

Poetry
and
Prose

Easter Wings

George Herbert (1593-1633) was born into an artistic and wealthy family and received a good education, excelling in languages and music. After serving in parliament for two years, his earlier interest in ordained ministry returned and in 1630 he became the rector of a rural parish not far from Salisbury, where he was known for his unfailing pastoral care. Suffering from poor health, he died of tuberculosis only three years after his ordination.

His poem *Easter Wings* celebrates Christ's sacrifice and resurrection, which enables humankind to overcome sin and rise to freedom. As a pattern poem, its shape, as well as its content, is meant to be appreciated. The two stanzas were originally printed sideways on two pages of a book to suggest wings outspread.

His works include two particularly well-loved hymns: *King of glory*, *King of peace* and *Let all the world in every corner sing*.

*Lord, Who createdst man in wealth and store,
Though foolishly he lost the same,
Decaying more and more,
Till he became
Most poore:*

*With Thee
O let me rise,
As larks, harmoniously,
And sing this day Thy victories:
Then shall the fall further the flight in me.*

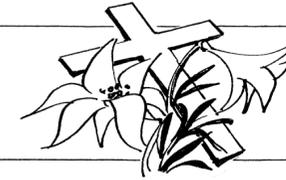
*My tender age in sorrow did beginne;
And still with sicknesses and shame
Thou didst so punish sinne,
That I became
Most thinne.*

*With Thee
Let me combine,
And feel this day Thy victorie;
For, if I imp my wing on Thine,
Affliction shall advance the flight in me.*

By George Herbert



April



2011

The Bishop's Easter Message 2011

Our human lives are lives

in time, from the time of our birth, through childhood and adolescence, to maturity, to years of energy and flourishing, to years of old age and our dying. In that pattern there are many variables, marriage and family, joys of fulfilment and achievement, and tragedies of illness and bereavement and broken relationships, warfare and natural disaster. Our personal lives are lived out against the backdrop of changing history and culture. The place and time of our birth, the wealth or poverty of our family, shape what and who we are, how we see the world, and the expectations we have of our human life. The scientist-priest, Teilhard de Chardin, saw the world as evolving, with an envelope of life, which he called the biosphere, enclosing the physical world, and he looked forward, in a remarkably prophetic way, to a further envelope enclosing the world, which he called the noosphere, the envelope of mind and communication, which is surely what has come to pass in a way which he did not anticipate in the internet, and the whole communications revolution which it signifies. Social networking, now so common, was unknown and unheard of for the greater part of my life as one born during the Second World War.

If we had been born at different times, we would have had different experiences. St Augustine in North Africa in the fourth century saw the collapse of the Roman Empire, and the invasions which destroyed so much of the civilisation taken for granted. Jews of Jesus' day would live through the destruction of the Temple in AD70, when God seemed to have abandoned his people. In the Middle Ages the ravages of the Black Death decimated populations.

The Christian faith, as the Jewish faith from which it sprang, seeks to understand the deep meaning and purpose of the times and

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News Interregnum

Road Signs ...



... but fortunately not seen in Twente.

Give and Take

The bank sent our statement this morning. The sheet was a sight of great awe. Its figures and mine might have balanced, But my wife was too quick on the draw!

Quotes

“The trouble with quotes on the Internet is that you can never know if they are genuine.”
– Winston Churchill.

Locum

There’s no doubt that the announcement of the relocation of the Van Leer family to Groningen hit us hard but now good news is starting to filter through. At the end of the service on 27 March, our Church Wardens, Joyce Wigboldus and Everhard Ottens, advised those present (nearly full pews given that the AGM was to follow) that they had received an offer they simply couldn’t refuse. Our former chaplain, the Revd Canon Geoffrey Allen, has kindly offered to be our locum for the duration of the interregnum. The offer has been accepted with joy and gratitude and the Archdeacon has let it be known that he approves of this arrangement. What’s more, our present Chaplain is also willing to travel south to conduct services when needed – possibly once a month. These glad tidings that will ensure continuity over the coming months were warmly received, and it was no wonder that a good mood prevailed throughout the whole AGM.

Intercontinental Church Society (ICS)

Financially dependent on donations, ICS is an Anglican missionary organization that provides chaplains to serve in international Anglican churches and holiday resorts. Both the Arnhem-Nijmegen and Twente chaplaincies have an agreement with ICS through the ENGC and this link was renewed in 2010. ICS agrees to underwrite the stipend of the chaplain should the chaplaincies not be able to pay for their chaplain. It works closely together with the Diocese in Europe, sitting alongside the Bishop and his representatives and the chaplaincy representatives on the panel that selects the chaplain. Consequently ICS will participate in the appointment procedure set in motion by the coming departure of the Van Leer family for northern pastures.

The quarterly *ICS News and Prayer Diary* is an excellent means of learning more about the work of this organization, and the role of Twente – sometimes particularly featured – in the overall scheme of things. Copies of the April 2011 issue, in a new improved format, are available from Simone Yallop, who will also be happy to provide any additional information.

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seasons of human history, and the history of our individual human lives. The Bible begins with creation: “in the beginning God”. All that is, is brought into being by God, and is held and sustained in being by God – and that is true whether what is known is the limited world of those who first set down the accounts of creation in the book of Genesis, or whether it is the vastness of the galaxies and the infinitesimal patterns of energy that we know underlie seemingly solid matter. Within that creation in its ordered richness is a story of human life, and a story of a people. It is a story of exploration into God, of who God is, and of our human identity as those made in his image and likeness. It is a story of the goodness of God, and of sin and evil, of turning away from that source of goodness. It is a story of slavery and exile, a story of unexpected grace and redemption. It is a story of longing hope for a kingdom of justice, love and peace. That story has been the framework story which has spoken to a myriad of human lives, as men and women wrestled with their personal purpose and experiences of wilderness, dying and abandonment.

That story funnels down and is concentrated in a single life, Jesus – “the one who saves”. It is a life interpreted by the purposes of God, and the longing of his people. He comes preaching the

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Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercession, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Church Wardens before the Service.

If you know of anyone who is sick or in need of pastoral care, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Church Wardens.

Hear hear!

Rather worried that his wife is losing her hearing, a man consults a doctor. The doctor says, “You should do a simple test. Stand about 20 feet behind your wife and ask her a question. Then move three feet closer and repeat the question. Keep moving three feet closer until she finally responds.”

So the man goes home and finds his wife facing the stove in the kitchen. From 20 feet away, he asks, “What’s for dinner tonight?” No answer. From 10 feet away, he asks, “What’s for dinner tonight?” No answer. At last, standing right behind her, he asks, “What’s for dinner tonight?” And his wife turns round and says, “For the third time, chicken!”



If a man tries to fail and succeeds, which did he do?

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

– Mark Twain

The Sky at Night

Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson go on a camping trip. After sharing a good meal and a bottle of wine, they retire to their tent for the night. In the wee small hours, Holmes nudges Watson and asks, "Watson, look up into the sky and tell me what you see?" Watson answers, "I see millions of stars." Holmes asks, "And what does that tell you?" "Well," replies Watson, "Astronomically, it tells me there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets.



Astrologically, it tells me that Saturn is in Leo. Theologically, it tells me that God is great and we are small and insignificant. Horologically, it tells me that it's about three o'clock in the morning. Meteorologically, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you, Holmes?" Rather brusquely Holmes retorts, "Someone has stolen our tent."

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kingdom and rule of God; he challenges and confronts the abuses of the religion of his day; he brings "good news to the poor, and recovery of sight to the blind". Who he is challenges his closest followers – Peter confesses him as "the Christ, the Son of the Living God", and then denies him; Judas, one of the Twelve, betrays him. And so the one who has "the words of eternal life" ends as a scarecrow figure tortured on a cross, screaming at the darkened heavens "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" That death is not only the death of this God-bearing man, but the death of the hope and faith he had kindled in those whose hearts he had touched. The world on the day of this man's dying, which echoes and fulfils the dying of so many crushed under the evil tyrannies of the world, be they past or present, leaves us hopeless and helpless. The sun of righteousness is blotted out.

Yet the story of Jesus that we tell, and go on telling, is not a story of darkness, despair and death, it is a story of victory and transformation and new creation. That dying was absolutely real; the evil encountered was no illusion. The God whose creative word called all things into being is the living word who calls the new creation into being through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The story is now crucifixion-resurrection, a deep rhythm resonating in every situation of despair – in martyrdoms and persecutions down the ages; in the gulags of Stalin's Russia; in our unique coming to the point of death. "Christ is risen and the demons are fallen! Christ is risen and hell has lost its prey! Christ is risen, and life reigns!"

As we come again this year to enter into the mystery of our Lord's death and resurrection, it is that we may be transformed by the sacrificial love which reaches into the heart of darkness, and catches us

seemed unnecessary to talk about it. The down side of that, though, is that today, we feel somewhat less equipped to share our faith in a culture where faith is actually not the norm. How do we articulate what God's love in Christ means to us, in a way that speaks to and inspires others?

I think just registering that as important, in itself, is a signal step in Christian growth. We need not be trained evangelists. (After all, compared to the gentle witness of generations of everyday Christians, the big-name evangelists have been relatively less effective anyway.) We need only to feel so loved by God and so delighted in what Christ has done for us, that we just share that love and delight, in our own words and actions, with others. It's that gloriously simple. None of us would have any faith at all were it not for all those Christians, through the ages, and in our lives, who had been doing this, in simple but remarkable ways, already. And it is now our turn to help take Joy to the World!

Yours in Christ,
Sam Van Leer



Business as Usual!



"I want to tell you all something personal this morning. The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman that was not my wife!" The congregation inhaled half the air in the room. Stunned silence fell. After standing there for almost 10 seconds, trying to recall the second half of the joke, the pastor finally blurted out, "... but I can't remember who she was!"

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.

– Groucho Marx

Acknowledgement

Knowing that the minister was very fond of cherry brandy, one of the church elders offered to present him with a bottle, on one consideration – that the pastor acknowledge receipt of the gift in the church paper. "Gladly," responded the good man.

When the church magazine came out a few days later, the elder turned at once to the "Appreciation" column. There he read: "The minister extends his thanks to Elder Brown for his gift of fruit and for the spirit in which it was given."

– J. John & Mark Stibbe



imagination, perfectly suited to Easter – a celebration of Christ’s victory over death, his return to us as a witness to God’s love, justice and power and Creation restored. See what you think:

*Joy to the world! – the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King,
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature
sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world! - the Saviour reigns,
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.*

Here is a brilliant testimony to the transforming power of God’s love in Christ, something that needs celebrating, even shouting from the rooftops.

Such great texts form an integral part of our worship and devotion. But how do we share that joy of the Risen Christ with others? Watts’ text inspires, but we might not use his words in casual conversation with a neighbour asking, “What do you believe?” St Peter’s first letter urges us *always* to be prepared to share what we believe (1 Peter 3:15b). Are we?

In this year’s Lent course in Arnhem, *Exploring God’s Mercy*, some of us observed how, though we grew up in Christian households, we cannot recall our families talking much about the core of what they believed. Faith and its contents were taken for granted; it

Somebody or Other

A preacher, who was somewhat “humour impaired” attended a conference to help encourage and better equip pastors for their ministry. Among the speakers were many well known and dynamic speakers. One such boldly approached the pulpit and grabbed the entire crowd’s attention by declaring: “The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman that wasn’t my wife!” The crowd was shocked. But when he followed it up with: “and that woman was my mother!” the crowd burst into laughter and gave him their attention for the rest of the talk.

The next week, the pastor decided he’d give this humour thing a try, and use that joke in his sermon. As he climbed into his pulpit that Sunday morning, he tried to rehearse the joke in his head. It suddenly seemed a bit foggy to him. However, getting to the microphone he let rip with gusto:

into new and eternal life. Pope Benedict in his remarkable new book *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week from the Entrance into Jerusalem to the Resurrection*, writes of how “in the trials of life we are slowly burned clean; we can, as it were become bread, to the extent that the mystery of Christ is communicated through our life and our suffering, and to the extent that his love makes us an offering to God and to our fellow men In the message of the New Testament, and in the proof of the message in the lives of the saints, the great mystery has become radiant light.” “In Jesus’ Resurrection a new possibility of human existence is attained, that affects everyone and that opens up a future, a new kind of future, for mankind.”

Good Friday-Easter is the heart of our Christian faith – a transforming mystery which catches us into the Divine Love, which will never let us down and will never let us go. It is indeed hope for the world – a hope grounded in a life and a death in history, and in a new life which blew human history open. As Sunday by Sunday, and at Easter above all, we come as the despairing disciples did to the supper table at Emmaus, to receive the Easter life of Christ, we know over and over again the risen Lord in the breaking of the bread, “the bread that comes down from heaven to give life to the world”. May God bless you this Easter with an ever deeper knowledge of his love and grace, and may the life and energy of his new creation permeate your life, renew his church, and bring hope to the world. My brothers and sisters may the Lord bless you!

+Geoffrey Gibraltar

DIOCESE IN EUROPE
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



This most beautiful system (the universe) could only proceed from the dominion of an intelligent and powerful Being.

– Isaac Newton

Longevity

A man once advised his son that if he wanted to live a long life, the secret was to sprinkle a little gunpowder on his cornflakes every morning.

The son did this religiously, and he lived to the age of ninety-three. When he died, he left fourteen children, twenty-eight grandchildren, thirty-five great-grandchildren, and a fifteen-foot hole in the wall of the crematorium.
– J. John & Mark Stibbe

There are many people whose faith is not strong enough to get them to church, yet they expect that it will be strong enough to get them to heaven.

Party

A teenager had a birthday party and it was a highly successful event. She said it was wonderful. Nineteen out of 12 came.

Tax collector

A person who has what it takes to take what you have.

Youthful Wisdom

How do you decide whom to marry?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the crisps and dip coming. (Alan, 10)

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. (Kirsten, 10)

What is the right age to get married?

23 is the best age because you've known the person FOREVER by then. (Camille, 10)

No age is good to get married at. You've got to be a fool to get married. (Freddie, 6)

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. (Derrick, 8)

What do you think your mum and dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids. (Lori, 8)

St James the Least of All

On the best way to run a church council meeting

My dear Nephew Darren,

Thank you for inviting me to speak at your church council yesterday. I began to suspect that my theme of why Eusebius's dislike of Sabellianism led to his condemnation at the Council of Antioch in 324 was a little misjudged, when the only question I was asked after my lecture was if I knew what Eusebius's favourite colour was.

I never realized how much technology was needed these days when people meet to discuss church matters. Your treasurer's PowerPoint presentation was most impressive; it was just unfortunate that the electricity cut rendered him speechless and his pie charts invisible. To equip every member with a laptop computer, so that paper is now redundant, is probably a good thing, since you seem to have so many briefing documents, diocesan reports and internet downloads to circulate. However, sitting at the back, I could not help noticing that most of your committee spent their time playing computer games, reading e-mails and in one case, looking at material it is better not to describe.

For the secretary to type the minutes as the meeting progressed, so people could collect them on their way out was only marred by paper getting jammed in the printer, so that everyone took home minutes looking as if they had recently held fish and chips.

Our meetings tend to be a little more traditional. Since the church hall floor seems to have been carved out of permafrost, our meetings circulate round members' houses. This introduces a nice

Joy to the World!

In my February message, I noted the humorous irony that the Lord sent so much snow around Christmas-time 2010, when none of our Christmas services featured *In the bleak mid-winter* or *See amid the winter's snow*. God often playfully pokes fun at the best-laid plans of mice and men, nudging us to rely less on our own judgment and power, and more fully on His. Stories like those of the miraculous catches of fish that the disciples received – but only *after* they had listened to Jesus' advice (Luke 5:1-11; and, after the Resurrection, John 21:4-14) – are, to me, evidence of God's sense of humour.

The mismatch of hymns and weather conditions in December prompted me to reflect on church music and seasons more generally. In particular, I wonder why we don't sing *Joy to the World* at Easter instead of Christmas. Typically it is sung at Christmas, but on the basis of its theology, there's no particular reason why we couldn't sing it at Easter.

There are other hymns and carols like that, which have eternal appeal and application, yet we often only sing them at specified times of the year. Consider *I cannot tell*, set to the Irish classic tune *Londonderry Air*, which has stanzas that speak of the Incarnation, of the Passion, and of the End-time Harvest. It could work for Christmas, Lent, Easter, Harvest, or between All Saints and Advent, when the lectionary focuses on the Second Coming of Christ. But *Common Praise* (the hymnal used in Twente) lists *I cannot tell* as a Christmastide hymn, so that's when we often sing it. The main reason we do so is probably force of habit, which features mightily in our church culture.

Same with *Joy to the world*. Isaac Watts' ringing ode to the victory of our Creator King is, with some

English is Easy?

The bandage was wound around the wound.

The farm was used to produce produce.

We must polish the Polish furniture.

The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.

Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.

A sea bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.

The insurance was invalid for the invalid.

They were too close to the door to close it.

After going out after having done some sewing, a sewer fell into a sewer.

Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.

Surprise

Behind every successful man is a surprised mother-in-law.

Ears

Why do they have ear piercing "while you wait"; is there some other shop where you can drop them off and pick them up later?

By all means, marry. If you get a good wife, you'll become happy; if you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

– Socrates

1 st May	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Dr Sjoerd Bonting
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
Second Sunday of Easter	Intercessor	Pauline Talstra
	First Reading Pauline Talstra	Acts 2:14a, 22-32
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	Second Reading Philippa te West	1 Peter 1:3-9
	Gospel	John 20:19-31

** Service begins by the Hut



Confirmation Service

Supported by friends and family, and a congregation of 200-250, Robin Postma was confirmed during the wonderful Confirmation Service held in Utrecht on Saturday, 26 March. The magnificent singing of the choir set the seal on this glorious occasion. We learned from the Bishop that the name Robin means "bright fame" – a good omen, as Robin is planning to spend a gap year working for the worldwide Christian movement Youth for Christ. We look forward to hearing more about the work of this organization and his personal experiences in the future.



Key Dates

28 May	NW Europe Archdeaconry Choral Festival, Antwerp
2 June	Ascension Day: Eucharist and Picnic
10 September	Castle Fair



element of competition, as each host tries to outdo the previous one in the standard and quantity of cakes. Meetings at Colonel Drinkwater's – a more inappropriate name one cannot imagine – are the shortest, since we are always promised wine once the meeting is over. It is remarkable how unanimity is achieved on every subject in minutes and nothing appears under "any other business".

Mrs Eddington never sends out minutes – largely because she can rarely decipher the notes she takes – and simply reads out what she can remember at the next meeting. Last month, she accidentally left them at home and brought her shopping list by mistake, so gamely read that out instead. This led to a lively discussion on whether carrots from our local shop were better than those at the supermarket and when it was found out she intended to use them in a venison casserole, endless recipes were keenly debated.



We leave well fed, having caught up on village gossip, untroubled by points of order or sub-committee reports. And the lack of any minutes means that I can then make all decisions myself between meetings. I think you will find our system has much to be commended.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

©The Revd Dr Gary Bowness



What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say, if you listen long enough. (Lynnette, 8)

What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. (Craig, 9)

When is it okay to kiss someone?

When they're rich. (Pam, 7)

The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. (Curt, 7)



Alcohol is definitely the answer ... sorry, what was the question again?

Definitions

A recession is a period in which you tighten up your belt. A depression is a time in which you have no belt to tighten. When you have no trousers to hold up, it's a panic.

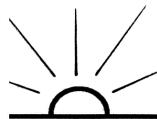
3rd April	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Sam Van Leer
Fourth Sunday of Lent	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
Mothering Sunday	Intercessor	t.b.a
	First Reading t.b.a.	1 Samuel 1:20-28
10:30 am All Age Service of with Holy Communion	Second Reading t.b.a.	Colossians 3:12-17
	Gospel	Luke 2:33-35

10th April	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Sam Van Leer
Fifth Sunday of Lent	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
Passion Sunday	Intercessor	Joy Romeijn
	First Reading Victor Pirenne	Ezekiel 37:1-14
10:30 am Sung Eucharist Visit of Wladimir Koor	Second Reading Heleen Rauwerda	Romans 8:6-11
	Gospel	John 11:1-45

17th April Palm Sunday **	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Sam Van Leer
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Chaplain
	First Reading Vivian Reinders	Matthew 21:1-11
10:30 am Liturgies of Palms and Passion with Holy Communion	Second Reading Peter Ribbens	Philippians 2:5-11
	Gospel (Group)	Matthew 27:11-54

21st April	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Dr Sjoerd Bonting
Maundy Thursday	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Celebrant
20:00 hrs	First Reading Joy Romeijn	Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14
Eucharist and Liturgy of Washing (of hands)	Second Reading Caroline Siertsema	1 Corinthians 11:23-26
	Gospel	John 13:1-17, 31b-35

22nd April Good Friday	Presiding:	Revd Sam Van Leer
	Duty Warden	Joyce Wigboldus
	Intercessor	Chaplain
20:00 hrs Stations of the Cross, with musical accompaniment	The Passion Narrative	

24th April Easter Day	Celebrant & Preacher	Revd Sam Van Leer
	Duty Warden	Everhard Ottens
	Intercessor	Caroline Siertsema
10:30 am Sung Eucharist	First Reading Hans Siertsema	Jeremiah 31:1-6
	Second Reading Louw Talstra	Acts 10:34-43
	Gospel	Matthew 28:1-10