welshampton, 9 for 9.30 am. As always, everyone welcome.**

With the nights getting lighter and the Spring flowers in bloom, signs of new life appearing everywhere, it is a lovely time .....especially when it stops raining! Let us all pray for a joyous Eastertide, as we remember the reason for the season and what the Lord gave up for each one of us.

*Lorna*



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# St Mary's Overton



The licensing of Revd. Canon Jeremy Dussek as Rector Designate of the Collegiate Church of St Peter and of St John in the Square, Wolverhampton by Michael, Bishop of Lichfield is being held on Monday 13th April at 7.00pm at St Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton. If you would like to attend please RSVP to [wolvescentralparish@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wolvescentralparish@hotmail.co.uk) by 29th March.

Father Jeremy has left us but left us in a strong position, in that there are systems for communication and organisation regarding services and who to contact. We have a rota of clergy to maintain the continuity of worship for the year ahead.

We must remember that although we have no priest in the Rectory we are not alone. The church community endures- we the congregation are the body of the church.

We are the quiet bodies who maintain the church, those who unlock and lock the church at the beginning and the end of the day. The somebody who maintains the churchyard. The bodies that keep the church clean, that arrange flowers, that serve the coffee, that check the oil for the heating system. That ensure there is communion wine and the altar cloths are ironed.



Much goes on unseen and unknown to keep a grade two listed building functioning and we will meeting as a body for our AGM on the 8th April at 7pm in church to review the year gone and plan for the coming year and we are saying goodbye to Paul Whittaker on the 5th April at 9.30 at the Holy Communion.

*Gerard*

# St Mary Magdalene, Penley.



We would like to thank Father Jeremy for his Ministry work in Penley. He has asked us to focus on achieving ‘the little things’ (St David) going forward and we will. We wish him our very best wishes for the future and hope he is welcomed and appreciated as much as he is here, at his new ministry St. Peter’s Collegiate Church and St. John’s, Wolverhampton.

**What it means for the Church** – we are awaiting the appointment of a new priest but the church will remain open as usual. There will still be services (thanks to a team of supportive clergy) and lots of activities are being planned including Lent lunch, coffee mornings, choir concerts and a gardening club and we welcome ideas from the community. Please contact Liisa Richardson Church Warden for information 07927969948.

**Update on Tea@3** this pilot project has proven to be very popular and continues on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month when there is no 9.30am service. All welcome for tea, cake and conversation at 3pm the Madras Community Hub..



The Church will be open to the public 7 days a week from Easter again this year which will also allow further access to the Polish Heritage display— And finally for readers and student’s young and old there is an excellent mobile library service run by Wrexham Council, from the Rainbow Foundation foyer, once a month between 1-2pm on a Friday. Contact the team on 07341 090921/01978 667286 or email at [library@wrexham.gov.uk](mailto:library@wrexham.gov.uk)

## Penley Polish Heritage Project

The Rainbow Foundation has been awarded Heritage Lottery Funding for a further three years. Work has started to deliver key project objectives which include: Collaboration with schools to develop educational programmes; creating an archive of material relating to the Polish Community; Developing a Walking Tour of Penley and delivering a Heritage Exhibition. A project board has been set up to oversee the project made up of key stakeholders including representatives of the Church. Volunteers are most welcome to help with all aspects of the work. The Project Board met on the 2nd March and discussed project progress and work on the Heritage Walking Trail. Rebecca Griffiths has been appointed as Project Manager and can be contacted on 01948 830730 or mobile 07918326844 [rebecca.griffiths@therainbowfoundation.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.griffiths@therainbowfoundation.org.uk).

### Dates for your Diary – Penley (St Mary Magdalene)

**25<sup>th</sup> March** Church Service and Penley Lent Lunch at Madras Community Hub from 12.am. All Welcome.

**29<sup>th</sup> March** Lent Palm Sunday, Holy Communion 9.30am Penley

**5<sup>th</sup> April** Easter Day Holy Communion 9.30am Penley

**10<sup>th</sup> April** The mobile library service run by Wrexham Council, from the Rainbow Foundation foyer in Penley is **now every 5 weeks** 1-2pm on a Friday. Contact the team on 01978 667286.

**12<sup>th</sup> April** Worship is at Bangor Church, Bangor on Dee

**19<sup>th</sup> April** Holy Communion Service at 9.30am Penley

**26<sup>th</sup> April** Tea@3 an informal Sunday Service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month from 3pm at Madras Community Hub (in the car park by the Breakfast club)

Refreshments will continue to be provided after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday service each month.

### Crossword Solution

**ACROSS:** 1, Cosmic. 4, Thomas. 8, In his. 9, Delaiah. 10, Falwell. 11, Water. 12, Recovered. 17, Sidon. 19, Radiant. 21, Centaur. 22, Broil. 23, Eleven. 24, Prison.

**DOWN:** 1, Cliffs. 2, Scholar. 3, Issue. 5, Holy war. 6, Moist. 7, Sphere. 9, Deliverer. 13, Candace. 14, Deacons. 15, Psyche. 16, Stolen. 18, Dance. 20, Debar.



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# HOLY WEEK – Journeying Together

## Palm Sunday – Walking the Way of Faith



Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, when Christians recall the final days of Jesus' earthly life. The Gospel accounts tell of his entry into Jerusalem, greeted by crowds who spread palm branches before him and shouted words of welcome and praise.

It was a moment filled with hope and expectation, as many longed for change and believed that God was about to act in a new way.

Yet those same days would soon lead to misunderstanding, suffering and sorrow. The joyful welcome of Palm Sunday stands in striking contrast to the events that followed. For many Christians, this reminds us of the changing seasons of our own lives — times of celebration and confidence alongside moments of uncertainty and challenge.

For those who have walked the path of faith for many years, Palm Sunday can carry particular resonance. It offers an opportunity to look back with gratitude on the ways God has been present through different stages of life — in times of growth, loss, responsibility and renewal. The simple act of receiving a palm cross in church can become a quiet symbol of perseverance, reminding us that faith is lived day by day, often in small and unseen ways. Palm Sunday also invites us to reflect on the humility of Christ. He entered the city not with power or display, but gently and simply, sharing fully in the human journey. This example continues to speak to Christians today, encouraging us to follow a path of patience, compassion and trust.

As Holy Week begins, we are invited to walk thoughtfully once more through the story that leads from welcome and expectation to sacrifice and ultimately to the joy of Easter. In doing so, we discover again that God's faithfulness endures across the years, offering hope for today and strength for the days ahead.

## Maundy Thursday – A Quiet Lesson in Love

Maundy Thursday takes us into the upper room, where Jesus gathered with his closest friends to share a final meal before his arrest. It is a deeply human and tender moment in the Gospel story. Around the table there is companionship, uncertainty and a sense that something significant is about to unfold.

During that evening, Jesus offered a simple but powerful example of servant love by washing the feet of his disciples. In doing so, he showed that true greatness is found not in status or recognition, but in humility and care for others. This gentle act continues to shape the life of the Church today, reminding Christians that faith is lived out through practical kindness and willingness to serve.



For those who have journeyed in faith for many years, Maundy Thursday often carries a quiet poignancy. It may bring memories of shared worship, familiar hymns and the faithful rhythms of parish life. It is a time to give thanks for the communities that have sustained us and for the friendships that have been formed through years of walking together.

The night also leads us towards stillness. Many churches mark Maundy Thursday with moments of silence or watchfulness, reflecting the uncertainty and loneliness that followed in the Garden of Gethsemane. In that stillness we are invited to place before God our own worries and the concerns we hold for the world.

### Maundy Thursday Prayer — Serving in Love

Loving Lord, on this night of quiet gathering and shared bread, help us to remember the example of your servant love. Teach us to care for one another in simple acts of kindness and patience. Give us willing hearts to serve, grateful spirits to receive, and courage to walk faithfully in your ways. As we journey through Holy Week, draw us closer to you and to one another. Amen.

## Good Friday – Love That Endures in Darkness



Good Friday is a day of deep reflection. Christians gather to remember the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross — an event that has shaped the faith of generations. The story is both solemn and profound, speaking of injustice, sacrifice and a love that does not turn away even in the face of pain.

Many who have lived a lifetime within the Church will recall Good Fridays marked by quiet services, familiar readings and the slow unfolding of the Passion story. These shared experiences become part of the memory and identity of parish communities, linking present worshippers with those who have gone before. The cross has long been understood not only as a sign of sorrow, but also as a sign of hope. Christians believe that in Jesus, God entered fully into the reality of human suffering — sharing our griefs and standing alongside us in our struggles. This assurance can bring comfort in times of illness, loss or uncertainty, reminding us that we are never abandoned. Good Friday invites us to slow down and reflect on what truly matters. In a busy world, the quietness of this day offers space for prayer, remembrance and renewed trust. As we contemplate the depth of love shown on the cross, we are gently prepared for the joy that Easter morning will bring.

Through the darkness of Good Friday shines the promise that love is stronger than fear, and that even the most difficult moments can lead towards new life.

### **Good Friday Contemplation — At the Foot of the Cross**

Lord Jesus Christ, in the stillness of this day we come before the cross. We bring to you the sorrows of the world and the burdens we carry in our own hearts.

Help us to trust in your love when the path feels uncertain and the way ahead is unclear.

In the shadow of the cross grant us quiet strength, deep peace and the assurance that we are never alone. Hold us in your mercy and lead us towards the hope of Easter. Amen.

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HAPPY  
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Easter Prayer

Risen Lord,  
thank you for the joy of Easter  
Fill our hearts with hope,  
our homes with peace  
and our communities with  
kindness.

Help us to walk in your light  
and share your love with all we  
meet.

Amen.

Hoping your Easter is as  
bright and cheerful as the  
springtime sun, bringing a  
season of new beginnings  
to your lives.

*With Easter blessings from all the churches of the  
Maelor Mission Area*



*Alleluia.*  
*Christ is risen!*



## Spring – Signs of New Life Around Us



As winter fades and the days grow longer, the arrival of spring brings a sense of renewal to our towns and villages. Gardens begin to brighten with colour, birdsong fills the morning air and fields and hedgerows show the first signs of fresh growth. These small changes often lift our spirits and remind us that new life is quietly unfolding all around us.

For Christians, the season of spring holds special meaning. It mirrors the message of Easter — that after times of difficulty and waiting, there can be growth, healing and new beginnings. The natural world offers gentle reminders that change is possible and that hope can take root even in unexpected places.

Spring can also be a time to reconnect with our communities. As we meet neighbours outdoors, take walks in familiar places or gather for church events and celebrations, we rediscover the simple joys of shared life. These everyday moments help to strengthen the bonds that hold our communities together.

As we notice the beauty of the season, we are invited to pause and give thanks. In the warmth of sunlight, the colour of blossoms and the promise of longer days, we glimpse signs of the care and creativity that shape the world around us.

### The Men on The Parish War Memorials



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Phil Jones from Bettisfield has made a Flipbook version of some historical information relating to the church. Scan the QR Code to access it directly. The link will also be found on the Maelor Mission Area Website



*“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”*

— **C. S. Lewis**

*“Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in spring-time.”*

— **Martin Luther**



# Smile Lines

**From a church notice-sheet**

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our church warden, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

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

**Some hymns for people over 50:** Give Me the Old Timers' Religion

Precious Lord, Take My Hand, And Help Me Up

Just a Slower Walk with Thee

Go Tell It on the Mountain, But Speak Up

Nobody Knows the Trouble I Have Seeing

Guide Me O Thou Great Lord God, I've Forgotten Where I've Parked The Car

Count Your Many Birthdays, Count Them One By One

Blessed Insurance

It Is Well With My Soul, But My Knees Hurt

**Wheels**— A boy was praying for a bicycle, and the vicar told him to persevere, as prayer could do anything. The following week, when the boy arrived for church on a bicycle, the vicar assured him that his prayers had been heard.

The boy looked embarrassed. "Actually, I stole the bike, and now I'm here to pray for forgiveness".

**Fake?** "The trouble with quotes on the Internet is that you can never be sure they are genuine." - Winston Churchill.

**Economic definitions**—A recession is a period in which you tighten up your belt. A depression is a time in which you have no belt to tighten. When you have no trousers to hold up, it's a panic.

**Don't delay**—Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today, because by that time there will be a tax on it.

**Sidesman**—Sidesman to newcomer at church door: "Good morning. How far down do you wish to sit?" Baffled newcomer: "Well, all the way, of course

**Oh dear** The middle-aged curate shuffled along, bent over at the waist, as his wife helped him into the doctor's waiting room. He groaned at every step, and the receptionist eyed the scene with sympathy. "Arthritis in the back with complications?" she finally ventured. The wife shook her head briskly. "Do-it-yourself in the garden," she replied, "with concrete blocks."

# Worthenbury News - FOFC



Finally the restoration is complete ...

the FOFC have instructed a survey of the bells , servicing of the organ & the risk assessment forms are completed with several actions, mainly clearing the last of the old cushions and children's toys which are now rehomed in local charity shops. The church has been stripped back and looks bare to what we were used to ,but going forward the new broom has swept clean and it does look beautifully natural as it would have been .

We need to ask permission now for all services, baptisms and funerals via the 'Friends of Friendless Churches' (FOFC).

The Maelor Mission area is responsible only for our Churchyard and lawns, which will be cut in due course. The wall will also be repaired at the soonest opportunity.

The architect has now completed the survey and the permissions are going into St Asaph, then tenders will be sought,

The survey on the trees advised trimming back and one to be felled which will be a great relief in the windy weather.

We will hold 3 coffee mornings this year, this first specifically for the refurb on the main gates , we have a local offer of help for this at cost for which we are very grateful.

The fundraising from coffee mornings will be split between churchyard and FOFC.

The church will once again be open daily from 1st March .

*Catherine*

*"The resurrection completes the incarnation. Without the resurrection, the life and death of Jesus would have been the story of a noble martyr; with it, He becomes the Saviour of the world."* — **John Stott**

# St George – Courage and Faith in Everyday Life



Each year on 23 April, many people across England mark St George's Day. While he is often remembered through legend — especially the well-known story of the dragon — the real St George was a Christian soldier who lived many centuries ago. He is honoured not for heroic battles, but for his courage in standing firm in his faith at a time when doing so could cost him his life.

For Christians, St George has come to symbolise the quiet bravery needed to live with integrity and hope. His story reminds us that courage is not only found in dramatic moments, but also in the small choices we make each day — choosing kindness over anger, truth over convenience, and compassion over indifference.

Living as communities close to the English border, St George's Day can feel like a familiar part of the rhythm of spring. It offers an opportunity not only to celebrate national identity, but also to reflect on the values that shape our common life. In a changing world, the example of faithful perseverance remains as relevant as ever.

As we continue through the Easter season — a time of renewal and new beginnings — the witness of St George encourages us to walk forward with confidence. We are reminded that faith is lived out in ordinary places: in our homes, our workplaces, our schools and our churches. May the example of St George inspire us to live with courage, generosity and trust in God's guiding presence.

## St George — Did You Know?

- **He was not English.**—St George is believed to have come from the eastern part of the Roman Empire, in what is now Turkey. He was martyred for his Christian faith after refusing to give up his beliefs.
- **His popularity grew during the Crusades.** Medieval soldiers and pilgrims adopted him as a symbol of courage and protection.
- **The dragon story came later.** The famous legend developed centuries after his death as a symbol of good overcoming evil..
- St George is also honoured in many other countries, including **Georgia, Portugal and parts of the Middle East.**

## A Prayer for St George's Day

God of courage and strength,  
we thank you for the example of St  
George and for all who stand firm in faith  
and hope.

Help us in our daily lives to choose what  
is right, to show kindness to those around  
us and to trust in your guiding presence.

Give us courage in times of difficulty,  
patience in times of uncertainty  
and joy in serving you and one another.  
Amen.

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# St Mark's Day – 25th April



## Everybody has a gap to close.

At church on Sunday after the Gospel has been read, it is a fruitful exercise to ask yourself: "If I just lived this one Gospel reading 100 percent, how much would my life change?" The answer will probably be the same every Sunday: radically. Our lives would change radically if we just lived one parable or teaching from any of

the four Gospels 100 percent. What that tells us is that there is a gap between our lives and the life Jesus invites us to live in the Gospel.

Saint Mark knew this when he was writing the Gospel, and went to great lengths to show it. He even portrayed himself running away naked when Jesus was arrested. That's a striking image of the gap that exists between all of us and the life Jesus calls us to live by his own example. We do not know a lot about Mark apart from the New Testament. We do know that he was very close with Saint Peter, who was likely one of the strongest influences on the Gospel of Mark. We also believe that Mark's Gospel was the first of the four to be written. There is also the scuffle Mark had with Saint Paul, though the two were later reconciled and became close friends again.

But Saint Mark's greatest gift to the Church is his Gospel. As the first Gospel to be written, it was the first written testimony to show all of us the gap that exists between ourselves and the life Jesus is calling us to.

The first words Jesus speaks in the Gospel of Mark are "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Jesus wants us to close the gap between our lives and him. He wants us to grow closer to him so we can live the life he calls us to.

So how do we grow closer to Jesus? Jesus points us to the answer: *believe in the Gospel*. One way that even the busiest person can grow closer to Jesus is to read the four Gospels, over and over again, for fifteen minutes each day. If this feels overwhelming, try starting with the Gospel of Mark, the shortest of all the four Gospels. Keep reading until it becomes a habit you look forward to each day.

Our lives change when our habits change. God uses new habits to transform us. This habit will have a beautiful and radical impact on your life if you allow the word of God to sink its roots deep into your life. So, begin now. This is a fresh start. Be bold. Embrace it with the enthusiasm of a child. Resist any temptation to put it off. **Close the gap.**