

The Vicar Writes...

May 2009



Dear Friends,

***Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed.
Alleluia!***

NOLI ME TANGERE...is the Latin title of a 14th century painting by *Duccio di Buoninsegna* for Siena Cathedral.

It depicts the Fourth Gospel's story of Mary Magdalene's encounter with the risen Jesus in the garden (John 20.17) where he forbids her to cling to him, because he has "*not yet ascended to the Father*". At first, she had mistaken him for the gardener - perhaps a hint by St John at the idea of the new Eden. This was an image that he alluded to on more than one occasion. Jesus in the garden can be seen to represent humanity *restored*, through his death, to the original state of perfection of Adam and Eve in paradise.

When she is forbidden to cling to Jesus, St John makes the point that from now on his followers are no longer to enjoy the *physical* fellowship of their earthly Master; from now on their contact with him will be *spiritual* and not dependent on his physical presence. This is the message that Mary must take to the

disciples. It is also the message that we must live with now.

The apostle *Thomas* was told by Jesus: "*Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.*" (John 20.29) This is where we find ourselves today. Faith is on *offer* to those who will grasp it. The proclamation of the Lord's risen presence in the words of the Easter greeting declare that faith. As if an overheard conversation between two of the crestfallen disciples, they hold the new found assertion that it **is** all true: the Lord **is** risen...and that **now** they are released from their despair and doubting!

***Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!***

The best proof of the resurrection is - to my mind - to be found in the changed nature of the disciples life *after* the resurrection. One writer has written that the disciples had changed from being "*...a band of despairing visionaries into a brigade of daring missionaries*".

As we have now well left the rigours of Lent behind us for another year, may we emerge (chrysalis-like) into the sunshine of a risen life with Jesus:

*"...grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory."*

***Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!***



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – May is the month that contains this important week of fundraising and witness to the wider community. The centre page 'Calendar' itemises one or two specific ways for us to take part in the 'Week'. On Pg. 4 there is an article on 'QUIZAID' which we did very successfully last year...and will again be promoting on *Friday 15th*. Please watch the weekly Church notice sheet and sign up if you can come. The Saturday before (9th) is the day of the annual sponsored walk: as much or as little of the route from Sandbanks to Southbourne. What could be nicer on a glorious summer's day...which doubtless it will be! Please speak with Norman Dyer (767568) if you would like a sponsor card...or you would like to help with any aspect of making this year's 'Week' a success.



I hope these eggs sell soon; the christmas decorations and crackers are arriving next week!

Christian Aid 2009

QUIZAID

Eastenders star Kara Tointon is helping put the fun into fundraising by backing this year's nationwide *Quizaid* during Christian Aid Week, which aims to raise vital funds for the world's poorest communities.

Last year *Quizaid* raised a brain-busting £185,000 for Christian Aid's overseas development work in 49 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America. This year the charity is challenging the great British public to use its grey matter to raise £225,000.

Christian Aid has put together packs including question cards, posters, invites, answer sheets and a certificate for the winning team. All quiz organisers will be entered into a draw for a year's supply of chocolate courtesy of the fair trade company, Divine Chocolate. There is a similar draw for those that participate in *Quizaid*.

"I hope all the pubs, clubs, churches and community halls up and down the country get quizzing for Quizaid," says Tointon. *"Having seen some of Christian Aid's work myself in Zambia, where I saw children who have been orphaned by HIV given homes and care, I know how vital this money is."*

In a bid to get even more people quizzing, four new levels of questions have been introduced - Brainiacs, Average Joe's, 11 to 18-year-olds or under-10s. Subjects include sport, music, geography, pot luck, history and maths. The emphasis is on having fun while raising money for a great cause.

NB: Our own *Quizaid* is on Friday 15th May at 7.30 pm in the church rooms and includes a ploughman's supper; tickets £5, all proceeds to Christian Aid.

POINTS TO PONDER



Ethiopian Proverb: *"When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion."*

Yiddish Proverb: *"Old age, to the unlearned is winter; to the learned it's harvest time."*

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

James Oppenheim: *"The foolish man seeks happiness in the distance; the wise grows it under his feet."*

Zora Neale Hurston: *"There are years that ask questions and years that answer."*

G.K. Chesterton: *"The way to love anything is to realize that it might be lost."*

Dr. Seuss: *"I like nonsense; it wakes up the brain cells."*

Corrie Ten Boom: *"The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation."*

Abraham Lincoln: *"Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power."*

Wilson Mizner: *"Always be nice to people on the way up; because you'll meet the same people on the way down."*

Brendan Francis: *"Many of our fears are tissue-paper-thin, and a single courageous step would carry us clear through them."*

The Muppets: *"You have to have Soul. But if you don't have Soul, Halibut will do."*

Franklin P. Jones: *"It's a strange world of language in which skating on thin ice can get you into hot water."*

Carlos Castaneda: *"We either make ourselves happy or miserable. The amount of work is the same."*

ON THE DAMASCUS ROAD

THE CONVERSION OF WILLIAM TYNDALE

Every time we open and read an English Bible we should be reminded of William Tyndale (1494-1536) often rightly called *'the father of the English Bible.'* Tyndale was born in Gloucestershire in England and had an excellent education in the local school. He went to Oxford University in 1508 and after graduation he studied further at Cambridge University.

At Oxford, he made great progress in languages and it was his study of the Greek text of the New Testament that led him to understand Paul's doctrine of salvation by faith. Although we can't be sure of the exact date, it was while he was at Oxford that Tyndale experienced personal conversion which happened as he carefully studied the New Testament. He began to see how the Roman Church had substituted medieval doctrines and practices in place of the true gospel. Tyndale was captivated as he read the Greek New Testament and he wanted to share his great discovery with others. He spent time back in Gloucestershire as a private tutor, still studying the Greek Testament and finding his faith confirmed as he began to read the writings of Martin Luther.

Believing he had a call from God to translate the Bible into English, and knowing the opposition he faced in England, he went to Germany. In 1526 his English translation of the New Testament was published and he began to work on the Old Testament. To Tyndale we owe the familiar phrases, *'Let there be light,' 'Am I my brother's keeper?' 'The salt of the earth,' 'Fight the good fight,' 'Signs of the times,'* and many more. His enemies were still hunting him and he moved to Belgium. Betrayed, he was imprisoned and executed on October 6th 1536 near Brussels. He was strangled and then burned, his last words being, *'Oh Lord, open the King of England's eyes.'*

SCRIPTURE CAKE



230 g (8 oz) Judges 5:25 last clause
239 g (8 oz) Jeremiah 6:20
1 tablespoon 1 Samuel 14:25
3 Jeremiah 17:11 (size 3) (beaten)
230 g (8 oz) 1 Samuel 30:12 (seedless)

170 g (6 oz) Nahum 3:12 (chopped but not soaked)

85 g (3 oz) Numbers 17:8 (finely chopped)

395 g (15 oz) 1 Kings 4:22 (wholemeal)

1 teaspoon 2 Chronicles 9:9 (ground & mixed)

1 teaspoon Amos 4:5

A pinch of Leviticus 2:13

5 teaspoons Judges 4:19

8 inch round cake tin lined and greased

Set oven at gas 3, 325F, 170C

Beat Judges 5:25 last clause, Jeremiah 6:20 and 1 Samuel 4:25 until light, fluffy and creamy. Beat in Jeremiah 17:11 gradually, beating well after each addition following Solomon's advice in Proverbs 23:14 (beat well). Stir in 1 Samuel 30:12, Nahum 3:12 and Numbers 17:8. Mix 1 Kings 4:22, 2 Chronicles 9:9, Amos 4:5 and Leviticus 2:13, then fold into the mixture with Judges 4:19.

When thoroughly blended, spoon the cake mixture into the prepared tin and bake for 2½ hours. Leave the cake to cool in the tin. Turn out and wrap for several days before cutting (a rich fruity cake popular in Victorian times). Each ingredient in the recipe is discovered by looking up the relevant pages in the Bible – these come from the authorised version.



Q: Who is the fastest man in the Bible?

A: Adam because he was first in the human race.

KNOWING & LOVING THE BIBLE



Here's a provocative question: do Christians really need to read the Bible? Yes, we can choose to follow Jesus without personally owning a copy or reading it regularly; that was the experience of most believers until the invention of printing made books widely available. It's still the case for Christians around the world who cannot afford a Bible - or who simply cannot read.

Getting to know the Bible is part of growing into mature faith, though. The Bible gives us the 'big picture' for what we believe: from the story of creation right through to Jesus' death and resurrection, and the promise of his return. More than that, the Bible not only tells us about God, but through the working of the Holy Spirit, it can become God's word for us here and now. This means that as we read it, we have to work out prayerfully how to apply its teaching and values in our lives today.

A starting point is acquiring a translation that we find readable - and if we have been reading the same translation for a while, switching to a different one can bring new insights into familiar verses. Most Christian bookshops stock a range of Bible translations, and also various Bible reference books, such as atlases and handbooks. Study Bibles, where the background information and comment are included on the same page as the passage, are a particularly helpful resource. Daily reading notes and commentaries also offer different levels of help in understanding the Bible.

No, we don't have to read the Bible every day to be Christians - but if we don't, we are missing out on so much, not least the chance to hear God speaking to us through words written generations before, telling us that he loves us and that he watches over our path. *(Naomi Starkey is editor of and contributor to New Daylight Bible reading notes)*

MONKEY WORLD



As far as is known, it's probably the only one in the world – the Chimpanzee Rescue Centre. It was opened about a mile outside Wool, in South Dorset, in July 1987. Now there are more than one hundred animals there, including over twenty chimpanzees, together with lemurs, macaques and orang-utans.

The chimpanzees were rescued from beaches in Spain where they had been used by heartless photographers to attract their tourist trade. With the support of the Born Free Foundation and Great Ape Escape Campaign, the Centre, known as Monkey World, aims to continue its rescue work and bring an end to this cruel trade.

Isn't it amazing how some people will abuse God's creatures for their own selfish gain? Isn't it wonderful, too, that thanks to the rescuers and those who run the Centre, these physically and mentally abused animals can once more live happily, free in their homely enclosures to roam and climb in complete safety?



KINDNESS TO ANIMALS



A minister was talking to a children's Sunday School class about kindness to animals. He cited the Biblical references to substantiate his case. *"Now let's suppose,"* he said, *"that you saw a bad person cutting off the tail of a cat. What Biblical quotation would you use to tell him of the terrible wrong he was doing?"* *"I would point out to him,"* one of the class said, *"What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."*

SEAFARERS FACE HARDSHIP



The Mission to Seafarers is preparing for an increase in demand for its services as the shipping industry plunges into one of the worst crises for 30 years, as reported in the latest issue of the society's newspaper, *Flying Angel News*.

As the credit crunch bites, chaplains of the international maritime welfare agency are helping more seafarers who face increased isolation and anxiety as they look towards uncertain futures on laid up ships far from home. *"Crews working on laid-up ships suffer acute isolation, low morale and anxiety about their jobs – all of which pose a special set of challenges for Mission chaplains as they draw on all of their pastoral experiences to help guide seafarers through this tough time,"* said the Mission's director of justice and welfare, the Rev Canon Ken Peters.

Canon Peters says that the shipping industry is uniquely vulnerable to economic currents because of its globalised nature and that in these difficult times, the support of The Mission to Seafarers will be in even greater demand. The message of concern comes on the back of preliminary figures which show over 230,000 seafarers visited Mission centres in 2008 and that 294 welfare cases, involving nearly 1,000 seafarers, were brought to the Mission's attention for action.

"Because seafarers' wages are the only substantial non-fixed cost for shipowners, there may be an increased downward pressure on wages," says Canon Peters. *"We may also see voyage times lengthened as ships engage in 'slow steaming' to decrease costs. As an international organisation, The Mission to Seafarers is ideally placed to work with shipowners, managers and policy makers to try and ensure that a seafarer's wellbeing is protected during the downturn".*

NEWSROUND



WIDER WEDDING WELCOME – NEW BOOK FOR CHURCHES - Grooms are more conscious of the serious commitment of marriage than many people might think, while their fiancées are focused on making the wedding day itself a special occasion, according to research included in a new book, *Welcoming Marriage*. The guide shows how recent changes to marriage law have opened up new opportunities for churches, and urges them to offer the warmest possible welcome to couples thinking of getting married.

GENEROSITY OF CHRISTIANS NOT AFFECTED BY THE CREDIT CRUNCH - Speaking Volumes is run by The Christian Book Promotion Trust. It offers a generous 50% discount on the retail price of books to Churches and individuals so the books can be donated, free of charge, to a library, school, prison or indeed anywhere where books can be borrowed by an audience wider than the Christian community. This year has seen an unprecedented amount of orders, despite the financial crisis. *"It is heart warming to see that even in such a time of need, God's people respond more generously than ever to those around them,"* says Paula Renouf, director of Speaking Volumes.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE PARISHES - After a year of declining asset values, the Church Commissioners have reassured Church of England dioceses that they still intend to continue their present level of support at planned levels through to the end of 2010. They contribute around 15p in the pound to the cost of the C of E's mission - most of the balance comes from the generous giving of parishioners. The Commissioners manage an investment portfolio derived from the Church's historic resources that includes stock market investments, and commercial, residential and rural property investments.

CALENDAR FOR MAY

Sun	3	8.00 am	Holy Communion
EASTER 4		10.30 am	Parish Communion (<i>Sun Club in church</i>)
		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Tue	5	10.00 am	Gardening Group
Wed	6	10.30 am	Holy Communion (<i>at St Nicolas</i>)
		11.15 am	Fête Planning Meeting
Thu	7	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
Sat	9	Christian Aid Sponsored Walk	
Sun	10	8.00 am	Holy Communion
EASTER 5		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	12	10.00 am	Gardening Group
Wed	13	10.30 am	Holy Communion (<i>at St Nicolas</i>)
Fri	15	7.30 pm	Christian Aid "QUIZAID"
Sat	16	10-12 noon	Christian Aid Street Collection
Sun	17	8.00 am	Holy Communion
EASTER 6		9.30 am	Family Service
		10.30 am	Parish Communion (<i>No Sun Club</i>)
		6.00 pm	Choral Evensong
Tue	19	10.00 am	Gardening Group
Thu	21	10.00 am	Parish Art Group
ASCENSION DAY		10.30 am	Holy Communion (<i>at St Nicolas</i>)
Sat	23	3.00 pm	Wedding
Sun	24	8.00 am	Holy Communion
EASTER 7		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	26	10.00 am	Gardening Group
Wed	27	10.00 am	Holy Communion (<i>at St Nicolas</i>)
Thu	28	2.45 pm	Mothers' Union
		4.00 pm	Magazine Collation
Fri	29	4.15 pm	"Reflections" Prayer Group

Sun 31 8.00 am Holy Communion
PENTECOST 10.30 am Matins (*Sun Club in church room*)
3.30 pm *Churches Together in Dorset*
(Service at Wimborne Minster –
Pr: Gen Sec to *Churches Together in England*)
6.00 pm **No** Evening Prayer here



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.

CHRISTIAN AID – A reminder that *Christian Aid Week* takes place from 10th to 16th May this year. Volunteers are need for the Sponsored Walk on Saturday, 9th May and the Street Collection a week later on Saturday, 16th May. If you would like to volunteer or obtain further information please ring Norman Dyer on 767568. *Quizaid*, a social gathering to include a Quiz and Ploughman’s Supper, is on Friday, 15th May; tickets £5, all proceeds to Christian Aid (see article on page 4).

MOTHERS’ UNION – This month’s meeting takes place on *Thursday 28th May at 2.45 pm in Committee Room part of the Church Hall.*



NEED HELP TO PASS EXAMS?

Registered Teacher offers tuition in Maths and Science
to all levels. Telephone 07957743464

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF ROTARY

The Rotary Club of Poole Bay is celebrating 25 years of service during 2009. Formed in 1984, when members met at the Halfway Hotel (now the Grasshopper) in Bournemouth Rd (Poole), the Club now meets at the Riviera Hotel (Alum Chine) – so Poole Bay has become a very apt name for an organisation which has links with both Poole and Bournemouth.

Poole Bay Rotary Club is part of an international organisation with 1.2 million members worldwide. The Rotary motto, "*Service above Self*" carries a daily reminder to members of the underlying ethic of offering personal, practical service. It is for this reason that Rotary is so active in the local community.

Over the years members have helped to build a replacement "*Dolphin*" (the boat which takes people with disabilities on trips around Poole Harbour), provided job interview practice to pupils in local schools (500 students last year), taken disadvantaged children for a day out at Paultons Park (every year since 1993), raised nearly £24,000 through a series of charity golf days.

It's not only the local community that receives assistance. Since 1986 Rotary internationally has raised over \$650m to help eradicate Polio, with reported cases down from 300,000 to around 1,000 per year. Annually the Rotary Club of Poole Bay collects shoeboxes of Christmas gifts for less fortunate children overseas. Last year we contributed over 600 to the 20,000 collected by other Clubs in the region. While we've provided all this practical help, we've also raised over £214,000 during our first 25 years!

If you would like to find out more about Rotary and in particular what the Rotary Club of Poole Bay has and will be doing in the future, phone Alun Williams (520965) and ask for a copy of our 25th Anniversary brochure.

HOME ALONE



What do housewives in Britain do these days? Surf the internet, it seems. Research has found that housewives spend nearly half their free time on the internet - which is more than the national average of most other countries. Housewives spend more time surfing the net (47%) than even students and the unemployed. They may be looking for new friends: on average, apparently 25% of our friends are 'online only friends'. Over half of us have gone on to actually meet someone we first met online.



LET SLEEPING TEENAGERS LIE-IN!



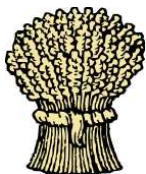
Next time your teenager sleeps and sleeps... and sleeps... let them. They really do need it in order to function at their best. Recent research has found that teenagers who spend more time in bed have much better concentration levels in school, and behave better in the classroom. It also found that the brains of young people perform better after 11 am in the morning. As one researcher put it, *"Teenagers aren't lazy. We're depriving them of the sleep they really need through biological factors beyond their control. We are making teenagers ratty by getting them up early..."* and really, who wants a ratty teenager around?



Q: What's the difference between an investment banker and a pigeon?

A: The pigeon is still capable of leaving a deposit on a new Ferrari.

ROGATION SUNDAY – 17TH MAY



Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather. The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil.

About 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century, and became a fixed and perennial asking for help from the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along.

At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation was said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. In the days when maps were neither common nor accurate, there was much to be said for 'beating the bounds' - still very common as late as the reign of Queen Victoria. Certainly parish boundaries rarely came into dispute, for everyone knew them.

PAINTINGS HELP FUND HISTORIC CHURCHES



An art exhibition depicting some of the UK's most historic churches has been opened to raise money for the upkeep of the churches. The "Twelve Churches" exhibition features paintings and limited edition prints by Gerard Stamp. All of the works are available for sale to the public and any funds raised will go to the Churches Conservation Trust.

Some of the churches depicted include St Mary the Virgin in Shrewsbury, which is over 1,000 years old and was attended by Charles Darwin during his school days. Another featured church is St Andrew, Covehithe in Suffolk, the tower of which is used by sailors to navigate the coast to this very day.

The churches shown at the exhibition, as with all CCT-held churches, are no longer used for worship. Some lie unused but the CCT is aiming to open them up for use by the community as nurseries and concert halls. Just last week, the government released a report in collaboration with the Church of England which suggested that churches looking for funding should adapt their buildings to be used by the whole community, rather than just worshippers.



BENEFITS

"Just what good have you ever done for anyone?" asked the judge of the serial offender with some exasperation. "Burglary, arson, theft, trespass... you've been nothing but a burden on society for years." "Not at all" replied the serial offender with some indignation. "For one thing, I've kept several policemen in full-time employment."

GOD, GUNS, GANGS

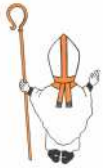
Mentoring, nurturing talent and churches committed to building dedicated, youth-focused teams were some of the solutions that came out of God, Guns, Gangs, a conference for urban youth workers held at The Oasis Centre in London.

Youth workers and church leaders listened to young people with backgrounds in urban culture and together discussed what would divert young people from youth violence and gangs. Many of the suggestions are already being put into practice through Oasis.

Keynote speaker, Leroy Logan, who was awarded an MBE for his work as a police officer in developing community and race relations, said the faith sector must be part of the solution. He urged churches to *"know young people's culture, understand what media are influencing them. Get out there and find the talent in young people and nurture it. Let young people know they can change their environment – they don't have to become part of it"*. Steve Chalke, founder of Oasis Global added: *"Crime reduction should never be the sole motivation for giving your time to developing young people – they need to feel they belong, that they are in community"*.

Simon Hughes, MP for North Southwark and Bermondsey, said: *"From primary school, every youngster should have a mentor who has something in common with them, whether computers or sport, who stays with them until secondary school so they build up an association with that person. They will be like an extra parent, supporter or god-parent. Secondly, from the age of 14 it's really important that young people start to do some sort of real work experience, because they may have come from a family where the parents don't work at all and this can really change their outlook."*

CATHOLICS APPOINT NEW LEADER

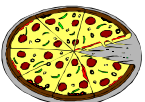


The Most Rev Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Birmingham has been appointed to succeed Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor as head of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales. He was born in Crosby, Merseyside and trained at the English College in Rome.

Archbishop Nichols, 63, is said to have been personally chosen for the post by Pope Benedict XVI after returning from his trip to Africa last month. The Pope's intervention came following the failure of the Congregation of Bishops to choose a successor. In March a number of leading bishops sent a letter to the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Faustino Sainz Munoz, saying that Archbishop Nichols was a "*divisive*" figure. Some have also criticised him for his perceived ambition but he has always claimed that he was "*ambitious for God*".

In 2003 Archbishop Nichols claimed that parts of the BBC, especially the news and current affairs sections were pursuing an anti-Catholic agenda. He was also able to force the BBC to withdraw the controversial series *Popetown*, which many viewed as offensive to Roman Catholics. Archbishop Nichols was also successful in blocking attempts by the government to force faith schools to accept more students from non-faith backgrounds.

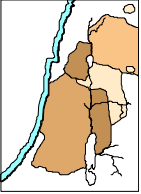
The Archbishop is also seen as tough on dealing with allegations of child abuse by clergymen. In 2000 Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor was criticised for allegedly failing to report a Catholic priest who had abused children.



Q: What's the difference between an investment banker and a large pizza? **A:** The pizza can still feed a family of four.

CHILDREN OF THE BIBLE

DANIEL



Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, were Israelite teenagers when they were captured by the Babylonian army and taken to Babylon. There their names were changed, they were given a strict Babylonian education and every effort was made to make them forget Israel and Israel's God but from the beginning these four teenagers were determined they would not compromise their faith. They asked to be excused from eating the prescribed meals because they had been offered to Babylon's gods. Instead they choose to live on vegetables and water. After a trial period they looked better and performed better academically than those eating 'the king's rich food'

They had faced their first test and came through it triumphantly. Their second test came some time later. Refusing to bow down and worship Babylon's gods when they heard the sound of music, Daniel's three friends were thrown into a roaring furnace. The Babylonish king Nebuchadnezzar was astounded when the furnace doors were opened and the three Israelites stepped out alive and not even the smell of fire upon them. Again their deep faith in Israel's God had brought them through.

Daniel's wisdom and wise counsels were such that he was raised to high office but his enemies were busy. During a thirty-day period in which all prayers were to be offered to King Darius, Daniel continued his daily devotions to Yahweh, the God of his fathers. Thrown into a den of lions, he was protected by God's power and even King Darius admitted that Yahweh was the one, true God.

The strong faith of Daniel and his three friends preserved them from teenage years through to old age.

SUNDAY READINGS IN MAY

Sunday 3rd May – Easter 4

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18

The Lord instructs Noah how to prepare for the flood. When it comes, Noah, his family and all the animals are saved from drowning by entering the ark.

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 4.5-12

When he is charged by the High Priest, Peter gives credit for healing the sick to Jesus, the crucified and risen Christ who is the only means of salvation.

GOSPEL: John 10.11-18

Jesus presents himself as the true and faithful shepherd of a universal flock who knows his voice and for whom he will lay down his life.

Sunday 10th May – Easter 5

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 8.26-end

The Ethiopian official is eager to understand the scriptures. He is instructed by Philip and is then baptised.

NEW TESTAMENT: John 15.1-8

Jesus uses the familiar image of the vine to signify the covenant of faith between God and Jesus' disciples.

Sunday 17th May – Easter 6

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 55.1-11

God's covenant is presented as a universal promise, touching not only Israel but also other nations who will be drawn by the example of Israel's life.

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 10.44-end

As Peter addressed the people in the house of the Roman captain, they, who were gentiles received the Holy Spirit and were baptised in the name of Jesus.

GOSPEL: John 15.9-17

Jesus tells his disciples that to love is to risk one's life for friends, to enact Christ's commandments, to go out and bear fruit for Christ by loving one another.

Sunday 24th May – Easter 7

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 1.15-17, 21-end

The apostles prayed to God for guidance in choosing a replacement for Judas in order to fulfil the scripture and the word of God.

NEW TESTAMENT: John 17.6-19

Jesus asks God to protect his disciples after he is gone because they believe he has been sent from God and they accept the words that God gave him.

Sunday 31st May – Pentecost

OLD TESTAMENT: Ezekiel 37.1-14

Ezekiel's vision depicts God's will and capacity to revive Israel's flagging hope and courage, thereby restoring her stature and prosperity.

NEW TESTAMENT: Acts 2.1-21

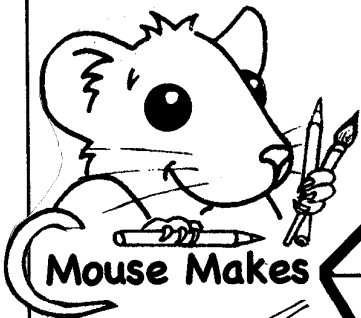
On the day of Pentecost Joel's prophecy came to pass that the people would be filled with the Holy Spirit and would be saved by the Lord.



AS CLEAN AS A WHISTLE



'As clean as a whistle' is known to mean bright, shiny and spotless. It could also mean untarnished in the sense of getting away from something 'as clean as a whistle'. There are several suggestions for the root to this phrase. One is a bright shiny locomotive with its polished brass whistle. Others point to a freshly carved wooden whistle or to the sound a shining sword makes as it swishes through the air.



Mouse Makes

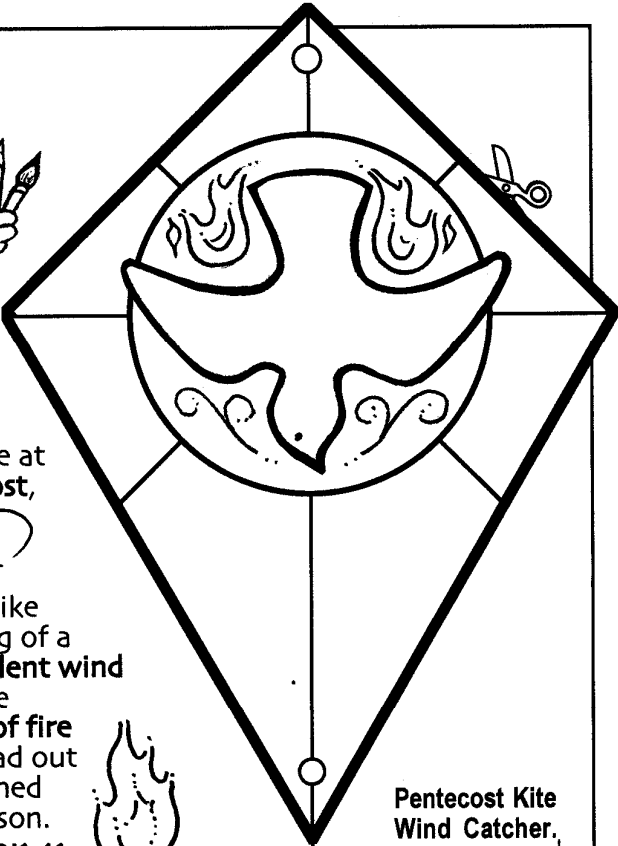
When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, there was a noise from the sky which sounded like the blowing of a violent wind and what looked like



tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person.



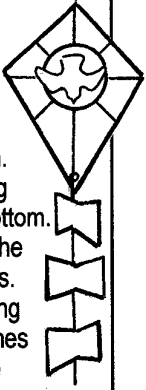
Read Acts 2:1-41



The Holy Spirit lives with us and lives in us.	The Holy Spirit helps us to know we belong to God
The Holy Spirit teaches us about God	The Holy Spirit speaks God's word to us
The Holy Spirit helps us to tell others about Jesus	The Holy Spirit helps us when we pray

Pentecost Kite Wind Catcher.

Stick the kite to card. Cut out and colour in. Tie string to the bottom. Cut out the bows. Fold along dotted lines and glue around the string. Hang near a window to catch the breeze.



FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS

April 3rd
April 17th

Sheila Mary O'BRIEN (75)
Mary Dean 'Mollie' STEEL (96)



ALTAR FLOWERS

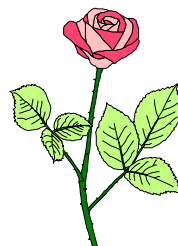
May 3rd
May 10th
May 17th
May 24th
May 31st

Transfiguration

Mrs A Davis
Mrs A Davis
Mrs M Willis
Mrs M Willis
Mrs S King &
Mrs V Roy

St Nicolas

Mrs C Adams
Mrs R Walker
Mrs R Walker
Mrs C Adams
Mrs C Adams



*Offer to fetch,
Offer to carry,
Offer to lend a hand.
Offer to listen,
Offer to stay,
Offer time
to understand.*



DEADLINE

The deadline for the **June** edition of
the Church Magazine is 10.00 am on
Wednesday, **20th May 2009**