

Services held every  
Sunday morning  
10:30 am

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*Next issue: First Sunday March 2018*

Chaplaincy  
Information

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### The Anglican Chaplaincy of Twente

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND





My Dear Friends,  
How quickly time  
passes; we are  
already into the  
season of Lent and  
progressing with the



March  
2018

Lent Course borrowed from the Diocese of St Albans. We are using a prayer as the focus of our thinking, which has been in use in that Diocese since 2011. It is known there as their 'Living God's Love' prayer, and Blair has beautifully made prayer cards for all of us in our congregation so everyone can participate, at least in the prayer, even if they are not able to be with the course group on each of the Saturday mornings. We are all encouraged to say the prayer every day, at least during Lent, so that we as a chaplaincy and church community might share a special journey of deepening our life in God's Love in this season of preparation for the gratitude we will express and celebrate at the Passion and sacrificial death of Our Lord, and be justly inspired by his victorious Resurrection, sealing our faith in the power of his love.

Living God,  
Draw us deeper into your love;  
Jesus our Lord,  
send us to care and serve;  
Holy Spirit,  
make us heralds of good news.  
Stir us, strengthen us,  
teach and inspire us  
to live your love  
with generosity and joy,  
imagination and courage;  
for the sake of your world  
and in the name of Jesus,  
Amen.

As we repeat the words of the prayer, we ask that the Holy Spirit of God would be our constant inspiration in our individual living and as the Church where we are in Twente. We concentrate above all on the character of our life in the Love of God reflected by the virtues of generosity, joy, imagination and courage, and set them within the context of our Living God's Love for the sake of the world.

I have a number of clumps of snowdrops in my new garden, which are very, very beautiful, and which have been out for several weeks. It is amazing how they have thrived and succeeded, even against the 'Beast from the East' winds we have experienced for quite a while just lately. It is possible to bloom in the face of adversity, if other things are ordered in our lives. Enjoy lente, spring, as the days draw out and nights becomes shorter. God bless you all,

Love,  
Fr. B.

# Twente News



## Kids

A three year old boy dropped his toothbrush in to the toilet. His mother removed the toothbrush and threw it in to the waste bin. The boy asks his mother, 'why is she throwing his toothbrush away?' 'Well,' she answers, 'because it is dirty now and cannot be cleaned well enough.' The boy thinks for a moment and says, 'Mommy, you also have to throw your toothbrush in to the waste bin, because last week I dropped your toothbrush in to the toilet.'

## What now?

Today, I was in the bathroom at a popular coffee chain. Someone had written on the

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## Forthcoming Dates

- 11 March - Mothering Sunday
- 11 March - Book Sale
- 18 March - Book Sale
- 25 March - Palm Sunday
- 29 March - Maundy Thursday
- 30 March - Good Friday
- 1 April - Easter Sunday
- 15 April - Annual General Meeting
- 10 May - Ascension Day (Picnic)
- 20 May - Pentecost
- 15, 22, 29 July - Summer Teas
- 5, 12 August - Summer Teas
- 15 September - Castle Fair
- 4 - 6 October - Archdeaconry Synod
- 14 October - Harvest Festival
- 11 November - Remembrance Service (100 years)
- 16 December - Nine Lessons and Carols
- 24 December - Eucharist of Christmas Midnight

## Food Bank

A reminder that there is a large plastic container in the hut for Food Bank contributions. Your donations of non-perishable food will go to those less fortunate in our community. A list of suggested products is placed by the box.

## Magazine Payments

St Mary's Magazine has a valuable role in helping to keep the congregation informed and in touch with each other. An annual contribution of just €15 per annum will help to ensure that you will continue to receive your copy. For those of you who receive the magazine by post, a contribution of €20 will cover postage costs. Last year, nearly two thirds of the magazine costs were covered by reader's payments. This year, it would help the survival of the magazine if contributions covered all the costs. Thank you.

## A Sad Farewell

Many of the older members of St Mary's congregation will remember Archer and Louie Metcalf, friends of Kathy Rusius, who regularly visited us from Lytham, Lancashire, United Kingdom. Sadly, Archer passed away in his sleep on the 20 December 2017. Our thoughts and prayers are with Louie and their family.

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## Book Sale

The Annual Book Sale will take place on the 11th and the 18th March. The Book Sale allows us all to sell the books we have read and thus make space on our bookshelves. Now we have all this space we can buy more books at the book sale to fill up all this new space and in the process, raise money to help pay for all beautiful flowers that decorate St. Mary's Chapel. As the old saying goes 'Its a win, win opportunity'.

## Engagement Announcement

*Dear members of St Mary's,*

*For those who we have not been able to speak to in person, we would like to announce our engagement (and for those to whom this is old news, you have now got it black on white!).*

*Carl and I met in our last year at university in Utrecht where we studied law. Three years later we have both become lawyers, though in two opposite parts of the country. Carl stayed in the West, not far from where he grew up, and I have come back to the East, not far from where I grew up. We have been dubbed the 'European couple' due to the mix of cultures we bring together: Carl is partly French and also has Austrian roots which is lucky for me, as we can speak German together (and hopefully French too soon, but I'm working on that).*

*I hope that we can make you all just as happy with this news as we are announcing it.*

*With warm wishes,*

*Carl and Charlotte*



## Intercessions

If you wish to have someone included in the intercession, please contact the Chaplain or one of the Churchwardens 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 Churchwardens.

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wall "What Would Jesus Do?" . Another person had added, directly underneath: "Wash His hands." Then a third person wrote, "And your feet."

## Scared

Some people are scared of church like they are scared of helicopters – they are frightened of being sucked into the rotas.

## Beautiful

The English test had only one question: "Write an essay on "The Most Beautiful Thing I Ever Saw.""

One of the students finished his essay in less than a minute. It read in its entirety: "The most beautiful thing I ever saw was just too beautiful for words." He got the only A in the class.

## What? When?

What do we want?  
PROCRASTINATION

When do we want it?  
NEXT WEEK!

## Wants and Needs

FAITH IN GOD will not get for you everything you may want, but it will get for you what God wants you to have.

The unbeliever does not need what he wants: the Christian should want only what he needs.

**Vance Havner**

## What the teacher says and what the teacher means....

If you have ever wondered what the teachers really think of your child, you may enjoy these snippets from real reports....and the thought behind them!

James has a remarkable ability in gathering needed information from his classmates. *(He was caught cheating on an exam.)*

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## St James the Least of All

*Happily, the Church of England still retains some singular parish clergy. Take the parish of St James-the-Least in the county of C- for example. Here the elderly Anglo-Catholic vicar, Eustace, continues his correspondence to Darren, his nephew, a low-church curate recently ordained...*



*Editor: The Rev Dr Gary Bowness continues his letters from 'Uncle Eustace'...*

## On the perils of ladies cleaning the church

The Rectory  
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I must begin with a confession. I know it is wrong of me, but last Wednesday I coveted your modern, purpose-built, user-friendly worship centre. Your concrete cube may have all the aesthetic charm of a suburban bus shelter, but it is clean, bright and does not have the propensity for sheltering dead animals in dark corners.

March at St. James the Least brings an annual event I dread: the Boon Day. There is a certain irony in the ladies of the parish – who without exception employ dailies to do all their domestic cleaning and dusting – getting together to wash, polish and scrape 12 months-worth of accumulated dirt from the church interior.

Having very obviously put in hours of thought about correct dress – not looking as if they're set for drinks at the golf club, but equally not giving the impression that wielding a mop and bucket comes naturally to them – they arrive equipped with the Cartier equivalents of bleach and dusters. I am slightly surprised Admiral Wetherspoon's wife knows which end of a brush should be held.

Miss Pemberton's over-enthusiastic use of bleach for cleaning the sanctuary floor in the Lady Chapel makes one feel one is entering a public lavatory rather than a house of God. Books, service sheets and collection plates have all

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been so efficiently tidied away that it will take months before anyone can find anything. Lost coins are placed in the collection box, long-forgotten gloves and scarves put out for the next jumble sale, and dead pigeons and mice placed on the compost heap.

Just as archaeologists date various layers of a dig from the artefacts they recover, the ladies cleaning the choir stalls have determined precisely when the tenors changed from spearmint to peppermint chews during the sermon, as they shovelled through 52 Sundays-worth of lost mints.

Our great moment of crisis came when Lady Dawes decided to clean the statue of St. James the Least, standing in his niche above the high altar. An eight foot, 50 year-old step ladder and an 18 stone seventy year-old dowager are not an ideal combination. St. James had stood on his plinth, unmolested, for the best part of 500 years, two fingers held in a sign of blessing. Until last Wednesday.

For Lady D's last flourish, removing the cobwebs from St. James' head, caused her to lose her balance. She grasped for something for support, failed, and hit the floor still holding one of our saint's two fingers. He now stands – admittedly very clean – but with only one finger raised to the congregation in a far from saintly gesture. A little judicious application of glue will be necessary before he makes his true intentions clear.

And so we now live in a state of uninhabitable order and hygiene. Within a month, the skills of mice and men should hopefully return us to our preferred ambience for Christian worship.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace



...I think I must have missed that module  
when I was at theological college!

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Karen is an endless fund of energy and viability. *(Your hyperactive monster can't stay put for five minutes.)*

Fantastic imagination! *(He's one of the biggest liars I have ever met.)*

Margie exhibits a relaxed attitude to school, indicating that high expectations don't intimidate her. *(The lazy thing hasn't done one assignment all term.)*

Sue is a real athlete, with superior hand-eye coordination. *(The little creep stung me with a rubber band from 15 feet away.)*

Nick thrives on interaction with his peers. *(Your son never shuts up.)*

Nancy's greatest asset is demonstrative public discussions. *(Every time I give an assignment, she responds by*

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**Lent is a time for  
spiritual self-  
examination  
where do we  
stand with God?**

Holiness is not something to be received in a meeting; it is a life to be lived and to be lived in detail.  
*D Martyn Lloyd-Jones*

It is a great deal better to live a holy life than to talk about it.  
Lighthouses do not ring bells and fire cannon to call attention to their shining – they just shine!  
*D L Moody*

Humility is to the Christian what ballast is to the ship; it keeps him in his proper position and regulates all his thoughts and feelings.  
*Archibald Alexander*

Forgetfulness of God's benefits is a sort of madness.  
*John Calvin*

Every true prayer is a variation on the theme 'Thy will be done.'  
*John R W Stott*

**IF**

Thank you, Lord, for giving me the chance to share this message with others and also, for giving me so many wonderful people to share this with.

**If** you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

**If** you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

**If** you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

**If** you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

**If** you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

**If** your parents are still alive and still married, you are very rare.

**If** you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

**If** you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder, you are blessed because you can offer healing touch.

**If** you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all. Have a good day, count your blessings, and pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.

**THANK YOU LORD**

## Cool Running -Weldam Style

No, Weldam is not preparing a Bobsleigh team to head for Pyeongchang Olympics. Admittedly, by the time you read this story we will all be looking forward to the next exciting Olympics. But this story is related to a particular characteristic of the Winter Olympics in that they are cold, in fact, the colder, the better.

On Saturday, 3 February, your intrepid warden, author and magazine production editor, all rolled into one slightly oversized body, headed for Utrecht to attend a course on Safeguarding. Huh, it should have been a course on how to survive hypothermia!

Due to a slight mix-up, the church hall was double booked, so the Safeguarders were placed in the church. Like most churches on a Saturday morning, it was a large volume of frigid air encased in an ice cold building, because the heating was naturally set to fire up on Sunday morning. With the heating now switched on but showing little interest in heating the building, course members wrapped up in coats, hats, and gloves bravely began the morning session. By late morning, it looked as if galloping hypothermia was edging well ahead of the heating system.

Come midday, the hall became available. We Safeguarders trooped in to have lunch and the afternoon session there, hoping for someplace less frigid than the church. The blast of tropical heat meeting us answered the question as to the why the church was so cold. The hall had grabbed all the warmth. Heat stroke replaced hypothermia as our principal concern in the afternoon.

On Sunday morning, a by now considerably slimmer warden, arrived at St Mary's Chapel for the Service of Morning Prayer. A service arranged at the very last moment, for the chaplain, stricken with flu, was at home. Hopefully warmly wrapped up in bed and drinking hot toddies. On the other hand, St Mary's Chapel, with broken central heating and at a chilly 5°C, was colder than the inside of a domestic fridge.

The decision was made to go ahead with the Service, and so thirty-two brave souls took their places in the

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sparking a  
classroom  
argument over  
it.)*

John enjoys the thrill of engaging challenges with his peers. *(He's an incorrigible bully.)*

Jane is an adventurous nature lover, who rarely misses opportunities to explore new territory. *(Your daughter skipped class and nearly drowned trying to catch wriggly things in the school pond.)*

### **Critics**

People like criticism - just keep it positive and flattering.

### **Petrol**

You know it will be a bad day when it costs more to fill up your car than it did to buy it.

### **Song**

He often simply broke into song, because he couldn't find the key.

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*Fortcoming Services*

<b>4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Celebrant and Preacher</b>	<b>Canon Brian Rodford</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Blair Charles</b>
<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Joyce Wigboldus</b>
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Simone Yallop</b>
	Jeanet Luiten	Exodus 20 [1-17]
<b>10:30 Sung Eucharist</b>	Linda ten Berge	1 Corinthians 1. [18-25]
	Gospel	John 2 [13-22]

*Fortcoming Services*

<b>11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Canon Brian Rodford</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>
<b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Lea Meijnen</b>
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Everhard Ottens</b>
	Elizabeth vd Heijden	Numbers 21 [4-9]
<b>10:30 Sung Eucharist</b>	Heleen Rauwerda	Ephesians 2 [1-10]
	Gospel	John 3 [14-21]

*Fortcoming Services*

<b>25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Canon Brian Rodford</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Blair Charles</b>
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Jan de Beij</b>
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Joyce Wigboldus</b>
	Louw Talstra	Isaiah [50.4-9a]
<b>10:30 Sung Eucharist</b>	Lea Meijnen	Philippians [2. 5-11]
	Gospel	Mark [14. 1-15 end]

<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Canon Brian Rodford</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Joyce Wigboldus</b>
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Simone Yallop</b>
	Vivian Reinders	Exodus [ 12.1-4 11-14]
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	Jan de Beij	1 Corinthians [11.23-26]
	<b>20:00 Eucharist of the Last Supper</b>	Gospel
		John [13. 1-17, 31b-35]

<b>30<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Canon Brian Rodford</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Blair Charles</b>
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>t.b.a.</b>
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>t.b.a.</b>
<b>20:00 Service for Good Friday</b>		

<b>1<sup>st</sup> April</b>   <b>Easter Sunday</b>	<b>Celebrant &amp; Preacher</b>	<b>Canon Brian Rodford</b>
	<b>Duty Warden</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>
	<b>Intercessor</b>	<b>Jeanet Luiten</b>
	<b>Chalice</b>	<b>Everhard Ottens</b>
	Simone Yallop	Acts [10. 34 - 43]
	Elisa Haman	1 Corinthians [15 1 - 11]
	<b>10:30 Easter Eucharist</b>	Gospel
	John [20 1 - 18]	

## Marriage advice

'I'm in a terrible fix,' moaned Mark. 'I'm in love with both Susie and Maria and I don't know which to marry.'

'No problem,' said Sean. 'I know you're not a Catholic, but call in at St Patrick's on the way home tonight, kneel down and ask God for help.'

Next morning Sean found Mark grinning from ear to ear. 'It worked. It's a miracle,' Mark enthused. 'I walked in, knelt down and there it was written in red across the altar cloth: AVE MARIA! So, I will 'ave 'er!'

## Worry

Worry kills more people than work because more people worry than work.

## TV

Your mind is like a television; when it goes blank, it's a good idea to turn off the sound.

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*(Continued from page 9)* **Cool Running - Weldam Style**

pews, exhaling great clouds of condensate throughout the opening hymn. The first to leave only made it as far as the gradual hymn, before, defeated by the cold, shuffled out, apparently headed for the blissful warmth of the Hut.

Sitting down after the Gospel, one discovered how sensitive the thermal sensors are in the human bottom. The pew felt like an ice floe until with slight shuffles up and down the pew one found the exact same spot on the pew sat on before the Gospel. For that sweet spot, once discovered, proved to be a few fractions of a degree warmer than the rest of the pew.

Simone Yallop, Lay Reader in Training, gave an excellent sermon, intertwined with the day's readings. Probably one of her best sermons, only slightly spoiled by the intense cold, for her audience had discovered that sitting still and listening generated no body heat. Simone appeared to be to concluding her sermon when she made a mistake. She said she was going back to explore another aspect. Faced with several more minutes of frozen stillness, a mini mass exodus occurred.

During the peace, Alja Tollefsen, former chaplain of St Mary's chapel, found most of her old parishioners wanted to wish her the peace. True Alja, as the former chaplain was always welcome, but once word went out that she had warm hands, everyone wanted to wrap their frozen hands around hers and enjoy the warmth of the shared peace.

By the time Simone read the notices, only twenty-two frozen faithful were left to endure the cold. Simone announced the final hymn, and one of the wardens, seeing the length of the hymn, cried out in a pained voice, 'All the verses?' Simone smiled and conceded that the first and the last would suffice.

Generally, during the closing procession, the congregation wait patiently for the final closing words. This day they followed the procession down the aisle and once Simone closed, left as fast as frozen limbs could transport them to the heat of the Hut.

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In closing, can all our readers be assured that by the time you read this missive, the heating system will have been repaired and the church will again exude warmth to all who attend a service. The warmth of friendship, ably assisted by a fully functioning gas fired central heating system.

©Blair Charles

## **Some Questions about Easter**

In one of my husband's old church magazines, I found this list with questions. Perhaps there is something you didn't know yet or had forgotten.

*Why is Lent's liturgical colour purple, the colour of royalty?* The purple that is used for Lent and Advent is not royal purple, but penitential purple. Royal, or "Tyrian" purple, is a reddish purple, almost magenta. In ancient times, it came from a rare mollusc that grew only off the shores of Tyre in the Mediterranean, and it was very expensive.

The purple associated with penitence and mourning is a deep bluish purple, anciently made from berries and grapes. Lent is a season that emphasizes penitence for our sinfulness. It expects self-discipline in preparation for the benefits of the death and resurrection of Jesus that saves us from damnation because of that sinfulness. As an emblem and reminder of that, we use purple.

*Then why is purple a colour of Easter, a time of rejoicing?* It isn't. The colour of Easter is white, the colour representing purity and joy. Secular Easter practices often use lavender as an Easter colour, but this has no Christian symbolism. It is undoubtedly an "overflow" from the purple of Lent, which most secular Easter celebrations ignore altogether.

*Has Lent always lasted forty days?* No, but that length became common by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century, so it is very ancient. The earliest Christians observed a fasting period of three to seven days, depending on the region. For at least two centuries, most Christians observed only Holy Week, but they observed it with

## **So you think English is easy?**

Read on:

- 1) The bandage was wound around the wound.
- 2) The farm was used to produce produce.
- 3) We must polish the Polish furniture.
- 4) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
- 5) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
- 6) A sea bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- 7) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
- 8) They were too close to the door to close it.
- 9) After going out after having done some sewing, a sewer fell into a sewer.
- 10) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.

## **Woodbine Willie - brought love with the Bible and cigarettes**

Here's a 'saint' that the Church of England remembers from the First World War - the Revd. Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy MC, or 'Woodbine Willie', as everyone knew this popular, much-loved army chaplain on the Western Front.

Studdert Kennedy (27<sup>th</sup> June 1883 – 8<sup>th</sup> March 1929), born in Leeds was the seventh of nine children. After reading divinity and classics at Trinity College Dublin, he'd studied for ordination at Ripon Clergy College, and served his curacy at Rugby. By the time war broke out in 1914, Studdert Kennedy was vicar of St Paul's Worcester. He soon volunteered to go to the Western Front as a chaplain to the army. Life on the front line in

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extreme penitence and fasting.

*Why are there no altar flowers during Lent?* Lent is a penitential season, and flowers are usually associated with rejoicing. For this reason, the altar is bare, and we use none of the usual symbols of rejoicing, such as singing "Alleluia." Even though Sunday is never a fast day, in order to encourage the Lenten discipline we make Sunday services more sombre during Lent.

*Are we required to fast in Lent?* No, although it is strongly recommended. The Anglican Church has few mandates, preferring to leave most spiritual discipline up to the conscience of the worshiper. Likewise, the Roman Catholic Church recently dropped its Lenten mandates other than to require fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Even though abstinence from flesh on Fridays has never been mandated in the Anglican Church, many Anglicans practice it, at least in Lent.

*Why do we talk about the forty days of Lent, when there are actually forty-six days by the calendar?* Sunday is always a feast day, even during Lent. Being the commemoration of the Resurrection, it can never be a fast day. It is sometimes called a "little Easter." Discounting the six Sundays, Lent is forty days long. Does that mean that I don't have to observe my Lenten discipline on Sundays in Lent? Technically, yes. Most people, however, find that it is easier and more spiritually rewarding to continue the Lenten discipline on Sundays, even though it is not required.

*What is Maundy Thursday?* This is the day of the commemoration of the Last Supper, the first Holy Eucharist. At the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of the Apostles and gave them "a new Commandment, that you love one another." The term "Maundy" comes from the Middle English maunde, "foot-washing." This comes from the Old French Mande, "commandment," referring to the commandment that he gave them after washing their feet.

*Why is the day of Jesus' death called Good Friday?* For all the horror of the Crucifixion, the day is nevertheless good for us, because by the death of Jesus

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we are freed from the bondage of sin. The name of the day, however, is actually a corruption of the Middle English Godes Fridai, "God's Friday."

*What does "Pascal" mean?* "Pascal" (pron. pás-kal) stems from the Hebrew Pesach, "Passover," and is the adjective for both Passover and Easter. Jesus died and was resurrected at the time of the Passover. His sacrifice on the cross is closely associated with the sacrifice that the Jewish Law commanded at Passover.

*Why is Jesus often referred to as the "Paschal Lamb?"* The Covenants between God and the Jews were sealed with the shedding of blood in the sacrifice of a lamb. At the first Passover, the Hebrews sacrificed a lamb and smeared its blood on their doorposts to identify themselves as worshipers of God. John the Baptist referred to Jesus as the "Lamb of God." Since the New Covenant was sealed with the blood of Jesus on the cross, He is often compared to the sacrificial lamb that was offered each year in the Temple at Passover. He is thus the Passover lamb, or "Paschal Lamb." Because of this, lamb has become a traditional Easter meal.

*Why does the date of Easter vary?* The ancient church calendar, like the Jewish one, was based on the phases of the moon. The date of Easter is tied to the full moon at the time of the Vernal Equinox. It was argued for centuries as to whether it should be the full moon nearest, or the first after the equinox, and whether it should be the Sunday nearest or after.

*Where does the word "Easter" come from?* This word actually has pagan origins. It is a corruption of Oestra, an ancient Celtic goddess of sex and fertility (comparable to the Roman Venus or Greek Aphrodite), whose festival was celebrated in the spring. Oestra stemmed from the Middle Eastern fertility goddess Ishtar or Ashtoreth. As Judaism arose, it replaced this pagan spring festival of Ashtoreth with the celebration of the Passover. When Christianity came to Britain, the Paschal feast overtook the worship of Oestra, but the name remained and eventually evolved into "Easter."

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the trenches was a desperate affair, but soon Studdert Kennedy had hit on a way to bring a few moments of relief to the stressed out soldiers: as well as good cheer he gave out copious amounts of 'Woodbines', the most popular cheap cigarette of the time.

One colleague remembered Kennedy: "he'd come down into the trenches and say prayers with the men, have a cuppa out of a dirty tin mug and tell a joke as good as any of us. He was a chain smoker and always carried a packet of Woodbine cigarettes that he would give out in handfuls to us lads. That's how he got his nickname. He came down the trench one day to cheer us up with his Bible as usual. Well, I'd been there for weeks, unable to write home, of course, we were going over the top later that day. I

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asked him if he would write to my sweetheart at home, telling her I alive and, so far, in one-piece. Years later, after the war, she showed me the letter he'd sent. A lovely letter my wife kept until she died."

In 1917 Kennedy was awarded the Military Cross at Messines Ridge, after running into no man's land in order to help the wounded during an attack on the German frontline.

During the war, Kennedy supported the British military effort with enthusiasm, but soon after the war, he turned to Christian socialism and pacifism. He was given charge of St Edmunds in Lombard St, London. He took to writing a number of poems about his war experiences: *Rough Rhymes of a Padre* (1918) and *More Rough Rhymes* (1919). He went on to work for the Industrial Christian Fellowship, for whom he did speaking tours. It was on one of these tours that he was taken ill, and died in Liverpool in 1929. He was only 46.

(Continued from page 15) **Some questions about Easter**

**What do rabbits have to do with Easter?** Absolutely nothing. The rabbit is an ancient symbol of Oestra, Ishtar, and Ashtoreth. Considering the rabbit's fertility, it is an appropriate emblem of the goddesses of fertility. This pagan symbol seems to have hung on for centuries, even though the goddesses it represents are long forgotten. The "bunny" has become a deeply embedded symbol of secular Easter celebrations, but it will not be seen as a Christian symbol in any church (at least we sincerely hope not!).

**And what about eggs?** The egg is also an emblem of Oestra, Ishtar, and Ashtoreth, but it nonetheless has a distinctly Christian symbolism as well. It is a very ancient pagan symbol of spring, representing the re-birth of the earth from a seemingly dead "stone." To Christians, however, the chick emerging from the egg is symbolic of Christ emerging from the tomb. Early Christians would cut off the end of an egg and remove the contents, leaving the empty shell as a symbol of the empty tomb. It is obvious that such a joyful symbol should be gaily decorated, and by the Middle Ages, Easter egg decoration had become a fine art form in many Mediterranean regions. By the time Faberge wrought his magnificent jewelled eggs, the religious significance of them had been all but forgotten (although Tsar Nicholas gave a Faberge egg to the Empress Alexandra every year at Easter). The idea of the Easter bunny laying coloured Easter eggs is pure American whimsy.

*Contributed by Erica Bonting Schotman*

### **The Bishop's Easter Message**

Having read the above article and had all your questions about Easter answered, you may have one big question left, 'What is the meaning, the purpose, the reason for Easter'. Big questions! Then please go to St Mary's Chapel website, (the web address is on the front cover) and read Bishop Robert's Easter message in which our bishop succinctly expresses the essential features of Easter .





**Mouse Makes**

## Journey to the Cross

Read the Bible - find the answers

**READ Matthew 21:1-11**

Where did Jesus stop on his journey? vs 1

What did Jesus send his disciples to get? vs 2

What did the crowd spread on the road in front of Jesus? vs 8

What did the people shout? vs 9

What city was Jesus going to? vs 10

**READ Matthew 26:17-75**

What festival did the disciples celebrate? vs 17

Which disciple denied Jesus? vs 34

Which disciple betrayed Jesus? vs 47

**READ Matthew 27**

When Jesus was taken to be crucified, what did the soldiers put on him? vs 28-29

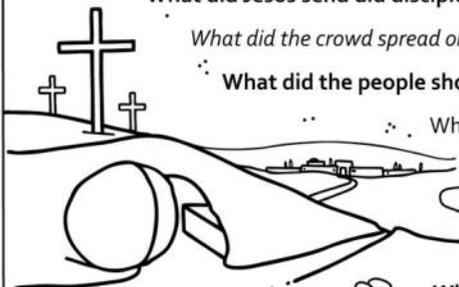
What time did Jesus die? vs 45

Whose tomb was Jesus buried in? vs 57

**READ Matthew 28**

On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb? vs 2

What had happened to Jesus? vs 6,7



## *An Easter Prayer*

*by Helen Steiner Rice*

*God, give us eyes to see  
the beauty of the Spring,  
And to behold Your majesty  
in every living thing -*

*And may we see in lacy leaves  
and every budding flower  
The Hand that rules the universe  
with gentleness and power -*

*And may this Easter grandeur  
that Spring lavishly imparts  
Awaken faded flowers of faith  
lying dormant in our hearts,*

*And give us ears to hear, dear God,  
the Springtime song of birds  
With messages more meaningful  
than man's often empty words*

*Telling harried human beings  
who are lost in dark despair -  
'Be like us and do not worry  
for God has you in His care.*



## Mission Statement

Founded in 1979, the Anglican Church Twente belongs to the Church of England's Diocese in Europe. The Church of England forms a part of the worldwide Anglican Communion of more than 80 million people

The Anglican Church Twente, based at St Mary's Chapel, Weldam provides a Christian ministry in the East Netherlands. Most of the congregation live in the towns and villages of the East Netherlands and across the border in Germany. Some come from further afield.

The Anglican Church Twente holds a service every Sunday at 10:30 am in English. The church offers Holy Communion to all baptized Christians, Sunday School to nurture and educate children in the Christian faith, and a warm welcome to people of all nationalities.

The main aims of the Anglican Church Twente are to:

- † Offer Christian worship by the rites of the Church of England in the English language.
- † Provide pastoral care to all who are in need of such help.
- † Promote a lively fellowship among those who attend the services.
- † Support outreach in Christian ministry wherever there is a need.

## Stewardship

We are a self-supporting church and raise all income from our giving and stewardship. As God has blessed us, we thank Him by giving accordingly.

## A Prayer for St Mary's

*Almighty and everlasting God  
Creator and ruler of all things in heaven and earth,  
Hear our prayer for the St Mary's family.  
Strengthen our faith,  
Fashion our lives according to the example of your Son,  
And grant that we may show the power of your love,  
To all among whom we live.  
Inspire us in our worship and witness,  
Grant us all things necessary for our common life,  
And bring us all to be of one heart and mind  
Within your Holy Church  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit  
One God, now and forever,  
Amen.*



Views expressed in this magazine are those of authors and contributors and are not necessarily shared by the editor or church leadership.