

FROM THE REGISTERS

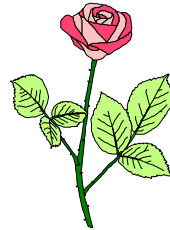
FUNERAL

January 31 st	Dizzy EVANS (82)
February 6 th	Barbara BRAND (89)
February 12 th	Philip Sidney RUMSEY (86)
February 19 th	Edith Kathleen ROBINSON (86)



ALTAR FLOWERS

	Transfiguration	St Nicolas
March 1 st	No flowers	No flowers
March 8 th	No flowers	No flowers
March 15 th	No flowers	No flowers
March 22 nd	Mrs S King	Mrs C Adams
March 29 th	No flowers	No flowers



*The dawn shall be glad
With the song of birds,
And the stir of fluttering wings;
Surely the joy of life is found
In simple things.*



DEADLINE

The deadline for the **April** edition of The Church Magazine is 10.00 am on Wednesday, **18th March 2009**

The Vicar writes...

March 2009

Dear Friends,

*Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.*



The detail of our Lord's time in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry is - for *Matthew* and *Luke* - an echo of the 40 days spent by *Moses* on Mt Sinai receiving the tablets of the Law (the Ten Commandments). It is also likely that the number 40 also alludes to Israel's 40 years in the wilderness, which Deuteronomy calls "*a time of testing*" (*Deut 8.2*). Indeed, the scriptural verses with which Jesus counters the devil's temptations are all spoken by *Moses* in Deuteronomy, and each temptation scene is related to an episode in Israel's wanderings.

The statement "*one does not live by bread alone*" refers to the divine gift of *manna*, nourishment supplied to the Israelites on their journey through the wilderness (*Deut 8.3*). Putting God to the test was the sin committed by the Israelites at *Massah* (*Deut 6.16*). In showing, *Jesus* all the kingdoms of the world from a mountain, the devil may be parodying God showing *Moses* the whole promised land from Mt Nebo (*Deut 32.49;34.1*).

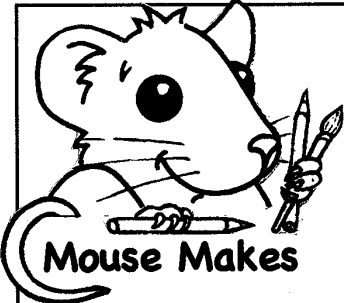
Lent gains its inspiration from *all* these events - so crucial to our Lord's own spiritual development at the beginning of his ministry. As a good Jew he would have known all about the ancient Hebrew and Jewish wanderings from his knowledge of the history of his peoples throughout the previous millennium and before; and it was *they* which helped him prepare for the working out of his vocation.

As a young man coming to maturity, it was in the desert that *Jesus* encountered that "*self*" which is within us all. In his case, the temptations were to be far greater because of who he was; but the principle of *solitude* and *simplicity* being required if *pretence* and *superficiality* is to be stripped away, rings true for us all. Lent is our opportunity to follow this pilgrim's path for ourselves.



Primarily, it is an opportunity for *learning*. Two aspects come to mind. Firstly, we remember our Lord's own familiarity with his own heritage. Lent is the time for increasing our own knowledge of our *Christian* heritage. This means reading and study...through personal endeavour or within a study group...hopefully both! It is also a time for learning about one's *self*...just as *Jesus* sought to do. This is best achieved through *prayer* and *meditation*...not the same things at all; but complementary to each other in the pursuit of self-awareness and knowledge. I have prepared a booklet (available in Church) wherein you will see the ways in which our own Church community might help you with this. There are many opportunities on offer. Please grasp as much as you are able; but please do not let the many opportunities of Lent pass you by.



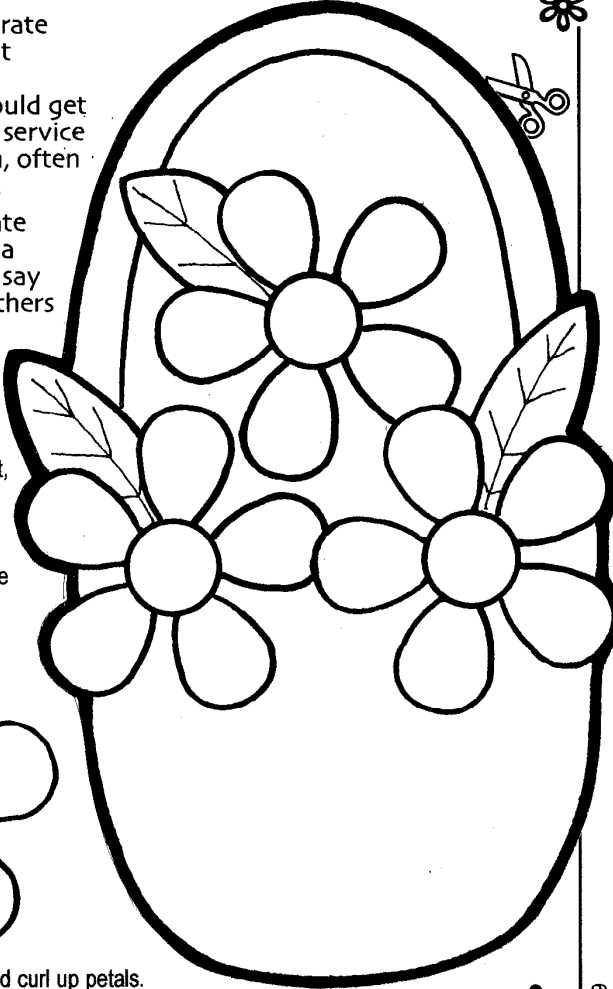
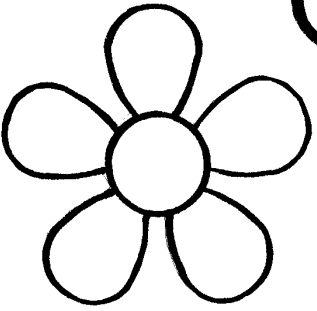


Thank you
.....
for all you do,
for all your love
and care.
.....
Thank you
.....
for loving me
I LOVE YOU!


Many Christians celebrate the 4th Sunday in Lent as **Mothering Sunday**. Originally families would get together for a special service at the 'mother' church, often at the local cathedral.

Today we still celebrate **Mothering Sunday** as a family day, a time to say 'thank you' to our mothers and all those who look after us.

To make a **Thank You** card, cut around the flower basket, colour in then glue onto a folded blank card. Cut out the tag, glue to tag shaped card. Punch the hole and hang from the basket with ribbon.

Cut out this flower, colour and curl up petals. Stick on basket with a blob of glue to give a 3D effect.



Mar09

Sunday 22nd March – Mothering Sunday

OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 2.1-10

This is the story of how Moses becomes the son of Pharaoh's daughter who says she saved him as baby from the basket among the reeds.

NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Corinthians 1.3-7

In this letter to the Church at Corinth, Paul praises God for giving comfort to those in times of trouble, enabling the people also to give comfort to others.

GOSPEL: Luke 2.33-35

Simeon speaks to Mary of Jesus' destiny which will bring great unhappiness to her too.

Sunday 29th March – LENT 5

OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 31, verses 31-34

The prophet heralds a new covenant, a new contract and relationship between God and his people based upon a law of forgiveness planted in the heart.

NEW TESTAMENT: John 12, verses 20-33

Jesus acknowledges his destiny of suffering which must be shared by all who follow him.



AT A LOOSE END



To be at a loose end describes a time when we would normally be sitting around with nothing to do. We go back to the old tall ships to define this phrase. Any ship using sails would have thousands of ropes making up the rigging. Each of these lengths would need to be bound tight at both ends to prevent them from unravelling, which would be disastrous during a storm. When the ship's captain found seamen sitting around with nothing to do, he would usually assign them mundane labour such as checking rigging for loose ends and re-binding them. Therefore, idle men would find themselves *'at a loose end'*.

AN AFTERNOON TALK -

On **Thursday 19th**

March at 3.00 pm in the Church Rooms,

we will welcome the Revd

John Pridmore whose

recently published book

'*The Inner-City of God:*

The Diary of an East End

parson'. The book was

reviewed by John

Sentamu (the Archbishop

of York) accordingly:

'*John Pridmore's wry take*

on the stories and

structures of parish life in

Hackney will infuriate

some, inspire others, and,

I trust, amuse everyone.'

Another eminent reviewer

puts it like this:

"This is a wonderfully refreshing book - wry, iconoclastic, generous, and full of wit and holy wisdom of a weather-beaten prophet. Reading it may not be comfortable for many of us in the church seeking a way of faithfulness for the future, but it will undoubtedly be valuable. It takes us to the heart of many of our dilemmas and, more importantly, to the heart of the gospel of untidy grace."

– John Pritchard, Bishop of Oxford.



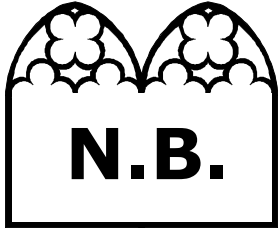
LENT begins on ASH WEDNESDAY (25th Feb)

10.30 am – Holy Communion

in the Church of the Transfiguration



CHURCH SERVICES IN MARCH & APRIL



The penitential season of **Lent, Holy Week & Easter** has significant Sunday liturgical landmarks along the way (***Mothering Sunday [Lent 4], Palm Sunday and Easter Day***). When these days fall on a 2nd or 4th Sunday in the month, it has been our custom in recent years to substitute *Matins* with *Parish Communion* as a slight departure from our usual monthly pattern. Please note the following:

In **MARCH** this means...

1 st	Lent 1	10.30 am	Parish Communion
8 th	Lent 2	10.30 am	Matins
15 th	Lent 3	10.30 am	Parish Communion
22 nd	Lent 4	10.30 am	<i>Parish Communion</i>
29 th	Lent 5	10.30 am	Matins

In **APRIL** this means...

5 th	Palm Sunday	10.30 am	Parish Communion
12 th	EASTER DAY	10.30 am	<i>Parish Communion</i>
19 th	Easter 1	10.30 am	<i>Matins</i>
26 th	Easter 2	10.30 am	Matins

(Items marked in ***Italics*** are a departure from the usual 'routine')



ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING
Saturday 4th April
at 11.00 a.m.



SUNDAY READINGS IN MARCH

Sunday 1st March – Lent 1

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 9.8-17

God makes a covenant with Noah, his descendants and all living creatures that never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Peter 3.18-end

Christ suffered in his body so that we might be saved from sin and be brought nearer to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 1.9-15

After being baptised by John Jesus goes into the desert for forty days and is tempted by Satan. He then proclaims the good news of God.

Sunday 8th March – Lent 2

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16

God tells Abraham that he will be the father of all nations and that Sarah, his wife, will be the mother of all nations and that she will bear a son.

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 8.31-end

Jesus predicts his own death and resurrection. He tells both his disciples and the people that they will be saved if they follow him.

Sunday 15th March – Lent 3

OLD TESTAMENT: Exodus 20.1-17

The code of conduct of the Ten Commandments provides the legal basis upon which the old covenant rests.

NEW TESTAMENT: 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

In his letter to the church at Corinth, Paul's message is one of God's wisdom and power to save.

GOSPEL: John 2.13-22

Jesus condemns the secular exploitation of the Temple and makes it clear that he himself is the sanctuary of God.

CHURCHGOING NOT IN DECLINE!



Churchgoing is not in decline, according to figures released by *Tearfund* today which show that one in four adults in the UK attend church at least once a year. According to research carried out by *Tearfund*, 12.8 million adults in the UK attend church at least once a year, of whom 7.3 million attend at least once a month.

Christian relief and development agency *Tearfund* regularly interviews 7,000 members of the public about their churchgoing habits, as part of wider research about perceptions of society and world issues, and has identified an upward trend in church attendance. The report found a significant increase in monthly attendance, bringing the figure for autumn 2008 to 15% after a number of years of reported decline, according to Matthew Frost, Chief Executive of *Tearfund*.

Similarly, the proportion of UK adults attending church at least once a year has increased from around one in five adults in 2007 to around one in four in 2008. "*Our understanding is that more people are attending now than before, even if that is only a couple of times a year rather than every week,*" said Mr Frost. "*This might mean going to church at one of the high points in their family's year, such as Christmas or Easter, or attending Sunday services*".

The research questions were framed deliberately to exclude attendance for weddings, baptisms and funerals so as to concentrate on voluntary attendance. Among groups showing a larger increase in attendance than the average between September 2007 and September 2008 were 25 to 34-year-olds, up 7% from 15% to 22%. Geographically, the highest increase was found in Wales, which was up 12% from to 24%.

POOLE HOSPITAL / SUDAN HOSPITAL



Poole Hospital is to form a new partnership link with a hospital and health care training centre in *Wau*, Southern Sudan. The aim of this exciting project is to use the skills and experience of our local staff to help train doctors, nurses and midwives so that they can provide much needed medical care to people living in one of the most strife-torn parts of the world.

Wau is officially a tertiary referral centre, but the hospital is in a dire state. The nearby Health Training Institute (HTI) was built in the early 1980s with the purpose of training nurses, clinical officers and midwives.

However, when war erupted nine years later, the building was closed and ransacked by the desperate, starving local population: the textbooks made excellent fuel to ignite fires to cook with.

20 years on, 60 church dioceses throughout the world have united to form the Solidarity Project, and have pledged money and personnel to refurbish the Health Training Institute. However, the one vital thing that the centre is lacking is trainers.

If you would like to be involved or support the Poole Africa Link (PAL) through fundraising or sponsorship please contact Hilary Fenton-Harris, PAL co-ordinator on 01202 448182.



NEWSROUND



CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS CALL FOR RESOLUTION TO DAILY PRAYER - *"Making daily prayer and Bible study part of your morning routine will improve your spiritual health in the same way as getting more exercise will improve your physical health,"*

asserts the Rt Revd Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham. He was speaking at the recent launch of the latest in the daily Bible notes series, 'Reflections for Daily Prayer', by Church House Publishing. Theologian Jane Williams (wife of the Archbishop) comments: *"The thing I like about Daily Prayer - especially the lectionary readings - is that you know a lot of people will be using it, so you are conscious of sharing Scripture with many people all over the world."*

ARCHBISHOP OF YORK MAPS SOCIAL CHANGE FOR BRITAIN -

Dr John Sentamu has called for Britain to use the credit crunch as a time to reassess its priorities as a country and to rediscover its vision as a nation. He said: *"It has brought home to us in a powerful and painful way that we have been tempted to put our trust in false securities (and I would argue false gods) and the need to think again. Governments and individuals are both radically reassessing their priorities and values as a result and so are the religious communities. Because of this, I believe it is also a unique opportunity."*

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE -

The Church of England has launched a new section of its website in celebration of 150 years of the parish magazine. The Church estimates that the combined readership of its parish magazines exceeds that of several national newspapers, taken together. The Archbishop of Canterbury, comments, *"A good parish magazine is a wonderful resource that places the local church at the heart of the community it serves. This is a ministry we need to recognise and to support."*

POINTS TO PONDER



Paul Scherer: *"The only way on earth to multiply happiness is to divide it."*

Andre Gide: *"Believe those who seek the truth; doubt those who find it."*

Albert Gray: *"Winners have simply formed the habit of doing things losers don't like to do."*

Buddha: *"The right time to show your good character is when you are pestered by somebody weaker than you."*

William Feather: *"Conditions are never just right. People who delay action until all factors are favourable are the kind who do nothing."*

Unknown: *"Don't regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many."*

Persian Proverb: *"He who wants a rose must respect the thorn."*

Stephen King: *"If you don't have the time to do something right, where are you going to find the time to fix it?"*

Erin Majors: *"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle."*

Nicholas Murray Butler: *"Optimism is essential to achievement and it is also the foundation of courage and of true progress."*

Lillian Hellman: *"Don't cut your conscience to fit this year's fashions."*

Marcel Proust: *"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeing new landscapes but in having new eyes."*

Sir John Templeton: *"An attitude of gratitude creates blessings."*

Socrates: *"Beware the barrenness of a busy life."*

ON THE DAMASCUS ROAD

THE CONVERSION OF JUSTIN THE MARTYR

Justin was born in Samaria in 100 AD, near the modern town of Nablus. His family was gentile and pagan and as a young man Justin was drawn to the study of philosophy. Soon he was a recognised pagan philosopher and began to travel as an itinerant teacher, wearing the distinctive cloak of the philosophers. He tells us that his search for truth led him to study the various schools of Greek philosophy; but in none of them could he find the assurance he was looking for.

Walking one evening by the sea, he met an old man. *Justin* listened as he told him that the prophecies of the Hebrew Bible had been fulfilled, and that they could be found in the writings of the Christian Bible. He told *Justin* that truth could only be known through the one true God, and that his Spirit would enlighten *Justin*. *Justin* was deeply moved, and began to read the New Testament...and was converted to faith in Christ.

Now a Christian believer, *Justin* continued to travel, still wearing his philosopher's cloak; but preaching and teaching the Christian gospel. He wrote two *Apologies* explaining and defending the Christian faith. He travelled to Asia Minor and finally to Rome where he taught in a Christian school. His strong defence of Christianity came to the notice of the authorities and he was arrested with six of his friends. Refusing to acknowledge pagan gods, they were executed together.

Who was the old man who introduced Justin to Christianity? We do not know...and *Justin* does not tell us his name. *Justin's* conversion happened because a Christian witnessed to him. In like manner, we too should use every opportunity we have to pass on the Good News!

CHAD, BISHOP OF LICHFIELD

(CHAD WILL BE REMEMBERED AT THE MIDWEEK
SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION ON WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH)



Chad was born in Northumbria, the youngest of four sons, all of whom became priests and monks. They entered the monastery on the isle of Lindisfarne and were taught by St Aidan.

Chad should be the patron saint of any modern bishop whose consecration is questioned by another bishop. *Chad* was consecrated a bishop, then deposed - and then re-consecrated!

It all began when *Oswiu*, king of Northumbria, made him bishop of the Northumbrian see. However, due to a scarcity of appropriate bishops, two dubious bishops did the job of consecrating him. This led to Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, who doubted the validity of indigenous consecrations, deciding to depose him about three years later.

Chad took his dismissal with good heart, and peacefully retired but then Theodore had second thoughts: *Chad* was of excellent character: humble, devout, and zealous. So Theodore re-consecrated him - to be the first bishop of Mercia, a huge diocese the centre of which he moved from Repton to Lichfield. Second time around, *Chad* was a great success - again. He travelled extensively and became much loved for his wisdom and gentleness in otherwise difficult situations.

When *Chad* died he was quickly venerated as a saint. People took a great fancy to his bones, believing that they would bring healing. Even today, four large bones, dating from the 7th century - and believed to be *Chad's* - are in the Roman Catholic cathedral in Birmingham.

Bishops today may still argue about consecration, but they are unlikely to have their bones disturbed.

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 in night.) 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...



MALES AND FEMALES



A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a folded newspaper. "What are you doing?" she asked. "Hunting flies," he muttered. "Oh! Kill any?" "Yes, three males and two females," he replied. Intrigued, the woman asked: "How can you tell them apart?" Her husband responded: "Easy, three were on my tin of beer, and two were on the phone."



A SENIOR MOMENT

*I made a list.
I checked it twice.
I left it at home.*

'AMAZING GRACE' - WEDDING FAVOURITE



Amazing Grace is the hymn most frequently chosen by the 400 couples planning their wedding each month through the Church of England's new online ceremony planner.

More than 1,300 couples have registered to use the new '*listen and choose*' service, which gives couples the choice of 25 hymns for weddings and 12 readings from the Bible. John Newton's *Amazing Grace* is the most popular choice for a wedding hymn, closely followed by *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* and *All Things Bright and Beautiful*.

The wedding planner was launched last October to coincide with the introduction a new Church law making it possible for more people to wed in the church of their choice. The Rev Peter Moger, the Church of England's Worship Development adviser, is part of the creative team behind the planner. "*The tradition of the church wedding is alive and well, and recent changes will make it possible for even more couples to marry in church,*" he said. "*The ceremony planner is a wonderful resource which helps couples make choices as they plan a service which is personal to them.*"

(<http://www.yourchurchwedding.org/hymns-media-player.aspx>)



DORSET HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST



The total for the county raised after the Sponsored Cycle Ride in September 2008 was £47,000 plus Gift Aid. Thanks so much for your support. This year's Cycle Ride is to be held on *Saturday 12th September*.



WHAT ARE PEOPLE LIKE IN YOUR ROAD?

A family had to move house because of the husband's job. After much searching, they found just the right one. They asked the estate agent what people in the area were like as they wanted to know what to expect. He paused, and then asked: *'What are people like where you live now?'*

They answered: *'They're awful! No one seems to want to help anyone else...and no one will stop for a chat. You cannot rely on people. They're rotten neighbours. We'll be glad to leave.'* The estate agent said: *'I am afraid that they are exactly like that here, too';* and when the new family moved in they found that it was true: no one helped them...everyone kept themselves to themselves...and there was no community spirit.

Another family moved into a house in the same road a few weeks later. They also asked the estate agent the same question as they wanted to know what to expect. Again, he paused, and asked: *'What are people like where you live now?'* The family answered: *'They are wonderful; we'll be so sorry to leave our neighbours as everyone looks out for each another. You can always rely on them to help when needed. There is a real community spirit.'*

The estate agent said: *'Well in that case I've got good news for you. The people around here are exactly like that, too'* and when the second family moved into the same road as the first family, they found that it was true. The neighbours were lovely, and people were welcoming and kind and reliable. The new family were so happy to have moved there.

Jesus said: *"As you judge others, so you will yourselves be judged and whatever measure you deal out to others will be dealt to you."*



CHILDREN OF THE BIBLE

SAMUEL

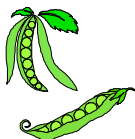
The story of *Samuel's* birth is told with great pathos in the opening chapter of the first book of Samuel. We are introduced to *Elkanah* who had two wives, *Peninnah*, who bore him children and *Hannah*, who was childless. Hardly surprisingly the situation made for great tension in the home and *Hannah* was broken-hearted and desperate for a child. Her misery was made worse when *Peninnah* 'provoked her' so much that she wept bitterly and would not eat. *Elkanah's* response lacked feeling to say the least. *"Why are you grieving?"* he asked *Hannah*, *"am I not better to you than ten sons?"*

On the yearly pilgrimage at Shiloh, *Hannah* poured out her heart to God, praying she would have a son. Even when the priest *Eli* mistook her silent prayers for drunken ramblings she refused to give up and promised the Lord that if she had a son, he would be dedicated to God for his whole life. We can only imagine *Hannah's* joy when she gave birth to a baby boy the following year and she knew exactly what his name should be - *Samuel*, meaning *'asked of God.'*

After *Samuel* was weaned he was taken to the Tabernacle in Shiloh so that, in *Hannah's* words, he should be *'loaned to the Lord as long as he lives'*. There in Shiloh *Samuel* was called by God in a vision to be a leader in Israel and until his death, he was both a judge and prophet to his people.

The baby who was prayed for and who was dedicated to God grew up to be a spiritual leader to his people. As Christian parents we pray and hope and believe that our children will follow the Lord. *Samuel's* story reminds us that our part is to surround our children with love and care and prayer and dedication.

GO TO SEED THIS SPRING



The economic crisis has had one good effect: last year it drove one in three Britons into their gardens to try and grow some of their own vegetables.

It seems that last summer millions of us followed the example of the 1970s sitcom *'The Good Life'*, with Felicity Kendal and Richard Briers, and got busy cultivating our own tomatoes, peas, cauliflowers and potatoes.

It seems that celebrity chefs have made gardening 'cool' again, and weeding a potato patch is no longer considered something fit only for grand-dad to do.



LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE



An old, tired-looking dog wandered into my garden one day. I could tell that he had come from a good home. Calmly, he came over to me, and then followed me into my house. Slowly he walked down the hall, into the sitting room, curled up on the hearthrug, and fell asleep. An hour or so later he went to the door, and I let him out. The next day he was back, greeted me in my garden, walked by me into the house, and again slept for an hour or so in the sitting room.

This daily visit with a nap continued off and on for several weeks. Curious, I finally pinned a note to his collar: *"I would like to find out who the owner of this nice dog is, and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon he comes to my house for a nap."* The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar: *"He lives in a home with six children, two under the age of three - he's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?"*

A POT PLANT IN YOUR OFFICE



It's official: potted plants are good for you. Potted plants in offices improve the health of stressed out workers and reduce the number of sick days they take.

Recent research at a university in Norway has found that the more plants you can see from your desk, the less sick-leave you are likely to take. Plants also reduce office workers' fatigue, dry throats, headaches and dry skin.

There are several possible reasons for this. One might be simply that plants and the microbes in the soil are good at removing volatile, organic compounds that affect our health or it may be that because people believe *plants are 'healthy' to have around, they therefore 'think healthier'* when they are near them.

Similar research in Washington, USA, has found that office plants not only reduce stress, but improve performance by 12%. It was found that workers have lower blood pressure and less mental fatigue.

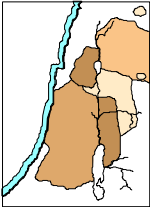


COMMUNIST WEATHER EXPERT



A Russian couple walks down a street in Moscow when the man feels a drop hit his nose. *"I think it's raining,"* he says to his wife. *"No, that feels like snow to me, dear,"* she replies. Just then, a minor communist party official walks towards them. *"Let's not fight about it,"* the man says. *"Let's ask Comrade Rudolph whether it's officially raining or snowing."* *"It's raining, of course"* Comrade Rudolph says and walks on. But the woman insists, *"I know that felt like snow."* To which the man quietly says, *"Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear."*

CHRISTIAN AID IN THE MIDDLE EAST



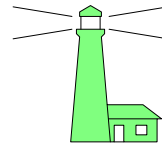
Christian Aid has worked in Israel and what are now the Occupied Palestinian Territories for more than 50 years. We work with more than 25 local partner organisations, both Palestinian and Israeli, to protect human rights, access to services and resources, and to build a peace based on justice for all.

Our role is also to speak out about the causes of poverty. Palestinian poverty is as crippling a part of the conflict as suicide bombs or military incursions. Sixty-four per cent of the Palestinian population now exist on less than £1.10 a day – below the official UN poverty line – compared to 20% in 1998.

The Gaza Strip, a narrow sliver of land with a huge concentration of refugees, has been effectively sealed off from the world, and the latest blockade means not even the minimum of humanitarian supplies of medicines and food are getting in. Responsibility for the current crisis rests principally with Israel's military occupation of the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian Authority, marked by lack of resources, corruption and inefficiency under the previous administration - and beset by violent conflict between *Hamas* and *Fatah* after the 2006 elections - has failed to tackle poverty. It has also violated human rights. Current efforts towards dialogue between *Hamas* and *Fatah* will need international support if they are to succeed and the Palestinians to be reunited under common leadership in the near future. The UK government and the rest of the European Union have the authority to make international law meaningful. That they have not done so means that the downward spiral of Palestinian daily life is their responsibility, too. (*Christian Aid website*)

SHINING LIGHT



On holiday in Cornwall a visitor from the lovely Dorset village of *Owermoigne* went to see the famous lighthouse that stands at the Lizard, the headland marking the most southerly point of Britain.

With other holidaymakers, she was shown into the room that contains the equipment for operating the fog sirens. Then the group were taken up the stairs to have a look at the lantern – a beautiful piece of mechanism, and spotlessly clean. The lighthouse keeper explained, "*We polish the reflectors every morning*".

The lady from *Owermoigne* told a friend later that she had never forgotten that remark. "*By our prayers each morning,*" she said, "*we too, can reflect light – the Light of the Holy Word, and shine as a light in what seems an ever-darkening world*".



JESUS DIDN'T COME FROM NOWHERE...

Jesus didn't come from nowhere. His way was prepared by John the Baptist. And we are only here because each previous generation has passed on the Good News of Jesus.

I think of the woman who taught me to say my prayers at an after school club that she ran for children; I will always be grateful to her. I think of my friend who became a Christian through singing the *St John Passion* in a choir. I think of the countless people that I baptise and confirm and ordain each year, who all have a story to say about how people they knew prepared them to meet Christ for themselves. (*The Rt Revd Jonathan Gledhill -Bishop of Lichfield*)

CALENDAR FOR MARCH



Sun	1	8.00 am	Holy Communion
LENT 1		10.30 am	Parish Communion (<i>Sun Club in church</i>)
		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Mon	2	2.30 pm	Discussion Group (<i>St Nicolas</i>)
Tue	3	10.00 am	Gardening Group
Wed	4	10.30 am	Holy Communion (<i>at Transfig</i>)
		7.15 pm	Discussion Group (<i>9 St Clair Road</i>)
Thu	5	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
		3.45 pm	Discussion Group (<i>Church Rooms</i>)
Sun	8	8.00 am	Holy Communion
LENT 2		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
Mon	9	2.30 pm	Discussion Group (<i>St Nicolas</i>)
Tue	10	10.00 am	Gardening Group
Wed	11	10.30 am	Holy Communion (<i>at Transfig</i>)
		7.15 pm	Discussion Group (<i>9 St Clair Road</i>)
Thur	12	3.45 pm	Discussion Group (<i>Church Rooms</i>)
Sun	15	8.00 am	Holy Communion
LENT 3		9.30 am	Family Service
		10.30 am	Parish Communion
		6.00 pm	Choral Evensong
Mon	16	2.30 pm	Discussion Group (<i>St Nicolas</i>)
Tue	17	10.00 am	Gardening Group
Wed	18	10.30 am	Holy Communion (<i>at Transfig</i>)
		7.15 pm	Discussion Group (<i>9 St Clair Road</i>)
Thu	19	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
		3.00 pm	Talk: Revd John Pridmore
Sun	22	8.00 am	Holy Communion (<i>No Sun Club</i>)
MOTHERING SUNDAY		9.15 am	Holy Communion (<i>at St Nicolas</i>)
		10.30 am	Parish Communion
		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Mon	23	2.30 pm	Discussion Group (<i>St Nicolas</i>)
Tue	24	10.00 am	Gardening Group

		6.30 pm	MU Lady Day Service (<i>See below</i>)
Wed	25	10.30 am	Holy Communion (<i>at Transfig</i>)
		7.15 pm	Discussion Group (<i>9 St Clair Road</i>)
Thu	26	3.45 pm	Discussion Group (<i>Church Rooms</i>)
		4.00 pm	Magazine Collation
Fri	27	4.15 pm	"Reflections" Prayer Group
Sun	29	8.00 am	Holy Communion
LENT 5		10.30 am	Matins (<i>Sun Club in church room</i>)
		6.00 pm	NO Evensong here
		6.30 pm	United Service <i>at St Luke's Wellington Road</i>
Mon	30	2.30 pm	Discussion Group (<i>St Nicolas</i>)
Tue	31	10.00 am	Gardening Group



AFTERNOON TALK - Thursday, 19th March at 3.00 pm when the Rev John Pridmore will talk about his time as Vicar of Hackney and his recently published book, 'The Inner-City of God' subtitled, 'The Diary of an East End parson'.

'WHY GO TO CHURCH? – The Drama of the Eucharist' – On four Thursdays in Lent at 3.45 pm in the church rooms Mo Willis will be introducing the main themes of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 2009.

LENT HOUSE GROUPS – These take place on Mondays at 2.30 pm at the Chapel of St Nicolas and Wednesdays at 7.15 pm at 9 St Clair Road. The title of this year's York Course is 'These three...Faith, Hope and Love'. Group members will need a copy of the course booklet which will cost £3.

MOTHERS' UNION – In place of this month's meeting, members are invited to Poole Deanery's *Lady Day* service in *Transfig* at 6.30 pm led by our Vicar.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING – Saturday 4th April