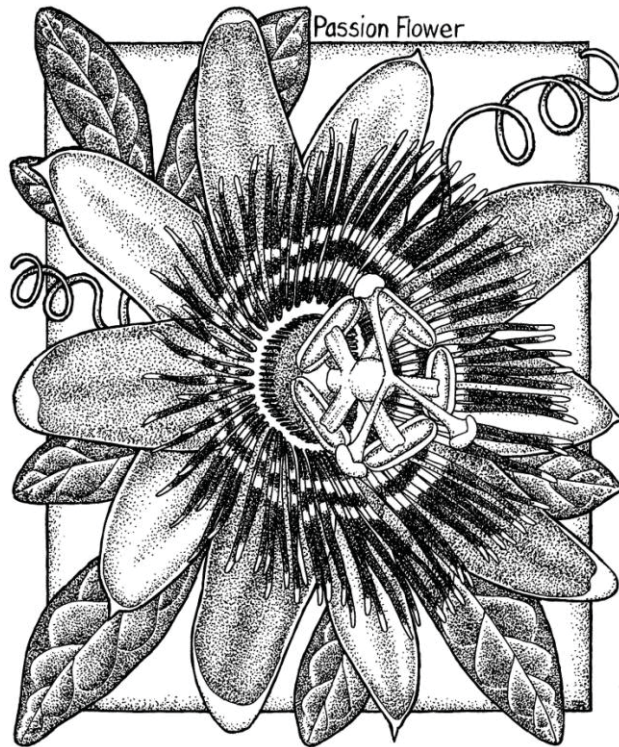


FOREST FIRE



April 2017

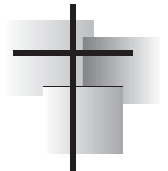


MAGAZINE

for the

Mid-Wyedean Churches

All Saints, Newland; All Saints, Staunton; Good Shepherd, Broadwell;
St John, Coleford; St Peter, Clearwell & St Saviour, Redbrook



Mid-Wyedean Churches Service times:

Sunday 9th April - Parish Eucharist for Palm Sunday, 10.30am at All Saints, Newland
Please Note - This is the only Service in the Parish and will be followed by the APCM

St John's @ St Margaret Mary, Coleford:

9.30am Eucharist 2nd & 16th April
9.30am Service of the Word 23rd & 30th April

All Saints Newland:

4.00pm Eucharist 16th April
9.30pm Eucharist 19th April

All Saints Staunton:

4.00pm Evening Service 2nd April
9.30am Eucharist 23rd April

Good Shepherd Broadwell:

11am Baptism 2nd April
11am Eucharist 16th, 23rd & 30th April

St Peter's Clearwell:

11am Baptism 2nd April
11am Eucharist 16th April
11am Service of the Word 23rd & 30th April

St Saviour's Redbrook:

4pm Eucharist 23rd April

The Service of the Word is a non-Eucharistic service which will sometimes include a Baptism.

Service times may vary so please visit our website for up to date details:

www.mid-wyedeanchurches.co.uk

The vicar writes...

As I write this, we are looking forward to (and frantically preparing for) the 'Sharing Heritage' project open day, and Bishop Rachel's visit to our new premises in St John's Street for the official opening of 'Church on the Street'. We had the unexpected chance to combine these events, and took it! It promises to be a weekend combining celebrating the past with building the future.

The 'Sharing Heritage' project is a way of celebrating the deep and close ties that people have with the building, the memories of both special and everyday events that have taken place there, the highs and lows of our personal and family lives and community tragedy and celebration, all across the 137 years of the history of this particular building.

'Church on the Street' is our new parish office and meeting room right in the heart of Coleford, incorporating King of Kings Christian bookshop. We plan to use this as a base for the administrative functions of church life, and for community activities and events to serve local people. If you have any ideas of we could do from there, do let us know, otherwise watch this space for coming activities and events.

As you read this, we will be approaching Passiontide and Holy Week - the most solemn time in the Christian year, and I would urge you to join us in the various services and events that are planned for that special time - they are advertised elsewhere in this magazine.

Holy Week is also a time of building on the promises of the past towards a wonderful, even unexpected, future.

The journey through death and resurrection that the long-awaited Messiah took was not what people had expected from the promised-one of God. And yet it was the best thing that has happened, not only for his own people, but for all people. It is our hope and prayer that through The Church on the Street we can help and serve not only people who might already think of themselves as having a connection to church, but also all people who need 'that living water' that only Christ can give.



COLEFORD CHURCHES

(the News Sheet of Coleford Churches)

COMING EVENTS

If you have any exciting events planned and would like them mentioned on these pages please contact me either by phone or e-mail. Information below.

- April**
- Saturday 1 Jumble Sale at Great Oaks Hospice, from 10.00 am.
- Monday 3 Singing for the Brain, 1st & 3rd Monday of every month 11.00 am until 12.30 pm at Main Place, Coleford. Run by Alzheimer's Society for people with any form of Dementia and their carers.
- Tuesday 4 CAMEO meet at Good Shepherd from 2.30 pm.
- Tuesday 4 Lent Reflections at Christchurch Church, 7.00 pm.
- Wednesday 5 Walk for Health Initiative, start 10.15 - 10.30 am approx 1 hour, more details contact Chris Howell 836813..
- Wednesday 5 **NO** Active Balance Class at Coalway Methodist Church (Weekly omitting the first Wed in the month).
- Wednesday 5 "Meet and Eat" (Staunton house group) at White Horse, Staunton. Open to all (12 noon. Cost: £5 soup & roll tea/coffee.)
- Thursday 6 Craft Club meet at Good Shepherd 1.30 - 3.30 pm.
- Thursday 6 House group meets at 21 Boxbush Road, 7.30 pm.
- Sunday 9 **United Parish service for Palm Sunday at All Saints, Newland, 10.30 am, APCM immediately following service.**
- Monday 10 Coleford Baptist Church, Coffee Break, 10.30-12 noon, need a lift then contact Maureen Etherington on 836303. (Meet on 2nd Monday of month.) Free tea/coffee and biscuits & warm welcome.
- Monday 10 Joint service of Reflection with the Roman Catholic Congregation at St Margaret Mary Church, 7.30 pm.
- Wednesday 12 Walk for Health Initiative, start 10.15 - 10.30 am approx 1 hour, more details contact Chris Howell 836813.
- Wednesday 12 Active Balance Class at Coalway Methodist Church (Weekly omitting the first in the month), 10.30 am - 12.00 noon.
- Wednesday 12 "Meet and Eat" (Staunton house group) at White Horse, Staunton. Open to all (12 noon. Cost: £5 soup & roll tea/coffee.)
- Thursday 13 "All Together Now" - Home Communion 2nd Thursday each month at 2.30 pm, Community Room, Tufthorn Close. All welcome.
- Thursday 13 **No Craft Club at Good Shepherd.**
- Thursday 13 Maundy Thursday Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar at Good Shepherd, Broadwell, 7.30 pm.
- Friday 14 Good Shepherd, an hour at the Cross, 2.00 pm.
- Saturday 15 Coffee and chat morning at St Margaret Mary's Hall, 10.00 am to 12 noon, no charge, no raffle, all welcome. (3rd Saturday of month.)
- Saturday 15 Easter Vigil Eucharist, St Saviour, Redbrook, 7.30 pm.
- Sunday 16 Easter Sunday
- Monday 17 CARNIVAL OF TRANSPORT IN COLEFORD - ALL DAY**
- Monday 17 Easter Monday Cake Stall at The Parish Office, Coleford.
- Tuesday 18 CAMEO meet at Good Shepherd from 2.30 pm.
- Wednesday 19 Walk for Health Initiative, start 10.15 - 10.30 am approx 1 hour, more details contact Chris Howell 836813.
- Wednesday 19 Active Balance Class at Coalway Methodist Church (Weekly omitting the first in the month), 10.30 am - 12.00 noon.
- Wednesday 19 "Meet and Eat" (Staunton house group) at White Horse, Staunton. Open to all (12 noon. Cost: £5 soup & roll tea/coffee.)
- Thursday 20 Craft Club meet at Good Shepherd 1.30 - 3.30 pm.
- Thursday 20 Newnham Wardrobe Fashion Show, The Club Newnham, doors open 6.00 pm, show starts 7.00pm, ticket £5 to include glass of wine or fruit juice, supporting Great Oaks Hospice.

- Thursday 20 "Hot Potato Night" at White Horse, Staunton, 7.30 pm (3rd Thurs), food and discussion group, all welcome.
- Friday 21 Dave Roberts Memorial Charity Golf Day in aid of Great Oaks Hospice at Forest Hills Golf Club, Mile End Road, Coleford, see website for details. Raffle tickets available from The Hospice.
- Saturday 22 Book launch of "None so blind" a crime novel by Alis Hawkins at Angus Buchanan Pavilion, 6.00 pm find out more at www.AlisHawkins.co.uk, Facebook - AlisHawkinsAuthor.
- Wednesday 26 Walk for Health Initiative, start 10.15 - 10.30 am approx 1 hour, more details contact Chris Howell 836813.
- Wednesday 26 Active Balance Class at Coalway Methodist Church (Weekly omitting the first in the month), 10.30 am - 12.00 noon.
- Wednesday 26 "Meet and Eat" (Staunton house group) at White Horse, Staunton. Open to all (12 noon. Cost: £5 soup & roll tea/coffee.)
- Thursday 27 Craft Club meet at Good Shepherd 1.30 - 3.30 pm.
- Thursday 27 House group meets at 21 Boxbush Road, 7.30 pm.
- Friday 28 Friday Lunch Club meets at St Margaret Mary's RC Church Hall, details from 01291 625013. (Last Friday of month.)
- Saturday 29 Monthly Charity Coffee Morning at Coalway Methodist Church Hall 10.30 am, all welcome.
- Saturday 29 Mustard Tree at St John's Academy, 4.30 to 6.30 pm, open to all families, organised by Mid Wyedean Churches, fun and food.

May

- Monday 1 Singing for the Brain, 1st & 3rd Monday of every month 11.00 am until 12.30 pm at Main Place, Coleford. Run by Alzheimer's Society for people with any form of Dementia and their carers.
- Tuesday 2 CAMEO meet at Good Shepherd from 2.30 pm.
- Wednesday 3 Great Oaks Hospice, Open Coffee Morning, 10.00-12 noon, coffee and chat, for more information 01594 811910.
- Wednesday 3 Walk for Health Initiative, start 10.15 - 10.30 am approx 1 hour, more details contact Chris Howell 836813.
- Wednesday 3 **NO** Active Balance Class at Coalway Methodist Church (Weekly omitting the first Wed in the month).
- Wednesday 3 "Meet and Eat" (Staunton house group) at White Horse, Staunton. Open to all (12 noon. Cost: £5 soup & roll tea/coffee.)
- Thursday 4 Craft Club meet at Good Shepherd 1.30 - 3.30 pm.
- Thursday 4 House group meets at 21 Boxbush Road, 7.30 pm.
- Saturday 6 Good Shepherd plant and cake stall with refreshments.
- Monday 8 Coleford Baptist Church, Coffee Break, 10.30-12 noon, need a lift then contact Maureen Etherington on 836303. (Meet on 2nd Monday of month.) Free tea/coffee and biscuits & warm welcome.
- Sun/Sat 14/20 **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**
- Saturday 20 Christian Aid Plant Sale at Coalway Methodist Church, 10.00 am to 12 noon.
- Friday 19 FODDC Chairman's Charity Dinner. at Great Oaks Hospice.

THE NEXT DEADLINE DATE FOR MAGAZINE ARTICLES WILL BE ON THE 20th MAY

REMEMBER: If you belong to whatever church (or none) you are welcome to come to any of the services or events listed above.

TO ALL READERS/CHURCHES - PLEASE PASS ON ANY DATES OF SPECIAL SERVICES OR EVENTS THAT YOU WANT PUBLISHED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ROBERT RIVERS, HIS E.MAIL ADDRESS IS DETAILED BELOW.

This news sheet is produced by Robert Rivers - Tel No 836593 - rivers_robert@hotmail.com
 Produced by St John's Church, Coleford, on behalf of the Coleford Covenanting Churches.
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10 TIL 12 Cafe

Open on Tuesday and Friday
Drinks and a selection of homemade
cakes are available.

Home Cooked Food

served from 11:30 am to 1.30 pm
The Salvation Army, 43 North Rd,
Broadwell, GL16 7BX
salvationarmy-fod.org.uk

St Margaret Mary's Church Hall - High Nash

Busy Bees Parent/Carer Toddler Group

Sessions held every Wednesday at 9.30 - 11.00 am, activities for ages 0-5 years, £1 donation, all welcome.

Also

Friday Lunch Club, last Friday of every month.

Everyone is welcome is welcome, phone for details 01291 625013.

Family History Help Desk at Coleford Library

The help desk is no longer going to be at Coleford Library on the First Friday of the month, if anyone needs help please contact Chris Howell on 836813.

Coleford Baptist Church

Tiggys Parent And Toddlers Group

Meet Friday mornings from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm during term time. Only £1 per family. For further info contact Donna Saunders on 01594 832278 - colefordbaptists.org.

It is a chance for mums, dads, grandparents or carers to meet in the large hall, play and craft activities and offer drinks for the adults, fruit and milk for the children.

"MUSTARD TREE" AT ST JOHN'S C OF E ACADEMY

- Bowens Hill Road, Coleford, the group meet for family fun faith and food. It is organised by members of Mid Wyedean Churches. They meet once a month on the school premises from 4.30 to 6.30 pm. It is open to all families and it is not necessary to belong to any church.

Little Angels - Parent and Toddler Group

Mount of Olives Church.

Tuesdays 10.30 am - 12.30 pm, in term time.

Coleford Book Group

3rd Tuesday of the month at members homes

for more information please ring Anita on Dean 835344

MITCHELDEAN YOUNG POETS' COMPETITION 2017



This year Mitcheldean Young Poets' Competition, working in partnership with Dean Forest Voice Junior Forest Bard and aiming to attract entries from all over the Forest and the surrounding region, has found a new collaborator in Dean Heritage Centre at Soudley.

They will be offering a series of poetry workshops in which after a morning of forest-related activities the young poets will be encouraged to shape their impressions and ideas into poems. These

will then be entered into the two competitions. For further information please contact joanne@deanheritagecentre.com - phone 01594 822170

Details for this year's Young Poets' Competition are as follows: poems may be on any topic (though only those of 'Forest' themes will be passed on to the 'Junior Forest Bard'). The preferred maximum length is up to 20 lines; closing date for applications 31st May 2017 with the winners to be announced at the end of June. There will be four age groups: 5-8; 9-11; 12-16 & 17-18 with prizes of £20, £10 & £5 for the first, second and third in each group. Prizewinners will be invited to read their poems and receive their prizes at the poetry recital to be held at Mitcheldean Library on Saturday 15th July as part of the Mitcheldean Fete & Folk Festival'. Entry forms can be obtained from the library and selected other local libraries or from the library website (see address below)

For further details contact John Livesey: 07974201434; or e-mail: website@gl17hub.org.

The egg that shares the Easter story



Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and makes a donation to charity from sales.

The Original Egg (£3.99) contains a 24 page Easter story-activity book, a high quality milk chocolate egg and a Yummy Bar.

The Dark Egg (£5.50) contains an egg made from premium dark Fairtrade chocolate with a dark Yummy Bar and a 24 page Easter story-activity book.

The Special Edition Egg (£8.50) contains a high quality milk chocolate egg, an Easter traditions booklet and orange milk chocolate bar.

To order please replay to this email or ring 01291 680346 or text 07709313267

Rachel Whittington

Traidcraft Fair Trader

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE AT MOUNT OF OLIVES CHURCH 3RD MARCH 2017

As usual everyone received a warm welcome at the Church, and we were treated to a heart warming, though provoking, service prepared by the women of the Philippines, led for us by Elaine Lambert. Followed by refreshments reflecting the country. Many thanks to all those who helped with the Service (42 women, 5 men and 2 children attended). £164.66 has been sent to further the work of the organisation.

The service in 2018 will be held at St Margaret Mary Church, Coleford, and please note that the time of the Service is being brought forward to 1.30pm to allow people to attend the Service, and then be able to collect children from schools.

LENT LUNCH AT GOOD SHEPHERD, BROADWELL FRIDAY 24TH MARCH.

This was a well attended event, 2 delicious soups, welsh cakes, biscuits, tea & coffee, thanks to Jean Smith, Jane McBean, Sarah Codd and Penny Rayner for all their hard work. Jane arranged a quiz and the prize was a huge fruit basket. Thanks to all who helped and those that came to make it such a success.

NEW MID WYEDEAN CHURCHES PARISH OFFICE IN COLEFORD

On a beautifully sunny Saturday morning (25th March) Bishop Rachel came to Coleford to officially open our new "Church on the Street" Benefice office, which shares the premises with the King of Kings, Christian bookshop. Chris Howell had archive photos being shown on his computer. A wonderful turn out and it was a delight to welcome Bishop Rachel and her husband to Coleford for the first time.

LIFE AFFECTED BY CANCER? LET CHARLIE'S HELP YOU.

Charlie's (A Community Interest Company for Charitable Purpose) Cancer Support Group - Supporting people with and post cancer. Free Holistic Therapies, friendship and support, relaxing atmosphere, tea, coffee and cake. Like minded people coming together.

Monthly group to be held on the last Friday of every month, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm at The Belfry Hotel, Littledean, contact Madelaine - 07773 200145 or Jo - 07786 547439
www.charlies.org.uk email - Charlies2014@yahoo.co.uk

CHRISTIAN AID DATES - PLEASE ADD TO YOUR DIARY:

Christian Aid Week - 14th to 20th May 2017 with Plant Sale at Coalway Methodist Church on 20th May, 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

Pudding Evening at Good Shepherd, 22nd June, from 6.30, come when you like and go when you like. (Cheese will be available for those who don't have a sweet tooth)



The Mid-Wyedean Churches

serving Coleford, Broadwell, Clearwell, Newland,
Redbrook, Staunton and surrounding areas.



Services for Holy Week

Monday 10th April	7.30pm Eucharist at All Saint's Church, Staunton
Tuesday 11th April	7.30pm Joint service of Reflection with the Roman Catholic Congregation at St Margaret Mary Church.
Wednesday 12th April	7.30pm Eucharist at St Peter's Church, Clearwell
Thursday 13th April	7.30pm Maundy Thursday Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar at the Good Shepherd, Broadwell.
Good Friday	2pm An hour at the Cross at the Good Shepherd 7.30pm Service of reflection and music
Easter Saturday	7.30pm Easter Vigil Eucharist at St Saviour Redbrook
Easter Day	9.30am Eucharist at St John's @ St Margaret Mary 11am Eucharist at The Good Shepherd, Broadwell 11am Eucharist at St Peter's Church, Clearwell 4pm Eucharist at All Saint's Church, Newland



April 2017



Engagement: Living out Christ's love and hope

Being advocates for human flourishing, through initiatives which combat injustice, environmental destruction, exclusion and isolation.

Bishop Rachel invited speakers to inspire and challenge MPs and guests at an event in the House of Lords to mark International Women's Day. The event was hosted in partnership with Christian Aid, Nelson Trust and Restored, to promote gender equality.

Muzoon Almellehan, an 18-year-old Syrian refugee spoke for the Malala Fund about the importance of prioritising girls' education. She said: "While I was in the refugee camp in Jordan, I went from tent to tent to tell parents that [their daughters] needed teachers, not husbands." She called on the UK government to increase support for education, especially for female refugees.



Niki Gould (left) from the Nelson Trust, a Gloucestershire-based organisation that supports disadvantaged women with complex, multiple needs said: "As a consequence of women going into prison, over 17,000 children are separated from their mothers each year. Over 80% of these women have committed a non-violent offence. It costs £45,000 to keep a woman in prison, we are paid £550 to support women in the community."

Christian Aid's Chief Executive Loretta Minghella said: "Christian Aid was delighted to partner with Bishop Rachel and with Restored, as together we seek to mobilise the faith community to challenge and change the discriminatory beliefs that lie at the root of gender inequality. Our voices have the power to transform people's experience of gender – especially for women and girls living in poverty – and to ensure they are shaped not by oppression, but by justice, dignity and hope."

Mandy Marshall, Co-Director of Restored said, "30% of women worldwide experience violence from their partner. Faith based organisations have great reach and influence at both national and local level in millions of communities across the globe. With the right support, we believe they have the potential to challenge the injustice of gender inequality and hasten the end of violence against women.

She ended with a challenge to each of us: "How is what I am doing affecting relationships? Am I giving all of who I am to empower and build others up or am I using the power that I have to diminish and dominate?"

At this time of Lent and Easter, we can all think of ways that we can promote the flourishing of others—what change will you make today?

Engagement: Investing in people and programmes, which excite young people to explore and grow in faith

Do you know young people who are passionate about fellow young people exploring and growing in the Christian faith? The Youth Priority Group, part of the Diocese of Gloucester's LIFE vision, are looking for two young people (aged 16-19) to be a vital part of this group. Young people will need to have a reference from a youth worker or someone in a position of authority in their church. Please contact Andy or Sharon Macaulay for more info andy@therock.uk.com, 01242 700700 as soon as possible.

Abundance: living life to the full in a rural community

Saturday 10 June, 10am to 4.15pm, Hartpury College

What does 'life to the full' look like in our rural communities? How can rural churches engage imaginatively in our rural communities and express our faith in ways that are life-giving?

The answer to these questions often needs a specific approach in the rural context. A different way of thinking about mission is necessary for it to be suitable for our villages and wider rural environment. For this reason, we have created an event that draws together a variety of organisations and practitioners that understand the rural context and can offer inspiration and insight that are appropriate for the life of small village congregations. Our hope is that by focussing on the rural environment, we will be offering tools and resources that are a better fit and therefore more easily put into practice.

The event is open to all, including members of the other Christian denominations who share our neighbourhoods. The event has been planned ecumenically, with particularly significant input from Churches Together and the Methodist Church. Come along and be inspired. Booking details: 1452 835544 nkent@glosdioc.org.uk

Events and training

Monday 10 April to Friday 14 April and Sunday 16 and 17 April

Seven Towers Holy Week Pilgrimage

The way of the cross, as from the eyes of Jesus. Visit each of the churches in the Seven Towers Benefice to experience the Easter story as told by artist Jonathon Brown. For more details visit www.seventowers.org.uk or contact the Revd Philippa Donald, talk2philippa@hotmail.com or 07810 228397.

Easter Sunday 16 April, 10.15am

Festal Eucharist at Gloucester Cathedral

All are welcome. Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

Thursday 27 April, 9.30am to 1pm

Talking of Glory in a Darwinian World

Dr Christopher Southgate proposes a way of understanding divine glory that gives due weight to the pathos of the world while emphasising both God's sovereignty and God's redemptive love. £5 refreshments provided.

Saturday 29 April to Monday 1 May, 10.30am to 5.30pm

Flower celebration

St Bartholomew's, Churchdown

Light refreshments, plant sale, music, Christian art display. Donations welcome.

Thursday 4 May

WEMTC Open evening

Local training for contextually-rooted ministry.

Contact jcusworth@wemtc.org.uk 01452 874969.

Have your say: Visit Facebook /**Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email Katherine at kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk, follow us on Twitter @**glosdioc**, view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website Gloucester.anglican.org

Bookings

If you would like to find out about or arrange a wedding or a Christening (they are free) in one of the churches, then you can contact either Revd Sarah Bick on 01594 835476 or Revd Alan Wearmouth on 01594 832660

Baptisms

12/03/2017

Ollie Jai MATTHEWS

We pray for those baptised and their parents that they might come to know the love of Christ



Weddings

12/03/2017

Stuart RIDING and Rebecca Louise MORRIS

18/03/2017

Jermaine FERDINAND and Ashleigh BABBAGE

25/03/2017

Matthew TOWNSON and Bethan JONES



We pray for these couples that their love may come to mirror the love of Christ.

Funerals

01/03/2017

Annie (Nancy) MEALING

07/03/2017

Susan Harland CHAMBERLAIN

10/03/2017

Dudley William BROOKS

15/03/2017

Dennis Arthur TIPPETT

16/03/2017

Leonard Alan (Alan) HART

22/03/2017

Graham JONES

30/03/2017

James CANTWELL.



We pray that they may rest in the love of Christ and those who mourn may find comfort in the love of Christ.

Don't just sit there - do something!

Keep moving. That is the simple message for any older person who does not want to age significantly quicker than they need to do.

A recent study of pensioners has found that those who kept to a sedentary position for 10 hours or more a day and who did less than 40 minutes of moderate physical activity had the bodies of people eight years older. Experts advise that older people should aim to stand up and walk around every 20 minutes, if possible.

The study was carried out at the University of California. A spokesman for UK Active warns that: 'With health and social care budgets stretched to the limit, it's time to end our love affair with the chair and get people moving again... it is never too late to get active. Simple things at home, such as carrying the groceries, climbing more stairs and pottering around the garden can play a huge role in staying healthy and independent as we get older.'

The Other Mary

The Easter story in the Gospels is full of wonderful cameos. Among them, one stands out for sheer emotional power and deep insight. It's the story of Mary Magdalene.

Jesus had rescued her from a life of depravity ('seven devils' is the Bible's phrase). For this she repaid Him with the most powerful adoration and love. She stood beside His mother, the 'other' Mary, at the foot of the cross as Jesus was crucified. On Sunday morning she went with other women disciples to the tomb to anoint His body. When they arrived they found the tomb was empty. They were told, by someone they took to be an angel, that Jesus of Nazareth wasn't there because He had 'risen'. The other women left, but a distraught Mary waited outside the tomb, weeping.

A man appeared, whom she took to be the gardener. 'Why are you weeping?' He asked. 'What are you looking for?'

'They have taken away my Lord,' she replied, 'and I don't know where they have laid Him'.

The man then spoke one word, which changed her life for ever. 'Mary', He said, using the familiar form of her name. 'Teacher!' she cried, and made to embrace Him.

'Don't touch me,' He said. 'I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go and tell the others'. She did, and became the first person after the resurrection to say, 'I have seen the Lord'. She would see Him again, of course, in the upper room with the other disciples, but then never again on earth, until she saw Him in His ascended glory, not as the carpenter's son but as the Son of God.

It really is some story!

xx

Christian Aid calls for more help for famine-struck South Sudan

The recently announced famine - the world's first since 2011 - is in South Sudan's Unity State, where some 100,000 people are facing starvation. A further one million are classified as being on the brink of famine.

Speaking from Juba, Christian Aid's South Sudan country manager Rosie Crowther said: 'For many months Christian Aid and our local partners have been sounding the alarm about the escalating humanitarian catastrophe here ... After more than three years of conflict and insecurity, we have seen communities stretched to breaking point.'

The crisis is the result of over three years of conflict in the world's newest nation. Violence and instability continue amidst severe humanitarian needs.

The economy has collapsed, malnutrition has soared and hunger has taken a firm hold. Some 3.4 million women, men and children are displaced from their homes.

Christian Aid partners have been providing aid to families displaced or affected by ongoing violence in Unity State for some time. Christian Aid is ready to intensify its emergency response, and has issued a plea for extra funds for its South Sudan crisis appeal. If you can help: <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/emergencies/south-sudan-crisis>

Let's Celebrate!!!

Celebration is the theme of our Parish Flower Festival this year at All Saint's Church, Newland on the 28th and 29th May!

There are so many things that we celebrate every day so maybe your flower arrangement will be 'Let's Celebrate Birds' or 'Let's Celebrate Flowers' or even (dare I say it) 'Let's Celebrate Summer!!'

Setting up will be on Saturday 27th May and the Flower Festival will then run over the Sunday and Banoliday Monday. We hope to have as many arrangements as possible so if you would like to take part please contact me on 01594 810934 (home) or email ali_stuttard@hotmail.com so we can discuss what you would like to do and where you would like to do it!

Remember that this is for everyone to participate in - first time flower arrangers to those who have been doing it for a while - all are welcome and encouraged to give it a try! So come on - let's all get creative and Celebrate!

There will be more details in next month's magazine about stalls and refreshments and how you can help out over the weekend.

But in the meantime I look forward to hearing from you if you would like to take part.

Alison

XX

STAUNTON AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Alun and Jill Whitehead were our Speakers this month and their subject "Iris". We were introduced to an amazing riot of colour, shapes and sizes through their wonderful slides and knowledge.

These slides showed Iris in many and varied locations - some like full sun and others shady conditions or bog gardens.

Iris are now being crossed and therefore there are many to choose from, so whatever your garden there are probably plants to suit your space, position and colour.

We were all so interested a visit to our Speakers' Aulden Farm in Leominster seemed an excellent idea. In fact the farm is open to the public for the NGS charities several times soon - Google it to find one that suits you!

April is the month of our AGM and this will be followed by a Speaker on Dowsing. if you would like further information give Alison a call on 01594 837840.

Little Donkey

An arguing married couple were taking a country drive. As they passed a donkey sanctuary with a number of donkeys grazing, the husband muttered: 'Some of your relatives, I presume.'

'Yes,' she replied, 'by marriage.'



EASTER SYMBOLS

At Easter it is all bunnies, eggs and lambs in the shops. Why are they symbols of Easter?

One of the oldest Spring symbols in the world is the egg - it promises new life as in Spring, fluffy yellow chicks are hatched from eggs.



The hare was a symbol of the moon and is connected with Easter because the date of Easter depends upon the full moon. Over time, the hare became a rabbit, because there are more rabbits around than hares!

The lamb represents Jesus and links His death to that of the lamb sacrificed on the first Passover. Jesus is called "the Lamb of God."

EASTER WORDSEARCH

All the words hidden in this word-search are to do with Spring and Easter - can you find them all?

D C A G M Y N N U B
 A D H A R E T U L I
 F U B I N A G P O P
 F C M I C R S G Y M
 O K A Y R K S S E O
 D P L N E D R A G S
 I I C R O C U S A S
 L L B G N I R P S O
 B U F L O W E R D L
 U T D U O L C D U B

bird blossom bud
 bunny chick cloud crocus
 daffodil duck egg flower
 garden grass hare lamb lily
 spring tulip



How do baby hens dance?

Chick to chick.

Why does the chicken go to the theatre?

For hentertainment.



Which rabbits were famous bank robbers?

Bunny and Clyde!

Mid-Wyedean Churches

All Saints, Newland; All Saints, Staunton;
Good Shepherd, Broadwell; St John, Coleford;
St Peter, Clearwell & St Saviour, Redbrook

Benefice Website - www.mid-wyedeanchurches.co.uk

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Licensed Readers:

Mark Bick

Arrangements for Baptisms, weddings etc. should be made in the first instance to Rev Sarah Bick.

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