

www.holycrossmelville.org

NEWSLETTER

March 2013



Are You New To This Church?

Please make yourself known to the Rector or the Warden.

Please do join us for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat after the service.

Wedding, Baptism & Funeral enquiries.

Please contact the Rector.



Rector

Revd Debbie May: 0417 178 688
Church Office: 08 9330 1550



Church Warden

Mrs Jill Bowman: 08 9330 9594
0400 517 943

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Prayer Requests

The **Prayer Request Book** can be found on the altar at the rear of the church. If you know of anyone who would like us to pray for them or if you have any particular worries that you would like us to pray for, please feel free to write a prayer request in the new blue prayer book that can be found in the church. These requests will be gathered and used during our daily Morning Prayer times and I would encourage our intercessors on Sunday mornings to use where appropriate during the intercessions. Any requests may also be sent to Revd. Debbie May at revd.debbie@gmail.com or by phone 0417 178 688.

Revd Debbie May

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Welcome To March In Holy Cross

We would love to welcome you to Holy Cross Church. We hope that you find the worship uplifting and that your relationship with Jesus Christ is enriched through it.

Sunday Club is held during school term at all of our Sunday morning services at 9:00am service and crèche facilities are available at the rear of the church. A change table is in the disabled toilet. Nursing mothers can use the front meeting room, access through the hall (door has sign on it).

For those hard of hearing an **AUDIO LOOP** operates throughout the church area. Please use your "T" setting to make use of this.

Gluten free wafers are available. If you require these please speak to the service leader.

We invite you to stay for a cup of tea or coffee and a chat in the hall after the service.

In Loving Memory

Jason Sims

Lindsay Dagg

John Worrall



AnglicareWATM
FOR TODAY. FOR TOMORROW.

At Holy Cross each week there is a collection of food for the needy which is distributed through Anglicare. If you would like to make an offering towards this worthwhile cause, please place your donation in the basket by the church entrance door. The basket will then be brought up during the offertory.



Guest Speaker Sun 10 March

On Sunday the 10th March, David and Vonne Spitteler from Melbourne will join us for our 9.00am Service. David is the coordinator of the Asylum Seekers Centre based in Dandenong. Over the past 15 years, the centre, which is interdenominational, has provided material aid to over 1000 asylum seekers from 66 different nations. During our service David will share with us some of his work and passion. We look forward to offering a warm welcome to them both.

You may be interested to know that David and Vonne met at St David's/St George's Applecross, where they were married and all four of their children were baptised. He founded the Applecross Men's Hockey Club (Now Melville Districts Hockey Club) is a Life Member (as he also is with the Melville Athletic Club).

Australian Christian Women Inc WA Volunteering Opportunity

The Australian Christian Women Inc WA welcomes any Anglican ladies who would like to volunteer during the National Conference at Shoalwater Bay in October. The guest speaker will be Archbishop Roger Herft.

In June the Australian Christian Women Inc will be hosting the Asian Christian Women International AGM in Perth. They hope to have 19 ladies representing 19 Asian countries as guests supported by the Conference of Churches in WA and Mother's Union. A great opportunity.



OSL Healing Ministries™

The Order of St. Luke the Physician
in Australia

- Date:** Thursday 7 March 2013
Time: 7:30pm
Venue: Anglican Parish of the Holy Cross,
56 McLean Street, Melville
Topic: Lent dry bones,
(Ezekiel 37:11) and Healing

Please contact:

Beryl Shooter E:
abcshooter@hotmail.com if you have a stock and ciborium for donation to another parish.

Warden's Wish List

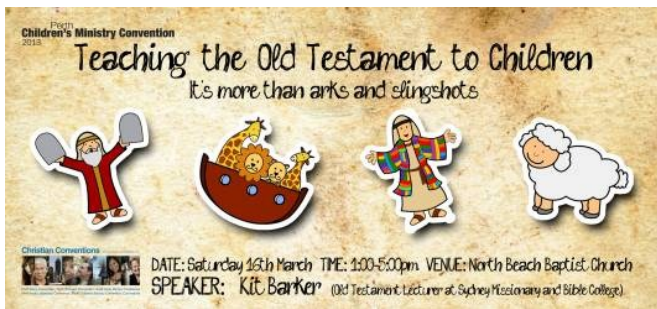
Area	Task	Status
Windows	Church outside surfaces cleaned.	✓
Windows	Hall louvers repaired & closed.	✓
East Facing Exterior Hall Wall	Removal of black marks on the wall	
Old damage tables	Removed	
Gardening	Lawns mowed	✓
Lawn Mower	Serviced	

If you know of any jobs that need attention, let Jill know so that she can add it to the list.



FLOWERS WERE NOT ALLOWED
IN CHURCH DURING LENT

Perth Children's Ministry Convention (16 March)



The eighth annual Perth Children's Ministry Convention (PCMC) is taking place on Saturday 16 March. PCMC is run by Christian Conventions of WA (CCOWA), an inter-denominational ministry that seeks to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ in WA, mainly by public Bible teaching, conventions and conferences.

The theme in 2013 will be "Teaching the Old Testament to Children: It's more than just arks and slingshots".

Date: Saturday 16 March, 2013

Time: 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Venue: North Beach Baptist Church,
10 Groat St, North Beach

For further information: www.ccowa.org

Hereafter

The minister came to see me the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do it all the time. No matter where I am - in the bedroom, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement - I ask myself, 'Now, what am I here after?'"

Persecuting Christians The Top 50 Countries

The persecution of Christians worldwide increased dramatically in 2012, especially across Africa. That is the finding of the new Open Doors World Watch List, the only annual survey which monitors the conditions of religious freedom for Christians on a country by country basis. The List names the top 50 countries of the world where persecution is at its worst.

North Korea continues to occupy first place. In the top ten countries, eight suffer from Islamic extremism: Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Maldives, Mali, Iran and Yemen.

Syria now ranks at no. 11 in the top 50 worst countries. Christians were allowed the freedom to worship (but not evangelise) under President Assad, but are now under attack from all sides: rebels, forces loyal to the President, and jihadists entering Syria. Tens of thousands of Christians have fled Syria in recent months.

Overall, in 2012, Christians in Nigeria, Iraq and Syria experienced the most violence, closely followed by those in Sudan and Colombia. In Eritrea, Burma, Kenya and Egypt the levels of anti-Christian violence were also extremely high. For the first time, Mali appears in the top ten countries, ranked at 7. Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Niger and Ethiopia have also made the overall list.

The Arab Spring seems to have opened the door for Islamism across the Middle East and North Africa. Ron Boyd-MacMillan, Open Doors Chief Strategy Officer, points to the “massively increased pressure on the church....foreign jihadists now terrorise Christians in war-torn Syria, Al-Qaeda militants occupy northern Mali, and even in countries like Libya that made a transition to a form of democracy, radical Islamist factions spread terror with impunity among the Christian minority.

By contrast, the situation in Laos, Vietnam and China seem somewhat easier. In China, for eg, house searches, arrests and confiscation of Bibles and Christian books now rarely occurs. (Though more than a 100 Chinese Christians are still in prison on account of their faith.)

More info at: www.opendoorsuk.org



Mothering Sunday

4th Sunday in Lent

There is an old Jewish saying:

God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers.

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods - our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of 'Mothering Sunday' - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as 'live-in' servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how 'Mothering Sunday' got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers' Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

Palm Sunday:

Jesus at the gates of Jerusalem

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

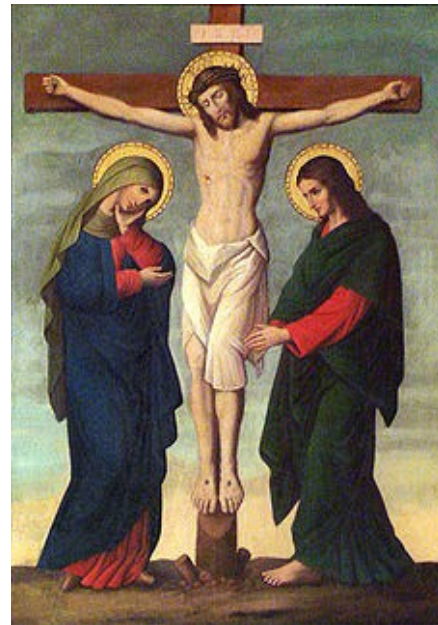
As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into his path. They knew his reputation as a healer, and welcomed him. But sadly the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put him to death. On this day churches worldwide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



"I think the D.I.Y. Palm Sunday palm-kit you ordered online is here, dear..."

Good Friday

The day the Son of God died for you



Santa Casa de Misericórdia of Porto Alegre, Brazil. Oil on canvas, 19th century, unknown author.

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9am in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian

year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

Easter

the most joyful day of the year



Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are

forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message is so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He

thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

Easter in Three Dimensions

Paul Hardingham observes that Easter is either the supreme fact of history – or a hoax.

Films like *Life of Pi* or *The Hobbit* come alive when watched in 3D. As we celebrate Easter, it's good to ask, 'Do we see it in 3D or is our celebration simply one-dimensional?' It's easy to miss the true significance of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. As C. S. Lewis said, 'Easter is not primarily a comfort, but a challenge. Its message is either the supreme fact in history or else a gigantic hoax.' So how can we see Jesus' resurrection in three dimensions?

The first dimension is the proof of the resurrection: The resurrection of Jesus was an historical event to which we have eye witness accounts: '*He*

appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also.' (1 Corinthians 15:3-8).

Jesus' resurrection also had a dramatic effect, as the church grew. 'It is a perfectly amazing story of peaceful revolution that has no parallel in the history of the world.' (Michael Green).

The second dimension is the promise of the resurrection: George Bernard Shaw famously said, 'Death is the ultimate statistic, one out of one of us dies.' As Jesus promised, *'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.'* (John 11:25-26).

The resurrection of Jesus declares that he didn't die in vain, but has secured eternal life for us. When we believe and trust in Him, we can look forward to an eternity with God, with a body like Jesus! The resurrection of Jesus guarantees us a secure future.

The third dimension is the power of the resurrection: The resurrection is also a present experience, *'This is eternal life, that they may know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.'* (John 17:3). Eternal life is not just about life after death, but a quality of life to be experienced now i.e. 'life in all its fullness'.

Wilson Carlile, the founder of the Church Army was speaking at Hyde Park Corner, 'Jesus Christ is alive today.' A heckler in the crowd shouted out, 'How do you know?' Carlile replied, 'Because I was speaking to him for half an hour this morning!'

The Way I See It: **Disappointment isn't necessarily the end of it**

One day I'd like to write a book entitled *Seemed a Good Idea at the Time*. There'd be no shortage of examples, from buying that flash car that wouldn't start on cold mornings, to fruitless wars, busted economic policies and 'Splash!' on television. There is something peculiarly awful about crushing disappointment, the death of dreams, the harsh light of reality exposing the emptiness of our hopes. St Luke captures it well in his Gospel in the brilliant little cameo of the couple (surely Mr and Mrs Cleopas) on their sad walk back to Emmaus on the Sunday after the crucifixion: They met a stranger on the way, and explained the disappointment on their faces with these words: 'We had hoped that he (Jesus of Nazareth) was the one to redeem Israel.'

The stranger appeared unaware of the dramatic recent events in Jerusalem. Yet when they related the story to him, he treated them as they walked along to a master class in the Scriptures, demonstrating how the Messiah must

indeed suffer before he entered into his glory.

They clearly took to the man, and invited him to stay with them for the night as it was by now getting dark. Joining them for the evening meal, he was invited as their guest to give thanks. He took the bread, broke it, and said the words of blessing. As he did so, they realised who he was - in Luke's words, 'their eyes were opened'. It was Jesus. They were in no doubt. As he 'vanished from their sight' they forgot all about tiredness or the darkness outside, and hurried the seven miles or so back to Jerusalem to share their news with the disciples. Full of it, they burst into the Upper Room. - only to find that Simon Peter, too, had seen the risen Lord. Nevertheless, they told their story - the 'stranger' on the road, the way their hearts 'burned within them' as he explained the Scriptures, and how he had been 'made known to them in the breaking of the bread'.

The road to Emmaus, the road of disappointment and despair, had become the road to joy. In an odd kind of way, it often does. Perhaps only those who have found their hopes cruelly dashed can truly appreciate what it means to have them restored, even if in a different way. They had hoped, and their hopes appeared to have been dashed by the death of Jesus. But 'in the breaking of the bread' they had seen the truth. Jesus their Lord was alive. They had hoped, and now they could hope again.

Strength in Weakness

There was a gardener who loved growing roses. One day, as he was inspecting his rose-trees, he noticed one rose was diseased and in need of care. The gardener carefully pruned the tree and added some fertiliser.

Every day, the gardener looked at the rose-tree, checking to see how it was growing. He then decided to tie a stick to the weak stem.

That night there was a terrible storm and the wind and the rain lashed at all the roses in the garden. In the morning, after the storm had passed, the gardener inspected his roses. Many were damaged. But the rose-tree which had been tied to the stick was unharmed. The weak rose-tree had survived.

Somehow, this weak plant had found strength despite the bad weather. The gardener, knowing its weakness, had given this rose the care and support it needed.

Our God is like that gardener who knows our weaknesses. He provides the strength we need in times of adversity. On our own we cannot survive on our own resources and must depend on God. He will support us in the storms of life.

In our times of weakness, we can find a source of inner strength, only when we rely completely on God. He says "*My grace is all you need, for my power is strongest when you are weak.*" (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Christ-likeness, or simply becoming like Jesus, is God's purpose for every follower of Jesus. And so Langham Partnership (UK and Ireland) has recently launched the '9-a-day' initiative to encourage Christians to grow their faith. More info at: www.9aday.org.uk/

Langham Partnership trains and resources pastors and leaders worldwide. The following article is adapted from their blog.

Growing Up Before We Grow Old

God graciously accepts us just the way we are, but he has no intention of leaving us as he found us. Paul told the Ephesians that, *"speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the head, that is, Christ"* (4:15). In the same letter he warned the readers that avoiding that growth into Christ-likeness, where we are governed by his Word, leaves us vulnerable to the crafty new teaching and cunning schemes of deceitful teachers (Eph 4:14). Those teachers find that the perpetual immaturity of their flock can be rather useful for their egos, as it ensures the ongoing adulation of a child instead of the developed camaraderie of a fellow traveler.

We are called to be childlike in our faith, but not childish. Toddlers are pretty obsessed with themselves. They demand food, drink and fun. But if we saw the same introverted behaviour in an adult we would rightly be concerned. Maturing Christians start to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit and they invest in others as they learn to serve as their Lord did. As they become more like the Jesus they proclaim, they actually

become more useful to God's mission into this world. Why? Because they bring authenticity to the message because they start to look and sound like the Jesus they proclaim.

So – here's a simple idea that will take the rest of your life: grow-up and become like Jesus. Lay the foundations and then slowly add layer upon layer in the journey of life. And, of course, we cannot learn without practising. So the process of transformation sets in motion some major developments on our road to Christlikeness.

We start to experience the return of our full humanity, so badly damaged by the Fall. Our humanity starts to imitate that beautiful life lived out in all its glorious Technicolor by our Lord. We also learn to take on His servant ways. As we do so, we become ever more useful in God's mission into this world.

So - let's choose to grow-up long before we grow old. The aging process is inevitable but sadly the glorious walk into Christlikeness is not inevitable. We need to purposefully walk in his ways and allow God's Spirit to reshape us. Let's avoid the cringe-inducing sight of still immature adults, and rather pursue the God-honouring goal of becoming like Jesus.

Teen Meets God:

Ben's Story

Ben, is 17 years old and lives in Surrey, England. He was having major family problems when something unexpected happened. Here is his true story, as told to Martin Saunders, a youth worker.

"I've struggled with dark thoughts for a few years now. Since I was 14, my parents have argued pretty much non-stop, and they don't seem to care that my brother and I are in the house. There's other stuff too – my brother is much more popular and successful than me, and I suffer at school for being bad at exams. So that's why the thoughts came into my head – about hurting or harming myself – because deep down I didn't really like myself very much. That's also why I always wear black.

"Or I used to, anyway. Last Summer, my church youth leader persuaded me to go away with the group to a Christian camp. When we arrived, I found out that every day would include two long meetings like church services. To be honest, I wasn't looking forward to them at all. But when I went along, I had a massive surprise: I met with God.

"On the first evening, someone asked if they could pray for me. As they did, I started crying. Not just a little bit – I was bawling my eyes out. This wasn't like me, but I couldn't help myself. All the anger and frustration and sadness I'd been feeling just came pouring out. It wasn't just that though; there was something else. I started to feel a warmth; like I was getting a hug from within... like all the bad stuff was

coming out, and being replaced by something good. Then I did something that I almost never did – I started smiling.

"I don't completely understand what happened, but I know that somehow, I was touched by God. I know now that I'm not alone when things are tough at home and at school.

"The next day, I went along to the camp's shop, still dressed in black. They sold hoodies there, and so I picked the most colourful one they had. My way of saying to God: I know you've changed me. It's still my favourite jumper."

Ben made a decision to follow Jesus. He prayed, asking God to forgive him for the things he does wrong, and then he promised to live God's way. To find out more about the Christian faith, visit <http://www.lookingforgod.com>

Best

The reporter was interviewing the town's oldest woman.

"And what do you find is the best thing about being 104?" he asked.

"That's easy," she said. "No peer pressure."

Grumpy Old Men and Women? Not At All!

There is no need to get grumpy as you get older – in fact most of us grow happier. Those are the findings of a recent study carried out by the University of Warwick. It was found that after the ‘mid-life dip’ in happiness (which hits you at about 45), many older people reported a greater mental satisfaction with life.

The curious thing is that physical infirmities don’t seem to affect this later-life contentment. Researchers suspect it might be due to a mature person’s better coping abilities in dealing with hardships, a lowering of overall expectations from life, and a lessening of the pressures of work. It was also found that the most contented people get between 6-8 hours sleep a night; either more or less sleep than that had a negative impact on physical and mental health.

Older Christians, of course, have one wonderful promise from God to lean on if things do get rough: *“Even to your old age I am he, and even to grey hairs will I sustain you; I have made you and I will carry you.”* (Isaiah 46:4).

The Challenge Of Shoelaces

How old were you when you first tied your own shoelaces? That happy achievement is probably lost in the mists of time, but it seems that nowadays as many as forty five per cent of children aged 5 to 13 can’t tie their own shoelaces. Those are the same kids of which sixty seven per cent can work a DVD player. A recent study has found that youngsters can log onto the internet, play computer games, use an iPhone or iPad, with greater ease than they can make a cup of tea or read a physical map on paper. Sixty three per cent have no idea of how to build a den in the garden, while fifty nine per cent cannot climb a tree. Ray Mears, the survival expert, despairs of them: “I can’t believe our young people are so ill-equipped with practical skills.”

Is Your Baby Isn’t Trendy? Don’t Worry

Babies and young children need loving calm stable human companionship more than endless classes and stimulus. They grow by responding to human voices and touch, and they love having lullabies sung to them.

So claims a childcare expert, Sylvie Hetu, who in her book *Too Much, Too Soon?* notes that babies nowadays have “schedules that are as important as those of adults.” She goes on: “Baby music, baby yoga, baby gym,

baby singing, baby salsa, baby language, baby Einstein, and baby swim classes are very common nowadays.” She goes on: “All cultures in the world have lullabies. But this is the first generation of parents who do not routinely and intuitively sing to their babies.” So – next time you feel a surge of love for your baby, sing to it!

Don't Share Your Easter Egg With The Dog

This is good news for any chocoholic: DON'T share your Easter chocolate with your dog. It could kill it – quite literally.

Expensive brands of chocolate and cocoa-rich chocolate have high levels of theobromine in them. It is a chemical compound which is harmless to humans, but lethal to dogs. Even a 30g bar of dark chocolate can contain more than 700mg of theobromine, enough to kill a small dog such as a cocker spaniel. Toxicity symptoms include vomiting, hyperactivity, salivation, increase in heart rate and fits.



Why A Cat Is Good For You

Do you own a cat? Then your risk of heart attack or a stroke could be reduced by more than a third. Apparently, owning a cat lowers your stress and anxiety levels. (Unless of course, kitty scratches the new couch, or flatly refuses to come home at night.) But even so, a recent study at Minnesota University has found that cat owners tend to outlive non-cat owners.

It is thought that stroking a cat could reduce the level of stress-related hormones in the blood. Reducing stress is known to help protect against heart disease, by lowering blood pressure and reducing the heart rate. Which sounds purr-fect.

Mali: Christians Living In Fear

Christians in Mali are living in fear as Islamist rebels fight to maintain control of the north of the country. The church has experienced a sharp increase in hostilities since March 2012, when Tuareg separatist rebels and extremist Islamist fighters captured the north of Mali and instituted an extreme form of Sharia (Islamic Law).

The insurgents destroyed churches and other Christian buildings in Timbuktu and Gao, with the aim of eradicating all traces of Christianity in the region. They also were very hard on more moderate Muslims, killing people, amputating limbs and destroying Sufi sanctuaries.

The harsh conditions prompted thousands to flee. According to the UN High Commission for Refugees, more than 250,000 Malians escaped to neighbouring countries and about 200,000 fled to Bamako in the south.

Due to the rise to power of the rebels and Islamists in the north and the subsequent dramatic rise of persecution of Christians, Mali jumped to No. 7 on the Open Doors 2013 World Watch List.

A Christian father of seven, Ibrahim Saydou Toure, is one of the survivors of last March's violence. At least 22 people were killed when Islamists ambushed his town approximately 60 miles from Gao. He was shot in the face, and rushed to the hospital where the bullet was removed. Toure was targeted for killing by the Islamists, but he managed to escape to Bamako, where he joined thousands of other Christian refugees and moderate Muslims, who are living in harsh, overcrowded conditions.

Mohamed Habi, a refugee, said: "I gave my life to Christ two years ago but all members of my family are Muslims, which is why my wife and daughter despise me. When the Islamists captured Timbuktu and began their search for Christians to kill, I escaped to Mauritania.

"I implored my wife and daughter to go with me, but they refused. My wife asked me to deny Christ and remain with them in the north. But I refused and escaped. From Mauritania I went to Bamako to be with fellow Christians."

In cities such as Gao and Timbuktu, Christians had to flee with only the clothes on their backs. Many churches and Christian homes were burned. The extremists in Timbuktu went from house to house searching for Christians to kill. Please pray for these brothers and sister in Christ. More details at: www.opendoorsuk.org/

Why Translate The Bible?

People are often surprised to hear about Wycliffe Bible Translators. Why does an organisation like this exist? Doesn't everyone have the Bible?

If you speak English, German or Japanese as your first language, you speak one of the 500 languages that do have a complete Bible translation. That's a lot of languages, but there are nearly 7,000 living languages spoken around the world. All the rest have less: just a New Testament, or just a few books, or a few chapters, or no Scripture at all.

But why translate it? It would be a big waste of time and money to translate the Bible if it wasn't important. But it is important! The Bible is God's revelation to us: we can know things about God from people and nature, and we can pray without the Bible, but God has chosen to speak to us most clearly in his word. And it contains the most important of all messages.

Can't they read the Bible in another language? Most people in the world

know more than one language, but it doesn't mean that it's the easiest or the best way to get into the Bible. A second language is great at the market place, useful at school, but when people want to share emotions, they use their mother tongue. When God chooses to communicate with us, he is talking love, and he says it in our own language (have a look at Acts 2 for a miraculous example!).

Second languages just don't communicate as clearly. As an example, let me introduce you to a group of church-goers in Nigeria. The church they have attended for decades uses Hausa, the trade language, a language they use every day. But the first time they saw a Scripture film about Jesus in their own language they were shocked: 'Do you mean that Jesus died for our sins?' they said. 'For our sins? We always thought he died for his own sins!' Not until they heard it in their own language did the message finally click.

Shoes

A timid clergyman went into a shoe shop to try on some shoes. "Try those – they are just right for you," decreed the very superior sales assistant. The minister struggled to get the shoes fastened, but failed. The assistant frowned and looked down. "Well, no wonder. Try pulling the tongue out." "Well, theyth sthilla feelth a bith tightth."

Climate Change: What should the Church do?

By David Shreeve



During my thirty years working in the environment, both for the Church and at The Conservation Foundation, I have seen many issues which have divided opinion, but none has generated as much debate as global warming and climate change.

Scientists are divided and politicians are unsure as the media seems to report conflicting stories on a weekly basis – little wonder there is confusion in pulpits and pews. But what we do know is that the weather is changing, we are using up natural resources and alongside caring for our own environment, it surely must be part of our Christian commitment to be good stewards of the earth to help those in the developing world and future generations.

The Fifth Mark of Mission, one of a set of mission principles agreed by the world wide Anglican Communion is "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth." We should all be committed to that whatever our views on climate change.

Hopefully this series of articles will show something of how people of faith are involved in these issues and look at the practical and theological aspects involved. For many it will be small steps, daily lifestyle changes and choices. Walking where possible instead of driving, switching to low energy bulbs and actively recycling. Shrinking the Footprint, the Church of England's national environmental campaign has just launched an online tool for churches to audit their footprint by simply reading the meters. Churches who are taking part are already saving energy and money!

The Bible tells of times of climate change and how preparations were made to save a plentiful harvest for the years of storms and drought. It also tells us to love our neighbours which could be anyone from those nearby affected by floods to those in far off countries with far too little water and who may well all be members of the same international church.

Clearly with so much debate and concern for the issues there is a great need for understanding and communication. It needs the experiences of theologians and farmers, planners and medics not just to foretell

the unknown, but sort through the myriad of existing information to clarify just what is going on and what really needs to be.

As the Bishop of London, chair of Shrinking the Footprint, regularly says when asked about his commitment to the environment "we have a duty for the sake of future generations."

The Hidden Misery of Girls

You see them everywhere – out shopping with their parents, going to school with their friends, and everywhere talking animatedly on their mobiles. Pre-teen and early teen girls seem to be leading busy and contented lives.

It's not true. A recent study has found that rising numbers of girls are suffering mental health problems because of "sustained assault" from diet advertisements, alcohol marketing, fashion pressures and peer access to hard-core pornography.

So warns a leading psychologist. In his new book, *Raising Girls*, Steve Biddulph argues that girls are being forced to grow up too quickly, and that too many parents have failed to protect them. He recently told a Sunday newspaper: "Never before has girlhood been under such a sustained assault... problems such as eating disorders and self-harm, which once had been extremely rare, are now happening in every classroom and every street...."

The average girl is stressed and depressed in a way we haven't seen before."

He advises parents to be aware that their daughters are living in "enormous pain and confusion", leading to an increase in drink and drug taking. He advises parents to restrict gadgets in the bedroom, limit TV access, and organise more family time with grandparents and other relatives. He warns that daughters are growing up too fast: "Our 18 is their 14. Our 14 is their 10."

A Prayer For Families On Mothering Sunday

Father,

You are love. If we had to draw you, we might draw one big heart overflowing with love in every direction. And Lord, as your much-loved children we want to reflect your characteristics. Thank you for those who do. Thank you especially at this time for mothers – and others who love and teach how to love. Thank you for the special relationships of love you make possible within families. And when those relationships go wrong, help us to reach out with a forgiveness that comes from knowing we are forgiven; with a love that comes from knowing we are loved. And how much you do love us! So much that you gave us Jesus, your only Son, so that by trusting in him, we could be in a right relationship with you. What a parent! What a family we belong to! Thank you,

In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

No Time for Prayer?

What is this life if, full of care

We have no time to spend in prayer?

No time to meet our Father, dear

And hear the words we need to hear?

No time – because we're rushed to death

And fail to feel the Spirit's breath?

No time – because our lives, absurd

Preclude from time spent with His word!

No time within our full employ

To know our Lord's transcending joy?

What is this life if, full of care

We have no time to spend in prayer?

By Nigel Beeton

Why God Made Mums

These were the answers given by some seven year-olds:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows all the passwords we use online.
2. Mostly to clean the house, I think.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. I've heard it was some amazing experiment on men that got out of hand.
3. God made my mum just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and one part of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.
3. They have a lot more hair than dads, are softer to hug, and wear woolly jumpers.

Dates For Your Diary

Tue 5 March

09:00am Home Group
07:00pm Church Council

Wed 6 March

10:30am mainly music
07:00pm lent course

Thu 7 March

04:00pm Kids Plus+

Fri 08 March

02:00pm Jumble Sale - setup & cake making

Sat 09 March

08:30am Jumble Sale

Mon 11 March

01:00pm Mothers Union

Wed 13 March

10:30am mainly music
07:00pm Lent Course

Thu 14 March

4:00pm kids plus

Tue 19 March

09:00am Home Group

Wed 20 March

10:30am mainly music
07:00pm Lent Course

Thu 21 March

04:00pm kids plus+

Wed 27 March

10:30am mainly music
07:00pm Lent Course

Thu 28 March

04:00pm kids plus+

The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his tongue-in-cheek letters from 'Uncle Eustace'

St. James The Least Of All

On the perils of moving from city to country

The Rectory

St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Those parishioners of yours who won millions on the Lottery and moved into this parish have created quite a stir. It was perhaps a little unwise of them to tell everyone the reason why they had become so wealthy. While most of our parishioners also do the Lottery, few would ever admit it in public. (Since your friends arrived, the entire PCC is buying ever more lottery tickets, but from the shop in the NEXT village, to try and keep it secret.)

However, your family still have much to learn about our country ways. Buying the old Dower House was impressive; and spending a small fortune re-stocking the gardens was certainly commendable. But someone should have told them about cattle grids. It must have been quite a shock for them to wake up one morning and find the thirty sheep from the neighbouring field had wandered in for breakfast.

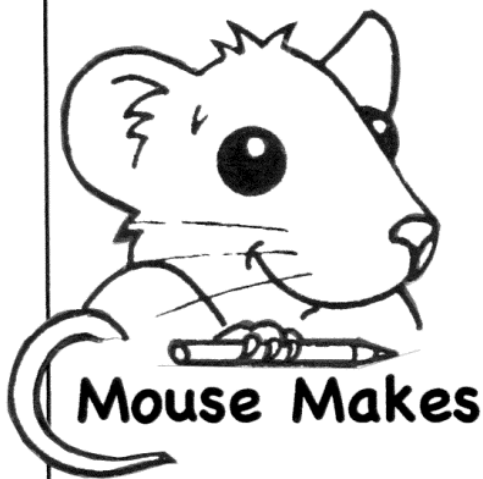
Their brand new purple Ferrari has certainly brightened up the country lanes around here. The noise it makes as it roars up behind you quite quickens the pulse. Mrs Beamish had been suffering with low blood pressure for months; she says she is quite cured now. The Colonel, who is all for the community supporting the church, then asked if the new-comers would drive the bishop around on the day he came to do his tour of the parish. The Colonel thought that an open-topped purple Ferrari would make a great bishop-mobile; and the new-comers were so kind to agree. What a shame that they decided to accomplish the several miles of parish lanes in record time: the bishop barely even saw the several farmers that they nearly ran down. His new nickname in this parish is: The Purple Peril.

The new-comers have installed security lighting, which is understandable. But now I wonder how much sleep they are getting, as the rabbits, foxes, and badgers who live in their grounds keep it flood-lit for much of the night. Meanwhile, the Colonel is grumbling about the effect of light pollution on his young pheasants in the woods nearby.

But these little inconveniences apart, I am sure they will soon feel at home. I feel confident that by the third generation, they will be properly settled in.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



JESUS IS ALIVE!



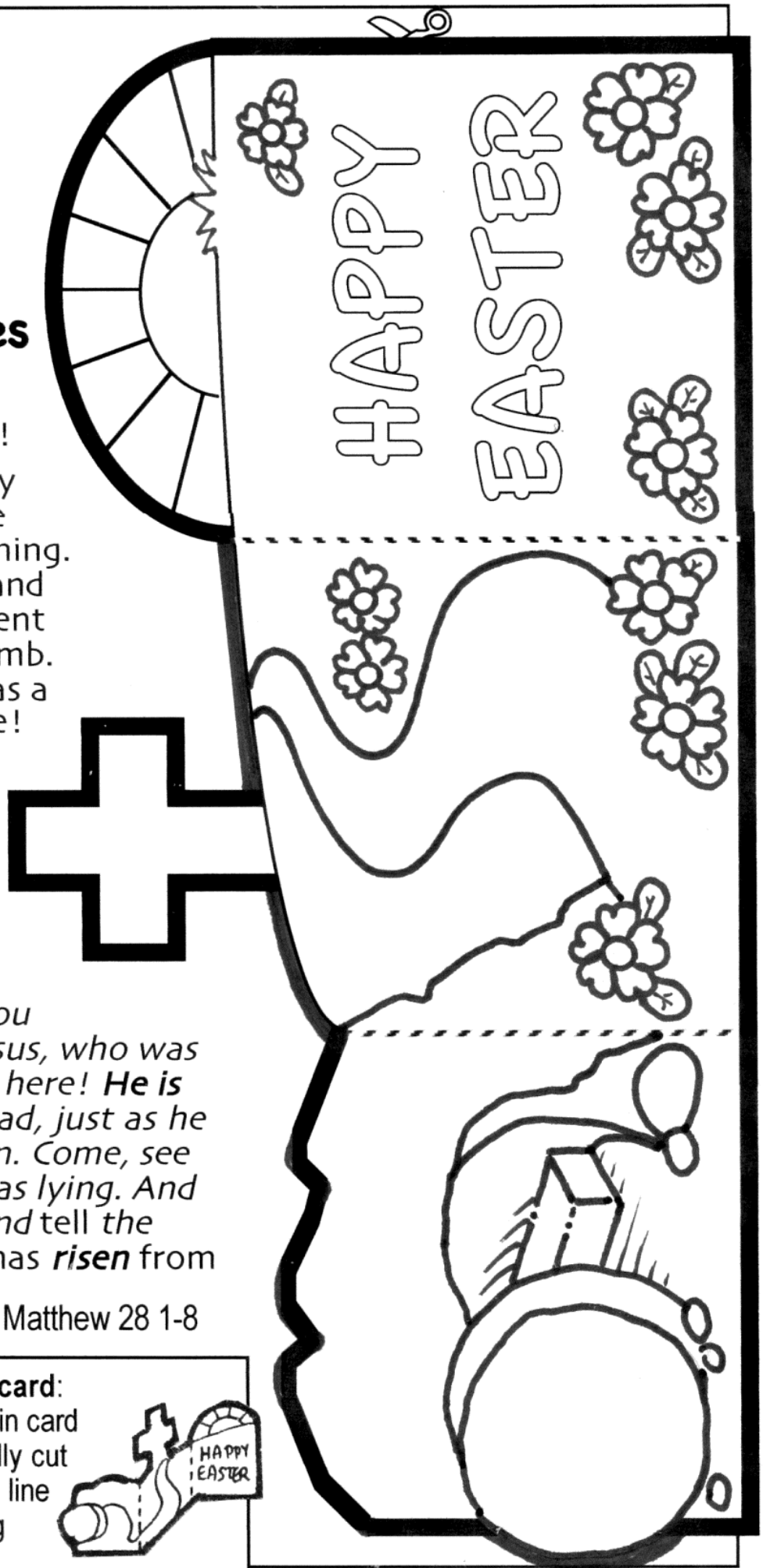
Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake! For an **angel** of the Lord came down from **heaven**, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it....

"Don't be afraid" he said. *"I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! **He is risen** from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell the disciples that he has **risen** from the dead."*

See: Matthew 28 1-8

To make the Easter card:

Glue this page onto thin card then colour in. Carefully cut around the thick black line then zig-zag fold along the dotted lines.



Rosters

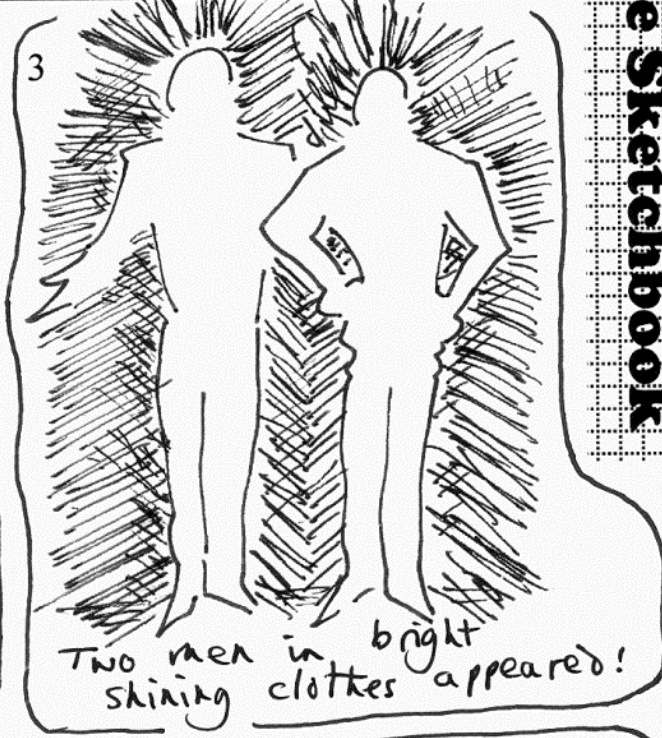
Holy Cross Rosters from Sunday March 2013

Date	Media	Collection	Reading	Prayers	Communion	Morning Tea	Altar	Flowers	Sunday Club
Sun 3 March	Wayne	Peter & David	Tanya	Betty	Adele	Annette & Betty R	Sheri	Lent	Jill
Sun 10 March	Peter	Mel & Norm	Norma	Beryl	Jill	Norma & Pat	Sheri	Lent	Emma
Sun 17 March	Mike	Peter & David	Peter	Jill	Sheri	Hazel	Sheri	Lent	Jill
Sun 24 March	Wayne	Pat & Betty SG	Barbara	Betty R	Betty	Mike	Sheri	Lent	Emma
Easter 31/03	Peter	Mel & Norm	Beryl	Beryl	Adele	Joy & Frank	Sheri	Everyone	Jill
Sun 7 April	Wayne	Pat & Betty	Pat	Betty	Jill	Mike & Adele	Carole	Betty	Holiday

Note

If you are unable to fulfil your roster duty on your rostered day, please try to find someone to swap with. If you cannot find anyone, please ring Debbie

He is not here!



It was amazing. Some women came to the tomb where Jesus was buried.

They wanted to anoint his dead body with spices. But the stone blocking the entrance was rolled away and there was no body. Suddenly two men in bright shining clothes appeared and told them: "His is not here, he has been raised!"

They rushed back to tell the disciples and most of them said:

"Rubbish!" But Peter ran to the tomb, found the empty grave-clothes and was amazed. How about YOU. What do YOU think?!

Read more in Luke 24:1-12



Service Times & Readings

Sun 3 March

09:00am Communion with
Sunday Club for Children.

Isaiah 55:1-9
1Corinthians 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9

Wed 6 March

9:30am Communion with short
Reflection & Discussion

Thu 7 March

07:30pm Order of St Luke
healing Service

Sun 10 March

09:00am Communion with
Guest Speaker,
David Spitteler
Sunday Club for Children.

Joshua 5:9-12,
2 Corinthians 5:16-21,
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Wed 13 March

9:30am Communion with short
Reflection & Discussion

Sun 17 March (Mothering Sunday)

09:00am Communion with
Sunday Club for Children

Exodus 2:1-10,
2 Corinthians 1:3-7,
Luke 2:33-35

Service Times & Readings

Wed 20 March

9:30am Communion with short
Reflection & Discussion

Sun 24 March (Palm Sunday)

09:00am Communion with
Sunday Club for Children.

Psalm 118:19-24,
Luke 19:28-40,

Wed 27 March

9:30am Communion with short
Reflection & Discussion

Fri 29 March (Good Friday)

10:00am Good Friday Service

Genesis 22:1-18,
Psalm 130,
John 18, 19

Sun 31 March (Easter Sunday)

09:00am Easter Celebration &
Baptism

Isaiah 65: 17 – 25
1 Corinthians 15:19-26
Luke 24:1-12

Sun 7 April

09:00am Communion with
Sunday Club for Children.

Revelation 1:4-8,
Acts 5:27-32,
John 20: 19-31