

The Vicar writes...

April 2009



Dear Friends,

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." (John 3.16)

In the Gospels, a momentous change occurs when Jesus' ministry in Galilee comes to an end and he sets out on his journey to Jerusalem. There are now explicit predictions of the Passion, the suffering that Jesus will undergo during the final days of his life on Earth. Jesus explains to his disciples that the journey to Jerusalem will end with his death and resurrection. The climax of this period of Jesus' career is the extraordinary episode of the *Transfiguration*.

At Caesarea Philippi, north of Galilee, near one of the sources of the Jordan, Jesus asks his disciples what people think of him. They reply that he is believed to be one of the great figures who will precede the Messiah. Then Jesus asks the disciples how they themselves view him, and Simon Peter (in his typical role as spokesman) replies that Jesus is the Messiah himself.

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Immediately after Peter's confession, Jesus utters the first prediction of the Passion. He makes it clear that the Messiah will not be the triumphant figure of Jewish nationalist expectation, but one who must suffer and be killed, yet who will rise from the dead. Peter objects vehemently to this, and is rebuked by Jesus with the words, "*Get behind me, Satan!*" Peter's impetuosity embodies the failure of mortals, even disciples, to understand the true nature of Jesus and his mission on earth.

At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus instructs the disciples on the conditions of their discipleship: to follow Jesus means taking up the Cross and being prepared to meet death on his behalf. But that death will be the gateway leading to eternal life and salvation.



This is the underlying message of *Passion-tide* – the two weeks leading up to Easter Day. Though we know the detail of the story so well, its' re-telling during this time is more important *for what we do with it*. As with all Scripture, each Christian will need to interpret its' impact afresh...and apply the fruits of that understanding to the direction of their own life.

The Easter story is a message to the Church as a body; but its impact is measured by the difference it makes to the lives of the individual men and women that comprise it: that is to say, **you** and **me**. 'Passion-tide' (like all the 'seasons' of the Church's year) is there to be *used*.

*"...so that **everyone who believes in him** may not perish but **may have eternal life.**"*



ANNUAL MEETING – The '**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**' is on Saturday 4th April at 11.00 am. Quite apart from the election of officers and the review of finances, it is an opportunity to discuss the direction of our Church life. The Church Council (that meets throughout the year) has specific responsibilities; but it needs to know the views of those they represent.

With this in mind, I will – this year – ask those gathered to give their views on this question: "**National BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY is on September 27th this year. What can we do to encourage friends and neighbours to come with us to church on that day?**"

Please be sure to be with us – in the Church Hall - on **Saturday 4th at 11.00 a.m.**



HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2009

PALM SUNDAY (*April 5th*)

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion
- 10.30 a.m. Parish Communion (*gather at 10.25 am in the Church Rooms for the Liturgy of Palms & procession into church.*)
- 6.00 p.m. Evening Prayer

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 7.30 p.m. Eucharist of the Last Supper

GOOD FRIDAY

- 11.30 a.m. - 1.15 p.m. Children's Workshop (*In Church Rooms*)
- 12.00 noon One Hour at the Cross
- 5.00 p.m. Evening Prayer

EASTER DAY (*April 12th*)

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.15 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP) *at St Nicolas*
- 10.30 a.m. Parish Communion (CW Ord I tr.)
- 6.00 p.m. Evening Prayer

**The following advice has been placed by:
ELLIS JONES (Solicitors) Canford Cliffs Office**

LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Have you ever considered who would make decisions about your assets, financial affairs, healthcare and welfare if you ever became unable to make those decisions yourself due to an accident, illness or old age? By putting in place a Lasting Power of Attorney you can appoint someone to make these decisions on your behalf.

The system of *Lasting Powers of Attorney* has replaced Enduring Powers of Attorney with effect from October 2007 and while an Enduring Power of Attorney made before October 2007 is still valid, it is now only possible to make a Lasting Power of Attorney to provide for mental incapacity.

If you lose your mental capacity to make decisions on your own behalf and you do not have an Enduring or Lasting Power of Attorney, an application has to be made to the Court of Protection to make an order to appoint a 'Deputy' to take these decisions for you. This order can take several months to obtain and can cost between £2,000 and £3,000.

It is far better to have a Lasting Power of Attorney in place. Without one, you have no say as to who makes decisions on your behalf. Until a Deputy is appointed no one has authority to deal with your affairs. This can cause all sorts of problems including possibly preventing those who are caring for you from using your assets to pay your bills and your daily living expenses. There may also be arguments within families about who should take on this responsibility which often leads to distress and delay in getting a Deputy appointed. We can assist you with making Lasting Powers of Attorney. If you would like more information on what is involved, please contact Elizabeth Gilmour on 01202 709898. (*Elizabeth Gilmour, Solicitor, Ellis Jones Canford Cliffs Office* elizabeth.gilmour@ellisjones.co.uk)

COMMUNITY PLAY



If you live in Poole or Bournemouth the following may be of interest to you. After many years of discussion it has been decided Poole is to have its very own Community Play. The subject of the play will be the Passion of Christ. To those of faith or to those of no faith this story is a vehicle for a powerful and enduring truth, that of the redemptive aspect of love.

The hope is that the entire process will give birth to a spiritual regeneration, a regeneration that will manifest itself in all areas of life locally. When it was first discussed two facets of any such endeavour were identified as those of inter-faith and inter-generational participation. Our primary concern is to foster inclusivity.

Places of worship are being circulated with details of the endeavour. It is hoped that their clergy and laity will become actively involved. Those having particular skills which might be brought to promote and further progress the endeavour are invited to make themselves known.

The current aim is to perform the play during the Easter weekend of 2009 and to offer a larger spectacle in 2010. Previous experience is not necessary. If you enjoy people and being a part of an exciting venture, the intention of which is to celebrate Poole and its citizens, then do come along. We are resolutely informal and you are assured of a warm welcome. For further details ring St. Peter's office 01202 749085.



- Q:** Who is the fastest man in the Bible?
A: Adam because he was first in the human race.

EGYPTIAN HOLIDAY

Just before the snow arrived on the 1st February Ted and I flew to Egypt for an 11days visit to see Ancient Egypt. The weather was lovely, sunny and warm. It made us feel very guilty that you were all freezing.

We arrived at Cairo along with 39 others who were to share the trip with us. We stayed in, a lovely hotel in Cairo, our base for three nights. We visited various places including the pyramids which were quite spectacular and the Cairo Museum which was very full of ancient artefacts. The items from the tomb of Tutankhamen's were particularly splendid. Our guide told us much about the history of Egypt and the life of the Pharaoh's.

On the Wednesday we were up by 3.30am to fly to Aswan our second location. It was wonderful to watch the sunrise over the desert as we flew. The journey is about 400 miles mostly over sand. It made you realize just how much Egypt relies on the river Nile because the only green to be seen is a narrow strip either side of the river.

Our hotel in Aswan was on an island in the middle of the Nile, it was a real paradise. We spent quite some time just watching river life, with felucca's sailing boats gracefully floating by. The birds on the river and the tropical flowers were all really beautiful to see.

One of the highlights was a long trip across the desert to view the tombs of Rameses 2nd and that of his wife Nefertari at Abu Simbel. The statues at the front are massif and the tombs behind both very fine. It is quite amazing to see as they had to be moved from the original site and raised 60 metres to save them from the rising water when the Aswan high dam was flooded.

From Aswan our next adventure continued with a three night cruise north on the Nile. We joined our cruise ship in style sailing from our hotel on a felucca. From the

ship we stopped at several temples on route and we passed through the locks at Esan where the river drops by 15 feet. All of the cruise ships have been built to just fit the width of the lock and they have to take great care not to scrape the walls of the lock.

While we were cruising we went to the Captains cocktail party and on another evening a 'Galabaya' party where we all dressed up in Egyptian dress. Some used towels for a head dress but others went for full authentic look. Another evening we were entertained by a belly dancer and by a Whirling Derbisher.

We left the ship at Luxor to stay at a hotel. While there we went to the Valley of the Kings and Queens. This was rather disappointing. We had a ticket to visit three tombs but our guide would not or was not allowed to recommend which of the many tombs to visit. Unfortunately we missed the best ones.

On the second day we visited the Luxor and Karnak temples which are the largest temples in the world. It was the only day when the weather was poor with clouds and strong winds which blow fine sand in your face and the temperature was only 20C and we had to wear our coats. This was our last day of sightseeing. In the afternoon we did our present shopping in the hotel complex, as outside the hotel you ran the gauntlet of street traders which made it very unpleasant.

We flew back to Cairo the next day, before flying back to UK on the Thursday. We had a lovely holiday with a super group of people, which included an actor from Coronation Street and a retired Elephant keeper from Whipsnade zoo.

Egypt is a very interesting place, in places the poverty is very obvious, it is a mixture of east meets west and the people are very interesting and colourful. *(Mo Willis)*

HIS MASTER'S VOICE

Nipper was a little dog belonging to a London artist and photographer named Francis Barraud. When he was at work, Barraud liked to listen to music which he played on an early gramophone.

Nipper seemed to like music too, for he would sit with his head cocked, gazing at the machine. Barraud painted a picture of Nipper doing just that. He submitted it to the Royal Academy. They did not accept it.

So he offered it to the Edison Bell Phonographic Company whose machine was in the picture. They did not want it either, but the rival Gramophone Company snapped it up at once, and used it in their advertising.

The painting became famous under the title "*His Master's Voice*". If Barraud is still remembered today, it is because of Nipper, the little dog that liked to listen to music.



FOUR BEDROOMS

Sydney Smith, the clergyman, writer and wit, was said to have had four bedrooms which he used in turn during the four seasons of the year. His quarterly change of room reminded him of the changing seasons and helped him to remember how each season had its particular blessings and beauties.



Professor: *"What happens when the human body is immersed in warm water?"*

Student: *"The telephone rings."*

NEWSROUND



THE NEED FOR GOD IN THE WORLD OF WORK - The Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, has stressed the "*desperate need*" to reconnect faith in God with the workplace. "*There should not be a separation from what goes on in Church and in our prayers with what goes on in the boardroom, office or shop floor.*" Dr Sentamu went on: "*All of life is religious and there is a desperate need to reconnect the sacred and the secular. There is no more urgent time than now to break down the compartmentalised thinking that separates trust in God from the world of work.*"

CHURCH MAKES LENT A FAMILY AFFAIR - The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are encouraging families to share in simple acts of kindness together during this Lent. Suggested acts of kindness include having a clear out of unwanted clothes and toys and donating them to a charity shop, producing simple home-made gifts for Mothering Sunday, creating a prayer space in the under stairs cupboard, making a bird cake or learning some basic first aid skills.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS DARWIN'S 'FORGOTTEN' PARISH WORK - A new page paying tribute to the 'forgotten' church work of Charles Darwin in his local parish of Downe, Kent, has been published on the Church of England's website, at www.cofe.anglican.org/darwin/downe.html , to illustrate, once again, how science and the work of the Church can combine together. The page is part of a bigger section on the website celebrating the life and works of Darwin. The new page concludes that, whilst Darwin lost his own personal Christian faith, he did not become anti-church or anti-religious, and his valuable contributions to the world extended beyond his scientific writings into the local parish in which he lived and served for 40 years.

ALL FOOLS' DAY



In years gone by, the rules surrounding April Fools were this: between midnight and noon on 1st April, everyone is 'fair game' to be made a fool of. It is the morning of the practical joke but the aim is not just to discomfort the victim: he must be tricked into taking action himself, sent on a 'fool's errand'.

So children would be sent to the dairy for a pint of dove's milk, or to the bookseller for *The Life of Eve's Mother*. Practical jokes on a bigger scale were played: in 1860 a vast number of people received an official looking invitation to the Tower of London that read: '*Admit the Bearer and Friends to view the Annual Ceremony of Washing the White Lions.*' Precisely the same trick had been played in 1698.

Then, on the stroke of noon, tradition decrees, April Fools is finished. If anyone attempts devilry thereafter, even while the clock is still striking, it recoils on his own head. A child would then race through the sing-song formula: '*April-Fool-Day's-past-and-gone-you're-the-fool-and-I-am-none!*'



FAMILY PRIDE



"Yes," boasted the woman to the visiting American priest, "*my family can trace its ancestry back to William the Conqueror.*"

"I suppose," said the American, "*You'll be telling me next that your ancestors were in the Ark with Noah.*" "*Certainly not*" retorted the woman. "*My people had a boat of their own.*"

CATHERINE OF SIENA

(CATHERINE WILL BE REMEMBERED AT THE MIDWEEK
SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION ON WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH)



Catherine of Siena should be the patron saint of anyone who has grown up in a large family, and mastered the two vital skills for survival: how to stand up for yourself, and how to make peace with others.

Catherine was born in 1347, the youngest of 19 siblings! Her parents wanted her to marry, but Catherine did not. She became a nun instead, a member of the Dominican Third Order and spent six years in solitude, giving herself to prayer and penance. Then she moved back into the world, through nursing the local sick people, and began to travel frequently, with a number of her 'disciples' - a mix of Dominicans and Augustinians, and even an English Friar. Wherever they went, people listened to their proclamation of the total love of God through Jesus Christ, and their calls to reform and repent.

Catherine could not write, but soon someone else was taking down her 'Dialogue' by dictation - it ran to 383 letters. Catherine's thoughts centred on Christ crucified, the supreme sign of God's love for man. The quality of these letters made them widely read for years to come.

A godly woman who could lead and teach, soon new opportunities presented themselves: in the last five years of her life, Catherine found herself involved in the politics of both State and Church. This included trying to make peace during the Great Schism in the Church after 1378, when Pope Gregory XI died, and two new popes - bitter rivals - claimed the papacy. Catherine wore herself out in trying to promote peace and died in 1380. She soon became Siena's principal saint, loved for her writings and her example of godliness and self-sacrificing love. Her house and an early portrait survive at Siena, and her memory lives on today.

CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Wed	1	10.30 am	Holy Communion (<i>at Transfig</i>)
		7.15 pm	Discussion Group (<i>9 St Clair Road</i>)
Thu	2	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
		3.45 pm	Discussion Group (<i>Church Rooms</i>)
Sat	4	11.00 am	Parish Annual Meeting
Sun	5	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		10.30 am	Parish Communion (<i>Sun Club in church</i>)
		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Tue	7	10.00 am	Gardening Group
Wed	8	10.30 am	Holy Communion (<i>at Transfig</i>)
Thu	9	7.30 pm	Eucharist of the Last Supper
Fri	10	11.30 am	Children's Workshop
		12.00 am	One hour at the Cross
Sat	11	9.30 am	Decoration of church
Sun	12	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.15 am	Holy Communion (<i>at St Nicolas</i>)
		10.30 am	Parish Communion (<i>Sun Club in church</i>)
		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Tue	14	10.00 am	Gardening Group
Wed	15	10.30 am	Holy Communion (<i>at St Nicolas</i>)
Sun	19	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.30 am	Family Service
		10.30 am	Matins (<i>Sun Club in church room</i>)
		6.00 pm	Choral Evensong
Tue	21	10.00 am	Gardening Group
Wed	22	10.30 am	Holy Communion (<i>at St Nicolas</i>)
Thu	23	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
		4.00 pm	Magazine Collation
Fri	24	4.15 pm	"Reflections" Prayer Group
Sun	26	8.00 am	Holy Communion
		9.15 am	Holy Communion (<i>at St Nicolas</i>)
		10.30 am	Matins (<i>Sun Club in church room</i>)
		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Tue	28	10.00 am	Gardening Group

Wed 29 10.30 am Holy Communion (at St Nicolas)
Thu 30 2.45 pm Mothers' Union



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING – Saturday 4th
April at 11 am.

MOTHERS' UNION – On Thursday 30th at
2.45 pm, Tony Gatward will be talking to us
about 20th century music.

SUMMER FÊTE – Our annual Church Fête is on Saturday,
1st August. A planning meeting will be held on
Wednesday, 6th May at 11.15 am in the church rooms.
Please will all stallholders (*including new volunteers*) and
those connected with the Fête please try to come along so
that we can plan ahead and make arrangements.



"It comes to something when the state of
the pound is such that we *hope* to find
lots of foreign coins!"

Christian Aid 2009

10TH – 16TH MAY

This week is the time when we join together with other churches, individual Christians and people of goodwill nationwide to try to raise as much money as possible to support the work of Christian Aid. Resources are stretched to the limit as Christian Aid, working through its local partners, distributes not only immediate humanitarian aid but assists the poor and dispossessed to help themselves in Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Congo, Burma and many other countries. The recent destruction in Gaza of homes, schools, clinics and farms means that very urgent help is needed. Working through local vetted partners, aid is pinpointed to the area of need with speed and minimum cost. How can **we** help?

May 9th: The **Sponsored Walk** is a maximum 12 mile walk along the promenade from Sandbanks to Southbourne and back. Walk at you own pace and at a time of day to suit you. Shorter distances can be selected (coffee and bacon rolls etc can be obtained at Southbourne). Last year 7 volunteers raised over £900 so please join the walkers or sponsor one of them.

May 10th: **Gift envelopes** will be available to the congregation from *Sunday 10th May to Sunday 17th May*. We hope you will continue your generous giving and support for Christian Aid to enable it to bring succour to the poor and needy on our behalf.

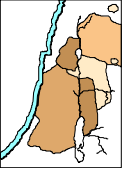
May 16th: **Street Collection** in Canford Cliffs Village, 10 am - 12 noon. If we can have 8 volunteers in 4 pairs it will reduce the standing time to half an hour per person.

Quiz Aid: We hope to have another Quiz Aid this year. Look out for details in the Sunday Notice Sheet.

If you would like to volunteer or obtain further information please contact Norman Dyer on 767568.

CHILDREN OF THE BIBLE

THE GIRL WITHOUT A NAME



The early chapters of 2 Kings recount the death of the prophet Elijah and how he was succeeded by another prophet, Elisha. These were difficult times both in Israel and Judah. There was an uneasy peace between the two Hebrew kingdoms and both were threatened by hostile neighbours, especially Syria. A delightful story of a Hebrew slave girl is told in 2 Kings 5 and it is set in this context of war.

On Israel's northern border the Syrians had been strengthening their army. Their commander, Naaman was also a leper which meant that he would have had little personal contact with his family or the soldiers he commanded. A young Israelite girl had been captured by the Syrians on one of their raids in Israel and she was given to Naaman's wife as a servant. This girl saw the pain and distress caused in the family by Naaman's leprosy and she proposed a remedy. Although she was now living in Syria, she had not forgotten her homeland or her religion.

In particular she knew that in Israel there was a prophet called Elisha, a true man of God. She had often heard of the miracles that Elisha performed. She plucked up courage and told Naaman's wife she was confident that Elisha, the true prophet of God, could do what all the medical skill available in Syria could not do.

Desperate, Naaman did go to Elisha for help. The prophet, through a messenger, directed him to dip in the River Jordan seven times. When he eventually did, he was instantly healed of his leprosy and committed himself in his heart to Israel's God. It all came about because the Israelite girl had not forgotten her God and was enthusiastic to bear witness to her faith in the house of her owners.

CHOCOLATE & WINE DO YOU GOOD



As Lent comes to an end, and you reach for your Easter eggs, here's some great news: eating chocolate and drinking wine or tea can improve your memory.

In recent research, people who regularly consume modest amounts of all three performed best in a series of brain tests. Apparently chocolate, wine and tea all contain micronutrients called flavonoids, which may reduce the risk of dementia.

But - the bad news is that the positive effects of wine level out after just half a glass, while all your brain needs is four squares of chocolate - most depressing. Better put the kettle on....

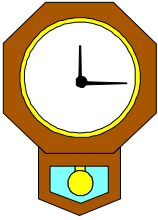


STAY ALERT!

Here are some simple tips to keep your mind active:

- Each night, spend a few moments recalling the events of your day. Write them down, if you like.
- Then - try and remember what happened yesterday! What was the sermon about last Sunday?
- Read on a regular basis - it keeps your language skills active.
- Mix with other people. Too much prolonged solitude can even lead to confusion.
- Eat fish, nuts, fruit, vegetables, chocolate... they all boost mental reaction times.

UNUSUAL CLOCK



It was in, I think, our local evening newspaper, an item about the church clock at Sydling St Nicholas, not far from Dorchester, chiming again – thanks to an anonymous donor who had kindly paid for it to be repaired. Nothing unusual about that, you'll say.

However, there is something unusual about the clock. It chimes the hours but has no external face. Day after day it ticks away without any visible display or outward show. According to the church records it's probably the oldest clock of its kind in Britain.

In a vague sort of way it reminds me of the many folk who, day after day, month after month, quietly get on with helping others without any outward show or parading of their thoughtful deeds. I call them the unseen, and often forgotten, army of Good Samaritans. (*Maurice Ennals*)



CLEAN WINDOWS

A young couple had just moved house. The next morning while they were eating breakfast, the wife saw the neighbour hanging out her washing. "*That laundry is not very clean,*" she said. "*She doesn't know how to do her washing. Perhaps she needs better detergent.*" Her husband looked on, but remained silent. Every time the neighbour hung her washing out, the wife made the same comments. About a month later, the wife was surprised to see nice clean washing on the line and said to her husband: "*Look, she has learned how to do her washing. I wonder who showed her?*" The husband said, "*I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows.*"

POINTS TO PONDER



Ann Landers: *"Maturity is the ability to do a job whether or not you are supervised, to carry money without spending it, and to bear an injustice without wanting to get even."*

Christopher Morley: *"Big shots are only little shots who keep shooting."*

Hindu Proverb: *"They who give have all things; they who withhold have nothing."*

The Hausa of Nigeria: *"Give thanks for a little and you will find a lot."*

Vernon Law: *"Experience is a hard teacher; because she gives the test first and the lesson after."*

Charles Kingsley: *"We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us really happy is something to be enthusiastic about."*

Charles M. Schultz: *"Life is like a ten-speed bike. Most of us have gears we never use."*

Robert Newton Peck: *"Never miss a chance to keep your mouth shut."*

Henry Chester: *"Enthusiasm is the greatest asset in the world. It beats money and power and influence."*

George Bernard Shaw: *"Better keep yourself clean and bright; you are the window through which you must see the world."*

Anon: *"Streams become crooked from taking the path of least resistance – so do people."*

Ruth E. Renkel: *"Never fear shadows. They simply mean there's a light shining somewhere nearby."*

ORGANISE YOURSELF & LIVE LONGER

Organised, conscientious people tend to live longer than those who are impulsive, according to recent research. And while self-controlled, dependable types may seem boring, they tend to be healthier than those folk who live on risk-taking. *"Conscientious individuals have better health habits and even more stable jobs and marriages,"* says a psychologist from the University of California, where the research was done.

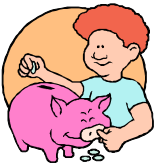


DON'T BE GRUMPY

Have you ever started the day cheerful, then run into someone very grumpy... and realise soon after that your cheerfulness had been damped down? Well, it seems that bad moods are indeed contagious - so much so that they can spread through friends, and family members even miles away. Every grumpy 'connection' with someone will decrease your happiness by 7%, according to New Scientist magazine. Every happy 'connection' will raise your chance of happiness by 9%. So - take care when you choose your friends! (You have less choice with your family.)



GET A PIGGY BANK



The great old-fashioned piggy bank is back in fashion - though perhaps in a more discreet form. Whatever the shape, sales of money boxes are booming: up by 150% this past year alone, according to Debenhams. With interest rates so low, savings accounts have lost their appeal, and banks have lost a lot of our confidence.

THE HELEN KELLER CENTRE

The Helen Keller Centre in Jerusalem is a school for blind children with a reputation for excellence that has become both national and international. The Centre was founded as a home for blind girls by English missionary, Mary Lovell, in the 1890s. Dr Helen Keller visited the School in the 1950s and was impressed by the work. She agreed to her name being adopted for the newly named Helen Keller Centre. The House was opened by BibleLands in 1960 and has been funded by BibleLands ever since.

The Centre provides an education for some 70 children aged 3 to 13 years, covering all the usual curricular subjects, as well as teaching a range of additional skills that will enable these young people to lead independent lives. These include:

- mobility training in daily living skills, orientation, speech and occupational therapies
- Arabic Braille and computer skills to help the children pursue career opportunities that were previously thought impossible.
- training in gymnastics and athletics to incredible levels of competitive achievement.

Over the last few years the Centre has faced many challenges. Heightened levels of security have made the journey to and from the Centre more difficult than ever before and have resulted in increased transport costs. In addition, the Centre has started a series of repairs and improvements including major work on the windows and fire escapes. New staff are also being recruited to ensure that children continue to get the best possible start in life.

You can find out more about BibleLands and the work of it's Overseas Partners by visiting www.biblelands.org.uk or calling 01494 897950.

SUNDAY READINGS IN APRIL

Sunday 5th April – Palm Sunday

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 50.4-9a

In this reading from the prophet there is a foretaste of suffering combined with a touch of confidence in God's ultimate victory.

NEW TESTAMENT: Philippians 2.5-11

In Paul's famous hymn from his letter to the Church at Philippi, the Apostle "sings" of Jesus' humility, suffering and ultimate triumph.

GOSPEL: Dramatised Gospel

An account of the events of Palm Sunday.

Sunday 12th April – Easter Day

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 25.6-9

Isaiah's prophecy comprises a vision of the Messianic banquet at which God, the host, reveals himself to his guests as their saviour and messiah.

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 10.34-43

Peter says that deeds, not nationality, constitute the means by which God accepts his disciples and the Jews have no exclusive claim upon God's love.

GOSPEL: John 20.1-8

Mary discovers the empty tomb and the risen Lord reveals himself first to Mary and subsequently to the disciples.

Sunday 19th April – Easter 2

OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 14.10-end

The Lord saves the Israelites from the Egyptians by parting the sea so that they could cross on dry land and then joining it again so the Egyptians drowned.

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 4.32-35

The company of believers shared their possessions, holding everything in common. Thus they testified to their belief in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

Sunday 26th April – Easter 3

OLD TESTAMENT: Zephaniah 3.14-end

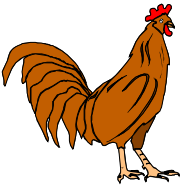
Zephaniah prophesies that God will come into the midst of his people with forgiveness and mercy to renew them with his love.

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 3.12-19

Peter tells the people who were amazed at the healing of a lame man that it is the power of God through the name of Jesus which healed him.



COCK AND BULL STORY

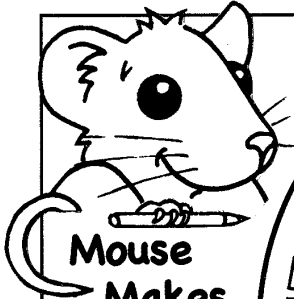


A *Cock and Bull* story is likely to be untrue and without any real facts supporting it. Some suggest the phrase originates from old fables in which animals speak to each other but there is a much more reliable source.

Stony Stratford is a Buckinghamshire town located almost directly halfway between London and Birmingham and Oxford and Cambridge respectively. During the great coaching era of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the town was an important and thriving stop-over point for travellers, tradesmen and mail coaches.

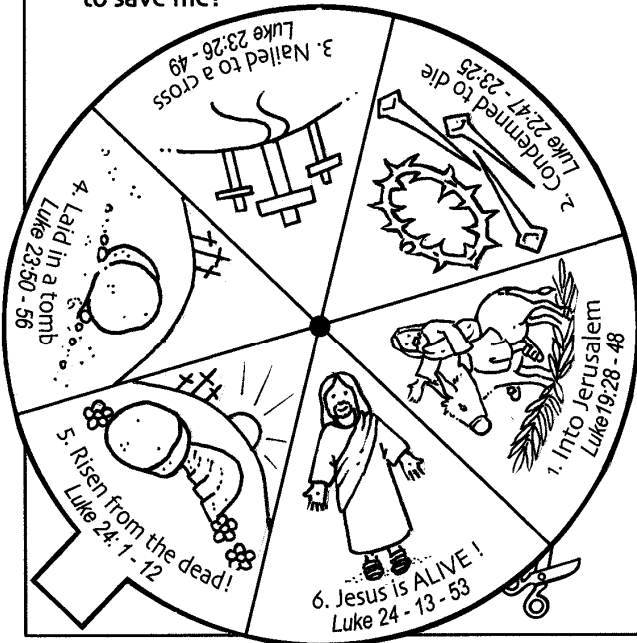
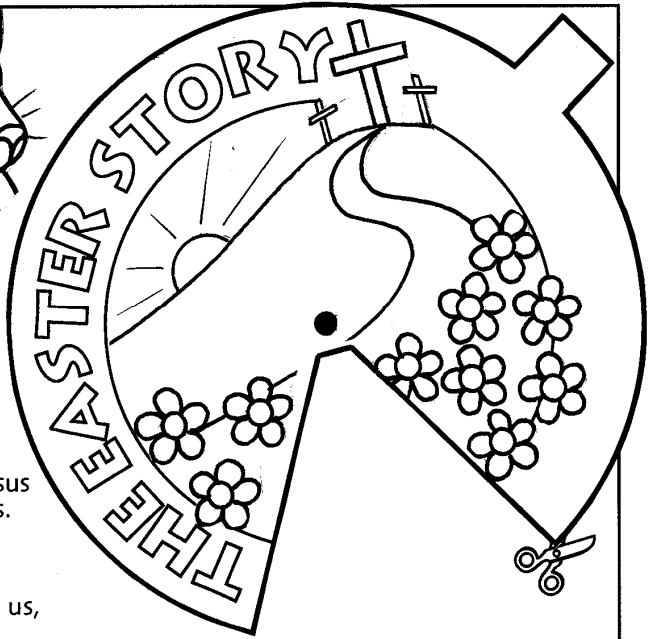
The two main coaching inns were called The Cock and The Bull and both became know throughout the country as the centre of all news travelling either on foot or by horse. The competing inns established a rivalry as to which could produce the most exciting and scurrilous travellers' tales to be passed on to the major cities and as a result many unbelievable stories were dismissed as Cock and Bull tales.





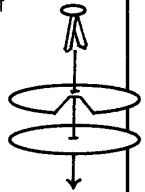
Mouse Makes

Nailed on a cross,
condemned to die,
They said that Jesus
was telling lies.
But he is risen
for all to see!
He came to save us,
**Jesus came
to save me!**



To make your Easter Story Teller

glue the page onto thin card. Colour in then carefully cut around both circles. With the help of an adult, pierce a small hole through the black dot in the centre of both circles. Push a split pin through the top circle and again through the bottom circle to join together. Spin around to tell the Easter Story.



FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERAL

February 25th
March 19th

Denis Christopher ROBERTS (57)
Vera Dorothy WALMSLEY (94)



ALTAR FLOWERS

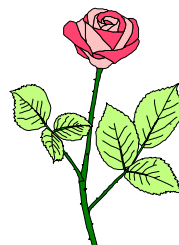
April 5th
April 12th
April 19th
April 26th

Transfiguration

No flowers
The Guild
The Guild
Mrs S King

St Nicolas

No flowers
The Guild
The Guild
Mrs C Adams



*My Lady Spring is dressed in green,
She wears a primrose crown,
And little baby buds and twigs
Are clinging to her gown;
The sun shines if she laughs at all,
But if she weeps the raindrops fall.
(Ancient English Spring song)*



DEADLINE

The deadline for the **May** edition of
the Church Magazine is 10.00 am on
Wednesday, **15th April 2009**