



Tacket Street, Ipswich, IP4 1AU

COMMENT
APRIL 2024

THE MINISTER WRITES ...



Dear All,

As we celebrate Easter this year, we remember that there is much for us to rejoice in and I pray that as we reflect once more on the resurrection stories and rejoice in the God who is always giving us life, there will be a stirring of new life and hope within us. The possibilities of new life and fresh hope, which are depicted in the Gospel stories of the first disciples' encounters with the resurrected Jesus, followed the darkest of days when Jesus was crucified and died. These resurrection encounters profoundly affected the first disciples; they were transformed and their whole way of viewing God, themselves, life, death and indeed, everything, would never be the same again. Peter wrote about this in his first letter:

What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven - and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all - life healed and whole. (1 Peter 1:6-7, The Message).

Indeed, what a God we have! And by choosing to follow Jesus and be a part of our church family, we have left our old lives behind and are now blessed with a wonderful, brand-new life in God. The 'brand-new life' Peter writes about, speaks to us of how 'new' our life now is. We have all been 'given a brand-new life' and a God filled future which starts right now. Whatever we are going through, even if we are walking through dark days, we can be certain that the new 'Day' that Peter speaks of is breaking into today. Praise God!

So, as we celebrate this Easter, let us hold onto God as we expectantly look for resurrection life and light within our own lives and within our broken, hurting world today. As we reflect on the Resurrection stories, we grasp that there is hope for today and for all of our 'tomorrows'. The Spirit of God assures us that because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we are his beloved children and that whatever we go through in this life, we do so as those who are strengthened and sustained by God's resurrection power and in this same power, we will be lovingly held forever. The Risen Lord now beckons us to live transformed lives, to see everything differently and to go into the world with faith, hope and love and make a real difference in his glorious name.

With much love,
Neil

An Easter Prayer (From 'Progressive Prayers for Progressive People' by Revd Dr Mark Sandlin)

Good God,

As we celebrate the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, let us not forget the life of Jesus. It is so easy to get so caught up in the birth and resurrection stories that we forget the piece that leads us to the divine, to Love - the life and teachings of Jesus. What he taught us, was what he would show us at Easter: that with God's love, there are no endings, that with God's love, hope is never lost. With that thought, with that knowledge, with that reality, on our minds and in our spirits, we prayerfully remember those who do believe that all hope is lost, those who do believe that they are forgotten, alone, despised, worthless... that there is nothing good left for them, or so little that there is no joy in life. We prayerfully remember those who are abused, bullied, ignored, alone, sick, grieving, depressed, unhappy, stuck, overwhelmed, dying, crying, lost, seeking... whatever their struggle, may we help bring into their lives the renewed reality of Easter. May we be the hands and feet of Love in their lives. And when it is us in need of Easter grace, let us be open to those who are seeking to share that grace and love with us. We give thanks this day for the Easter promise of new life, new hope, new beginnings. Amen.

FAIRTRADE COFFEE MORNING

The recent Fair Trade Big Brew, held on Saturday 2nd March, was a great success. This year's competition was to bake a chocolate cake and we would like to thank everyone who took part, baked cakes to sell, served on the Fair Trade stall, or joined us for a brew. A special thank you must go to Jane Sago from the WI who had the difficult job of judging the delicious selection of chocolate bakes.

Congratulations to Anne Durnford who was this year's winner with an orange-topped cake.



I recently received a lovely letter from Tamsyn Filby, our area representative for The Leprosy Mission, to thank us for our tremendous kindness and generosity towards people affected by leprosy. The final total raised was a magnificent £1,142.38.

Thanks to all of you, an improved Out Patient Department at Muzaffarpur Hospital will rise like a beacon of hope and light to the people there. Along with the excellent care and treatment they receive, patients will have new and improved facilities to make their visits as comfortable as possible.

Many thanks to everyone once again.

Netty

PRAYER CALENDAR FOR APRIL

7th April

Today is World Health Day and the theme is "My health, my right", chosen to champion the right of everyone, everywhere to have access to quality health services, education, and information, as well as safe drinking water, clean air, good nutrition, quality housing, decent working and environmental conditions, and freedom from discrimination. Lord, we know that for so many people this isn't what they have. When we look at this list there are so many things that need fixing and it's easy to despair. We pray for everyone trying to make a difference. Help us do what we can to make a difference too.

14th April

As we enjoy the lighter evenings, we give thanks and praise for creation and the changing of the seasons. Help us not to fill the time with more busyness but show us your peace, Lord. Help us find space and time to rest and to listen to your still small voice of calm.

21st April

As we think about Earth Day this week, guide us towards the changes that we each can make to reduce the use of plastics. We pray for governments and industry to find better ways, and for us to strengthen our resolve to make the right choices.

28th April

We pray for young people getting ready for exams. Help them to stay calm and determined. May they be able to show the best of themselves and open up doors to the future.

ECO GROUP CREATION CARE

So how did we do?

Many thanks to those who have shared the results of their Carbon Footprint surveys. Overall, from the responses I've had – and this is a very unscientifically rigorous analysis! – we seem to be roughly average for the UK or a little below. Maybe anyone who has discovered their footprint is high is keeping quiet about it! However, doing these surveys does throw up a number of issues, which suggest that results are bound to be somewhat approximate. We should not dismiss them though; they give us an indication of where we are and plenty of food for thought.

The first issue is that the different surveys vary in the questions they ask and the amount of detail required. But we also discovered that different organisations come up with different figures for the UK average, making it difficult to judge how our own performance compares with others. As an example, the Open University puts the UK average footprint at 14.60 (tonnes of CO2 equivalent per year) while the WWF calculates it to be 8.8. With a personal footprint of, let's say, 10 tonnes, one could feel quite smug having done the OU survey, rather less so doing the WWF one.

Most of the responses were to do with how difficult it is, in practice, to make many of the life-style changes we may ideally like to do, given the way our society is set up. Finding mainly locally grown food is difficult. Fully insulating our homes or installing a heat pump might be too expensive for many. Advice from some organisations can seem impractical; one example that was given is the suggestion that, if booking a taxi, we might ask for an electric one. On the different, but related question of avoiding plastic packaging, this sometimes feels all but impossible.

Globally, the average carbon footprint has been estimated at around 4 tonnes, but to avoid the worst effects of climate change it needs to reduce to around 2 tonnes. So, whatever the exact results we have come up with for ourselves -and acknowledging that as individuals we can't solve the climate and biodiversity crises alone and much of the responsibility lies with companies and governments - we all need to do what we can to tread more lightly on this planet.

Kate Helleur



Thank you for the items received so far which have included three sewing machines, one knitting machine and a selection of pins, buttons and other associated items from the list below. Keep them coming in please! If we could concentrate on the accessories, we will be able to provide a wide range of items.

I will keep the campaign going until end of April so there is still plenty of time to have a spring clean!

In the meantime I have taken all the tools etc so the pews at back of the church are waiting to be filled. I'm still collecting all other items and if it helps, I can collect.

I have delivered the collection of coins and notes and should be notified of their value shortly.

I publish photos of the items collected on the Old Boys Association notice board in the main hall, so have a look!

Ron

Items to donate

Sewing Machines

- Machine needles, bobbins, shuttles, attachments
- Instruction Manuals
- Small oil cans and mini screwdrivers
- Hand sewing needles
- Dressmakers pins - please send in a secure container
- Safety pins - thread 8-10 assorted together onto a large pin
- Buttons
- Sewing thread - full or nearly full reels
- Materials - suitable for making clothes and no less than 1metre (3feet) square. Please check there are no pins in the material
- Fasteners - hooks and eyes, press studs, skirt and trouser fasteners and Velcro
- Zips—new and unused please
- Elastic and bias binding
- Tape Measures (metric)
- Thimbles
- Dressmaking scissors - please check for rust and sharp enough to cut two layers of material
- Unused paper patterns

Knitting Machines

- Wool winders
- Punches and blank punch cards
- Knitting machine yarn —sorted and bagged
- Knitting Needles and Crochet Hooks - sort and pair, but do not use sticky tape
- Row counters
- Stitch holders
- Needle gauges
- Cable needles

Items for both

- Instruction books - dressmaking and knitting
- Modern patterns

Thursday Forum

at Christ Church
Tacket Street (next to Cox Lane car park)

Thursday Lunchtimes

Refreshments at low cost 12 noon - 1.00 pm

A short talk 1.10 - 1.50 pm

You are welcome to either or both



The talks at 1.10pm each Thursday remain varied and of a consistently high standard. Last month we had a fascinating and humorous potted history of the Ipswich Institute at 200 year old, one of the earliest Mechanical Institutions of England and charting the fall and rise of Ipswich too. Continuing in a historical vein, we then heard from Chris Turland who gave us a photographic chronicle of ship-building along the Ipswich docks since the time of King John. Although still looking backward, our next talk stirred memories for many of us when Ken Seager told us of his childhood and career as a Suffolk Fire-fighter.

Our term concluded with a joyous entertainment for the Ipswich Reggae Choir, prompting most of us to hum along, or at least move to the relaxing, yet soulful, music originally from the Caribbean.

We resume on 11th April until 23rd May.

The first talk in April is by Imani Sorhaindo, who is a holistic therapist working out of 'fishface' in The Walk, Ipswich. Her topic will be about understanding ways to prevent the risk of cancer and promoting general health.

Mike Smith has written book about Rev. William Gordon, the Ipswich Minister here in Tacket Street who became Secretary to George Washington in the USA. On 18th April he's going to introduce us to his fascinating research and also reveal some of the other characters buried in our graveyard, which was once bigger than it now is!

On 25th April we hear an update by Ian Walters on the Soup Kitchen – still, unfortunately, as important as ever.

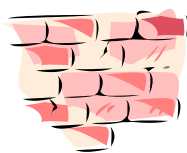
2nd May is Polling Day and the Turret Hall will be used as a Polling Booth. But this will not affect Thursday Forum (except that you might find extra congestion briefly by taxis in the car park). Elaine Ingram will introduce us to 'Home for Good', a Christian organisation dealing with people involved with fostering and adoption.

Don't forget, you do not need to attend the whole session; if you only have time for lunch, please just come and eat and chat. If you don't have time or appetite for our meals, just turn up at 1pm ready for our entertainment from 1.10pm.

Ann

OVER THE GARDEN WALL

... from our neighbours at St Pancras



Dear Friends,

St Mary's Church, Woodbridge Road in Ipswich was consecrated on St Patrick's Day (17th March) 65 years ago and we have just had a wonderful celebration of the event. It was built by the Religious of Jesus and Mary and eight Sisters, mainly elderly, came from their Convent in Felixstowe. Some of them, along with some parishioners and former pupils at their school, remember it being built! The oldest present was Sr Mary James, who is 100! The service included several old hymns and it was moving to see, as people came up to receive Holy Communion, how many knew the words by heart. Hymns have such an important place in our worship; whilst there are some lovely new ones there is a challenge also not to forget the best of the old. My mum chose all the hymns for her funeral; from them I learned new things about her deep faith. Dr Heley, who many of you knew, made great funeral plans, starting at the Shrine of Our Lady of Grace, but all was wrecked by the first lockdown. However, Judy Fell and I decided that, whatever, we were singing a chosen very old hymn about our martyrs, as six of us stood for a very brief and bleak service around her grave.

We have, thankfully, moved on from those dark Covid days but currently huge worldwide problems of war and poverty exist. I spoke with Sr Helen who had returned days before from her latest visit to Syria. When asked what their needs are she replied: food and clothes. We were able to give some help from generous people present at the celebration. Fr Joseph at St Pancras has been responding to the need for children in the poorest countries to get one decent meal a day. There has been a free lunch once a week, but donations for the project are requested; a cake sale last Sunday and a second collection this Sunday. I know he will raise a four figure sum. I am quite sure that you all, whether individually or as a church community, will also have had some sort of charitable project this Lent.

You may recall that at the Coronation the King was anointed with oil from the Holy Land. In Holy Week, Catholic cathedrals across the world have a service of blessing of oils that will be used at various times, from baptism to anointing of the sick. It is a lovely service which includes also an annual commitment of diocesan clergy to their service of the Lord and ministry to their parishioners. We shall have a coach from Ipswich to the cathedral in Norwich. Until I returned to Ipswich, I had not been for several years because the cathedral in Birmingham is almost full just with clergy and on my last visit I had to sit on the floor for the whole long service. It was not an experience I wished to repeat!

It remains for me to wish you all, from all your Catholic friends, a happy and blessed Easter.

Jean

DIARY DATES

Emmaus Groups

Mondays (from 8th April) at 10.30am in the Lounge
2nd & 4th Wednesdays (from 10th April) at 7.30pm (evening group)
1st & 3rd Thursdays at 10.30am in the Lounge

Sunday 31st March at 8.45am Easter Breakfast
Thursday 11th April at 7.30pm Deacons' Meeting
Friday 12th April at 7.30pm Church Life meeting
Tuesday 23rd April at 12 noon Prayer Lunch
Sunday 28th April at 12.30pm Church meeting

COMMENT DATES FOR 2024

Copy Due Date (Fridays)	Publication Date (Sundays)	Month
19 th April	28 th April	May
17 th May	26 th May	June
21 st June	30 th June	July/August
23 rd August	1 st September	September
20 th September	29 th September	October
18 th October	27 th October	November
22 nd November	1 st December	December/January (2025)

SERVICES FOR APRIL 2024

All Services will be led by our Minister, Revd Neil Coulson unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 7th April

10.45am Family Worship with Holy Communion led by Mr William Glasse
William is a URC Lay Preacher and Methodist Local Preacher

Sunday 14th April

10.45am Family Worship

Sunday 21st April

10.45am Family Worship

Sunday 28th April

10.45am Family Worship followed by the Church Meeting

Sunday 5th May

10.45am Family Worship with Holy Communion