



Ledbury and Eastnor Parish Magazine APRIL 2017

RIDING LIGHTS—This well-known Christian Theatre Company will be performing *Crosslight* in St Michael's on the 11th and 12th of April at 7.30pm. They are always thoroughly entertaining, presenting the gospel story in a thought-provoking way while staying true to the scriptural story. *Crosslight* draws us into the dramatic events of Christ's Passion and into the experience of one disciple who failed, despite everything he believed so passionately.

Apart from the enjoyment you will derive from this professional production, this is a wonderful opportunity to introduce friends to a gripping and highly original interpretation of the events of Holy Week.

Tickets cost £10 for adults and £5 for under 16s and may be obtained from the Group Office on 01531 631531 or from David Kirkham or Ruth Wragg. Group rates are available. Posters and fliers are available at the back of church or from Heather Lucas on 01531 634948.

Marathon Man - Pleased as I was to be asked to write this article on my running the London Marathon in April, I did afterwards think to myself:
"Do they really want to hear move about this?" Still, it's more about why I'm doing it than anything else.

Well I'm doing it in memory of my mother who died on 22nd April last year—the marathon is on 23rd April (but that is coincidence, albeit a rather poignant one for me—I hadn't thought of it when I applied to run). Equally I am doing it to raise money for the National Osteoporosis Society—my mother suffered terribly from this disease. I have been amazed at the generosity of support

I've received from you all—and also I've been grateful for the gentle concerns that some have expressed, which I've taken on board. Can I complete the marathon? The honest answer is "I don't know" - training has been hugely difficult with all my other commitments. If I achieve it though, it won't have been without more than a little help from above.

Sponsorship forms are available at the back of church.

William Simmonds

Church Officers

Clergy - Rector:	Revd. Keith Hilton-Turvey	(07796 585407)
Others:	Revd. William Simmonds	(01531 635796)
	Revd. Tony Hodder	(01531 636840)
Churchwardens:	Lois Pratt (01531 636849), Christine Bainton (01531 636036)	
PCC Secretary:	Alan Pratt (01531 636849)	
Treasurer:	Bruce Wragg (01531 670196)	
Office Secretary:	Sarah Williams (Tel. 01531 631531, Email: ledbury.ministry@talktalk.net)	

For further information look on the church web site (www.ledburyparishchurch.org.uk) or ring the church office.

APCM. The Annual Church meeting was held on 30th March at 7.30pm.

Wardens, Deputy Church Wardens, Deanery Synod representatives and a whole new PCC were elected. We heard what has been happening in the church and what is planned and made our views known.

Helpers are required for a number of activities including:

Bell Ringing (contact Tim Keyes (thkeyes28@hotmail.com) (07577 720154 / 01531 579021.

Welcoming and acting as sides people at occasional Sunday services
(contact the Churchwardens)

Church watching stewards for two hours a week (either each week or less often),
please contact Anne Tattersall (632021).

*If any one has an item for inclusion in a future issue of the magazine,
please contact John Lindeck (01531 631329, john.lindeck@btopenworld.com).*

Young Church - The leadership team has recently undergone some changes:

we were sad to say goodbye to Bev Jones and Anne Tindall just before Christmas but have been very pleased to welcome Julia Warren. Gwen and David Kirkham have also sadly had to cease their regular sessions. Thank you to all of them for their commitment and enthusiasm over the years.

Over the next few weeks we have a busy programme of activities, including preparations for the Mothering Sunday Service. We will be joining with Mothers' Union to make up posies, writing prayers and taking an active part in the Service itself, which the children always enjoy. Young Church will also be serving coffee and cakes after the service.

We will be planning Easter activities, hopefully taking part in the service on Easter Sunday morning and, of course, there will be the fun of the Easter Egg Hunt after the Service.

Jill Jupp

Visit to Lee Abbey—In March five members of our Home Fellowship Group spent four days at Lee Abbey, Lynton, in Devon. Bishop John Pritchard was our speaker for the week, on the subject of prayer. He is a gentle man of God and spoke clearly with a lovely sense of humour and was very encouraging. We walked along the coast path, or on the beach, or in the woods, even seeing porpoises and seals in the bay. We worshipped together with the 70 guests from all over the country, and we shared our stories over the many wonderful meals. On Ash Wednesday we shared the Lord's Supper including 'Ashing'. Maybe a bigger party next year? I have left some Lee Abbey brochures at the back of Church.

Joan Wakeling

Llangasty 2017—The Quiet Weekend is always a special time and this year was no exception. **“Soul Spark: Letting God Inflamm Our Lives”** was led by Revd Nick Helm. We were encouraged to explore our spirituality and our relationship with God by praying with scripture and images of God in art and poetry, looking at ourselves and what God sees when He looks at us. After each session with Nick, we split into small “listening groups” to share our thoughts and experiences. Altogether it was an enlightening and challenging time, which I found to be one of our most helpful retreats I have been on.

The peace, serenity and beauty of Llangasty with the lake and the mountains, the sound of the birds and care of Janet and her staff at the retreat house makes this a very special place. If you have not tried the Llangasty weekend, do give it some thought for next year; it is a great place to draw close to God.

Heather Lucas

Eastnor News

We had the first of our special PCC meetings to discuss the recent Quinquennial report on the state our buildings. All the issues marked **‘urgent’** have been taken in hand but essential repair to the church tower remain prominently on the **‘to do’** list, awaiting our next meeting. We have a gardening session planned to tidy up the churchyard and to tackle the climbing ivy which is unfortunately damaging some of the masonry.

There is fund-raising event planned for the evening of Friday, 21st April. We are arranging a quiz night to be held in the pavilion at Eastnor Cricket Club. If anyone would like to form a St Michael’s team (or maybe teams), please give Joan Wakeling or me a ring. Each team has 4 members. There is no cost to enter, but donations towards our essential repairs will be sought hat the end of the evening.

A warm welcome always awaits anyone of you should you wish to visit us one Sunday. Our services take place 11.15am on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. We look forward to seeing you.

Beverly Jones - Churchwarden (01531 636378)

Sponsored Poetry Reading (Monday, 3rd July to Friday, 7th July)

Entitled “Summoned by Bells”, this 15 hour poetry reading, will spread over 10 sessions (lunchtime and early evening) during the Ledbury Poetry Festival and has two key aims: (1) to use the church building as part of a major community event and (2) to raise money to improve our church building and its use in the community. Please choose a favourite poem and fill our the leaflet that you have either received already or which you can pick up at the back of church or from the office. Details of how to sponsor are in the leaflet. If you are prepared to help in any way (e.g. With refreshments or as a steward), please contact Tim Keyes (thkeyes28@hotmail.com / 07577 720154).

Concerts in Church

Free organ recitals on the 3rd Monday of each month, at 12.30pm

April 17th (Easter Monday) - Phillip Holland

May 15th—Peter Johnson

June 19th—Malcolm Macleod

Saturday 8th April, 7.30pm—Mendelssohn's Elijah sung by Ledbury and Newant Choral Societies.

Saturday 8th July, 12.30pm—Shakespeare in song and sonnet (Jane Field, Elaine Fleming and Philip Holland).

Men’s breakfast. The next event will be held at the Severn Stars Hotel in the Homend on Saturday 29th April at 9.15am for 9.30am. Further details later but please book the date in your diary.

Rector's Letter

As happens around this time each year, the clocks have gone forward. It's a time of new things, fresh starts.

We've got quite a few new things going on over the next month:

The pilot CAP Money Management Course, which can be of benefit to us all.

Riding Lights Theatre Company presenting their passion play, **Crosslight**.

The 24 hour prayer vigil starting on Maundy Thursday.

A new 4pm service on the fourth Sunday of the month, starting on 26th March. It will have a different feel to our morning service, with a lighter liturgy which will be projected and the opportunity for all present to participate in conversation and prayer. The theme for the first five will be 'Journey with Jesus', beginning with 'New Life in Christ'.

For more information on what will be going on, please keep your eye on the weekly pew sheet and on our website.

As happens around this time each year, we remember what happened to Jesus, His death and wonderful resurrection. He brought about a new spring that no-one else could. His dying brought about such a positive outcome we call that terrible day Good. Why? Let me quote a cartoonist who explained it like this:

"I hate the term 'Good Friday'."

"Why?"

"My Lord Jesus was killed on that day."

"If you were going to be hanged and He volunteered to take your place, how would you feel?"

"Good."

"Have a nice day."

Have a Good Friday and enjoy the new life Jesus brings on Easter Day.

Happy Easter!

Keith Hilton-Turvey

'I know whom I believed...' (2 Timothy 1:12)

I grew up in a Christian home. From the age of 9, I made countless decisions to 'live for Christ' but, for me, Christianity seemed to be an immense effort and a long list of 'dos' and 'don't s'.

In my mid to late teens, I began to question the Christian way of life and consider possible alternatives. Yet, how could I make an informed decision about the path life should take, when all I had ever known was a sheltered Christian upbringing?

To add to my dilemma, there were boundaries (put in place by my parents), which limited any opportunity to discover what the world have to offer.

Consequently, you can imagine my excitement when my parents agreed to me spending a week in Paris with a group of friends! The Easter sixth form trip was organised to enhance our French studies, but I was far more interested in the 'liberté' it would give me to explore a new and enticing world.

To my disappointment, however, I found no satisfaction in any of the entertainments I'd been looking forward to. Amidst all the revelry, I became aware of a gnawing emptiness, which prevented me from joining in. On the final night, after we returned from an evening in Versailles, I silently crept into my bed, hid beneath the covers and wept in the darkness. There and then, in that little hostel room, I was deeply and powerfully convicted of sin. Most poignant of all, was a desperate realisation of my rebellion against a Holy God.

I am so thankful for my meeting with God that night. It led me to repent of my sin—which allowed the Holy Spirit to apply the cleansing blood of Jesus and begin to change my life. There definitely was a transformation, even in the early stages. So many things, which had previously been a duty or a chore, became a delight to me—prayer and bible reading being just two examples.

Looking back now, I thank God that nobody was standing by, all those years ago, to 'help' me with worldly wisdom: "*You're probably just over-tired and homesick, you'll feel better in the morning,*" or "*Don't be so hard on yourself! You've been so conditioned by your upbringing that you've never learned to relax and let yourself go.*" I firmly believe that, if I had heeded these well-meaning words of advice, it would have kept me outside the kingdom of God.

29 years and 'many dangers, toils and snares' later, I can testify to God's great faithfulness and love; His infinite grace and mercy and His unfailing strength—made perfect in weakness.

Julia Warren

**At the 10.30 service on 5th March Diane Lindeck asked to contribute.
It was later requested that a written version of her talk appear in the magazine.**

On Ash Wednesday afternoon I met a girl and started talking to her. She told me she was a Christian living in Ledbury but worshipping over the hill. I asked if she had tried St Michael's and was told that she started coming twelve years ago but found so much division and criticism that she could not stay!!! In the evening at the 'Ashing' service, we were challenged about **Judgement** (all have fallen sort of God's standards), **Forgiveness** (Father, forgive me for they know not what they do) and **Love** (A new commandment I give unto you. Love one another as I have loved you).

As a teenage Christian in an evangelical church, I was told that Christians did not wear make up or, for example, go to the cinema. They were called to ministry, mission work, the medical profession or teaching. Anything else was a lesser life. How things have changed. Even Peter found it difficult to accept that Jesus died for Gentiles as well as Jews.

Nowhere is this change more evident than in our services. The first communion was a simple meal of bread and wine. How did we get to where we are today? Services were all BCP and Holy Communion was a once a monthly event in the main services. Now we have huge variety as we react to today's environment. We prefer some formats but we can worship God using any of them. The essential thing is that we preach Jesus, living, dead and risen for our salvation. The important thing is that we worship together in love and fellowship. All must be made welcome and feel a part of what is going on.

There is a wonderful saying, 'If you ever find the perfect church, don't join it. You'll spoil it'. Friends of ours spent months locating a church where they felt at home. They bought a house in the parish and within six months of their arrival, the rector left and everything changed. Fortunately they settled down and still happily worship there today.

My prayer is that people in Ledbury will say of the congregation of St Michael's:
'How those Christians love each other' and come to find out why.

Diane Lindeck

**St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury and St John the Baptist, Eastnor
Services during April 2017**

Sunday 2nd April **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Communion with Prayer Ministry
6.30pm Evensong

Sunday 9th April **Palm Sunday**

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
(Begins at 9.10am in St Katherine's Hall Car Park)
11.15am Eastnor Parish Communion

Thursday 13th April **Maundy Thursday**

7.30pm Holy Communion followed by the Watch

Friday 14th April **Good Friday**

10.00am March of Witness from the Baptist Church
10.30am Service under the Market House
2.00pm Hour at the Cross

Sunday 16th April **Easter Day**

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
11.15am Eastnor Easter Communion
6.30pm Easter Evening Praise

Sunday 23rd April **Second Sunday of Easter**

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
11.15am Eastnor Parish Communion
4.00pm New Worship Service

Sunday 30th April **Third Sunday of Easter**

8.00am BCP Holy Communion
9.30am Parish Communion with Prayer Ministry
6.30pm Iona Service

Friday Morning Communion: while St Katharine's Chapel is being maintained, this service will be held at 10.30am at Harling Court. All are welcome.