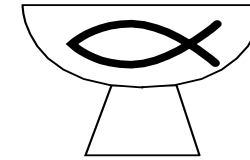


April 2022

30p

Upton-cum-Chalvey Parish News

St Mary St Laurence St Peter



Parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey

The Anglican parish of Upton-cum-Chalvey includes St Mary's, St Laurence's and St Peter's churches.

Revd Scott Lamb (Team Rector)	01753 529988
Revd Alistair Stewart (Team Vicar)	01753 520725
Revd Linda Hillier (Associate Minister)	0208 8645728
Parish Churchwarden: Andrea Sparrow	07446 187762
Parish Churchwarden: Lynda Bussley	01753 573614
District Churchwarden (SM): Jean Smith	01753 862357
District Churchwarden (SM): Derek White-Taylor	Ex-dir
District Churchwarden (SL): David Kill	01628 776856
District Churchwarden (SL): Richard Emerson	01753 526325
District Churchwarden (SP): Peter Clarke	07388 832233
District Churchwarden (SP):	
Vergers (SL): Allan James	01753 532425
Organist (SM): Malcolm Stowell	01628 660651
Mothers' Union: Julie James	01753 532425

Clergy days off:

Revd Scott Lamb	Friday
Revd Alistair Stewart	Tuesday

Magazine Editor: David Kill

Tel: 01628 776856 E-mail: david.kill@btinternet.com

Web-sites:

<https://stmarys-slough.org.uk>

<https://www.saint-laurence.com>

<https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk>

Lord Jesus,
you came as
a humble servant
but were proclaimed
as King.

Even so, willingly you
became broken for us
and, through your death
and resurrection,
Love became
triumphant!

The Rector Writes:

As the conflict in Ukraine continues, the flow of refugees grows. As I write, it is reported that at least three million people have fled to other countries. We are witnessing scenes not seen in Europe for eighty years. Thankfully, we are also seeing neighbouring countries welcoming those in need. The responses from other nations have varied but even those previously hostile to migrants crossing their borders have opened their doors. Smaller and poorer countries like Moldova have been generous and some nations slow to respond initially, like the UK, have been spurred to a more open-hearted response.

Watching Europeans extend kindness to strangers reminds us as Christian people that hospitality is intrinsic to our faith. Christianity, following Judaism, arose in desert communities where welcoming pilgrims was a sacred duty, a spiritual act. Truly honouring a guest was always more than just another good deed and certainly never a chore. Mediaeval monastic communities did likewise, as we see in the Rule of St Benedict. "All who arrive as guests are to be welcomed like Christ, for he is going to say, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." St Benedict knows that such hospitality might disturb the settled order and stillness of the monastery but nonetheless he insisted that "the poor and pilgrims be treated with utmost care and attention," After all, if prayer and worship do not expand the horizon of our charity, they are clearly of little worth.

How encouraging that the so many people applied to host refugees in their homes that our government website crashed. How good it is to live in a town with a proud history of welcoming strangers. Our personal response to this crisis will be shaped by our resources and circumstances but there will be ways in which we can all help. At the very least we can give thanks for those anonymous souls who extended hospitality to the Holy Family as they fled for their lives to a foreign land. We worship a Saviour who was once a child refugee.

With love,

Father Scott

APRIL SERVICES & EVENTS

Regular services at the three churches are listed on the back page

Sun 3rd 12.15pm St Laurence's ADCM, following 11am Eucharist (SL)

Tue 5th 2.30pm "Mulling It Over": see page 24 for details (SL)

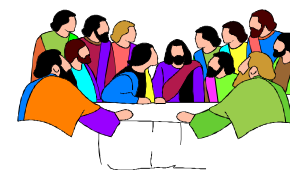


Sun 10th 9.30am Palm Sunday - procession from SL to SM for
10.00am Joint Family Eucharist, followed by APCM.

Mon 11th 10.00am Eucharist (SM)
7.30pm Stations of the Cross (SM)

Tue 12th 10.00am Eucharist (SM)
7.30pm Stations of the Cross (SP)

Wed 13th 9.30am Eucharist (SP)
12.30pm Eucharist (SM)
7.30pm Stations of the Cross (SL)



Thu 14th 10.00am Maundy Thursday: Holy Communion (SL)
7.30pm Celebration of the Last Supper and watch until
midnight (SP)



Fri 15th	12noon	Good Friday Liturgy (Church open until 3.00pm) (SM)
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Sun 17th	6.30am	Easter Dawn Eucharist and lighting of Paschal Candles, followed by breakfast * (SL) * sign up in church or call 01753 532425
	9.30am	Easter Day Family Eucharist (SM)
	9.30am	Easter Day Sung Eucharist (SP)
	11.00am	Easter Day Sung Eucharist (SL)
	6.00pm	Evensong (SM)
Sun 24th	3.00pm	Medieval Service of Nones, followed by tea (SL)

St Mary's News

No news this month.

Jean

St Mary's Lunchtime Concerts

Due to the coronavirus pandemic there will be no Saturday Lunchtime Concerts until further notice.

"Yvonne's Art Classes"

These free art classes are held in St Mary's, every Thursday from 12.30pm to 3.30pm and are open to all.

St Laurence's News

Our Annual District Church Meeting will follow the Eucharist on Sunday 3rd April. I have decided to step down as a District Warden after around 20 years in the role, well short of the Buckingham record of 56 years! However, I plan to remain as Treasurer and anticipate some financial challenges in the coming year.

Please pray for all who are appointed church officers and committee members.

Following Holy Week and the celebrations on Easter Sunday, the medieval service of Nones will be held at the church on Sunday 24th April at 3pm, followed by tea. All are welcome.

A series of events marking the bicentenary of Sir William Herschel's death will begin in early May and there will be details in the next issue.

Dave

St Peter's News

We have a very strong junior church in St Peter's. As well as a traditional Sunday school the youngsters are servers, choristers and readers. Our Christingle service traditionally involves them all in different roles and that pattern was repeated for Mothering Sunday - readers and sidespersons, and of course distributing the flowers on that occasion.

In February Noble, Ray, Sade, Beatrix and Kahlil were confirmed at the ceremony in Datchet. We are happy to welcome them on the next stage of their Christian journey.

Our Lady Day Fayre (aka Easter bazaar) on 26th March opens at noon until 2.30pm. The usual attractions will be on offer: refreshments, tombola, cake and toy stalls and gifts.

Margaret

Easter Egg and Orange Rolling

For 150 years there has been a festival called "Easter Egg Rolling", which takes place in Preston, Lancashire. Hundreds of people young and old gather to watch the children be given eggs in different colours. The children roll them down the hill in every direction, laughing and shouting. When evening sets in, the park is left with thousands of egg shell pieces everywhere! The churches join in as well on this special Sunday. Two churches have a tea party and entertainment, and another a choral service and sermons in the morning, noon and night.

There is a similar event to this one called "Orange Rolling", in which oranges are used instead of eggs. It is done to represent the symbol of the stone rolled away from the tomb where Jesus was laid. This one takes place in Dunstable.

Alice Sanders

14th April: What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is the 5th day of Holy Week. 'Maundy' comes from the Latin word for command, 'mandare'. On this day the Church looks back to Jesus' command to His disciples that they should: "Love one another as I have loved you."

On the evening of Maundy Thursday Jesus shared the Last Supper with His disciples, before going on to the Garden of Gethsemane and being arrested. It was the last evening He had with them before His crucifixion.

Why do Christians wash feet on Maundy Thursday?

At the Last Supper Jesus shocked His disciples by washing their feet. He did this as an example, to demonstrate to them that they should serve others with humility. Over the centuries, some churches have recreated this act of humility at a special service on Maundy Thursday.

What about Maundy Money?

Every year the Queen distributes silver coins at a special service on Maundy Thursday. It is part of a tradition dating back many centuries, where the Royal Family took part in ceremonies washing the feet of poor people and giving gifts.

The Royal Maundy Service itself began in 1662, when Charles II gave out coins. The ones that the Queen gives out each year bear the portrait of Her Majesty designed for her coronation in 1953, even though the image on ordinary circulating coinage has since been changed four times.

According to the royal.uk website, the Queen decided early on in her reign that Maundy money should not just be distributed to the people of London. And so, for many years she has visited various cathedrals or abbeys to give gifts to local people. Recipients of Maundy money are nominated by their local dioceses for contributions to their local church and community.

During the service, the Queen distributes gifts according to the number of years she has lived: for example, when she turned 80 she distributed 80 pence worth of Maundy money to 80 men and 80 women in recognition for their contribution to community and to the church.

Last year, in 2021, the service was cancelled because of Covid. Instead, the Maundy money was blessed at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace, before being posted to recipients alongside a letter from The Queen.

15th April: Good Friday, Jesus and the thieves on the Cross

Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, *'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself'* (35,37, 39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: *'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.'* He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

So - what kind of Messiah was Jesus?

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: *'this man has done nothing wrong.'* He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, *'remember me when You come into Your kingdom'*, the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; *'Today you will be with Me in paradise.'* Jesus used the picture of a *walled garden* to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want Him to 'remember' us when He comes into His kingdom, or not? If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus? *'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God'* (1 Peter 3:18).

Two donkeys

Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: "Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don't even recognise me."

The other donkey replied: "That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much."

17th April: Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man *did* rise?

At the end of St Luke's gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24:4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: 'You crucified Jesus, but God raised Him up!'

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course, each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So, did they pretend they had seen Him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, but we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds? That He recovered in the tomb, and then escaped? That the disciples nursed Him back to health? But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus all along, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though

unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: 'He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me," and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.'

Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.

Townwomen's Guilds

The Townwomen's Guild was formed in 1929 to educate women who had just won the vote in equal terms to men in good citizenship. It was founded by suffragists who understood the need to empower women in this new world. It has moved on since then, but at its heart is the desire to make women's lives better, our own and those of others. We do this in the spirit of fun and friendship.

Slough Evening Townwomen's Guild was formed 63 years ago and continues to meet in the town centre, now at Kingsway United Reformed Church, Church Street. Meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. We have speakers at most of our meetings, together with social time, competitions and fund raising for charities. We are a small, friendly group which welcomes all women.

Interested in learning more? Please give me a call on 01753 595838.

Margaret Inniss

Quiet in church

A mother who took her fidgety seven-year-old to church finally had an idea: about halfway through the long sermon she leaned over and whispered: "If you don't be quiet, the preacher is going to lose his place, and he will have to start the sermon all over again." It worked.

Barbara, is there anything she cannot do... ?

Barbara means so much to us,
Where to begin without a fuss.
She was special through and through,
To shake her hand, we formed a queue . . .

Trained as a teacher late in life,
A class of ten-year olds couldn't give her strife.
She taught Mathematics at the Marish,
Stood her in good stead to cope in the Parish.

Deputy Warden, she has been,
Many changes she has seen.
On District and Parish Councils she has sat,
Discussing this and vetoing that.

Leading in church, she has always been,
Choosing hymns and readings, she is keen.
Chalice bearer, she serves with pride,
Parish Prayer Group, she does guide.

Mothers' Union, our main stay,
If only she could get away.
Pass the jobs to younger members,
Unfortunately, there are no contenders.

Organising day trips on the bus,
Don't be late, she'll make a fuss.
Famed for legendary Cream Teas
To raise Mothers' Union funds for overseas.

Crafty fingers and much more,
Lots of material and wool in store
To make toys and prizes for the Fayre
Made with loving hands and care.

Green fingers Barbara has got,
Growing plants and fruit to put in the pot
Or into jam jars for our pleasure,
All cooked up by the measure.

. . . Is there anything Barbara cannot do?
Providing church lunch with a stew.



Barbara Hillier

Cakes galore, it must be said
Does Barbara ever go to bed?
Hundreds of scones she does make,
With such ease, a piece of cake!

Tea's up, form a queue,
Blimmey, that's a good strong brew
To keep us going at the Fayre,
Barbara runs around without a care.

St Laurence's money, she does bank,
Mediaeval Fayre coins, you need a tank
To carry such a mighty haul,
Counted every penny from each stall.

Lilies at Easter for the garden,
Jesus died, our sins to pardon.
Flowers arranged to adorn the altar,
Always present, ne'er to falter.

Library books to deliver,
In rain or snow, would make her shiver.
Volunteered at the museum to do a slot,
Slough local history and the Gunpowder Plot.

Been there, done that,
Even tried to adopt a cat . . .

Had some problems with her health,
Hips, shoulders and gout hinder her stealth.
This doesn't stop her though, not one jot,
Hospital visiting, she does trot.

Caring for others, to fetch and carry:
Mons, Mike, Tom, Dick and Harry.
So many people to help get around,
To stop her, tie her down to the ground.

Barbara, there's a lot to say,
You keep on striving day by day.
You are the best, it must be said,
You certainly have earned your daily bread.

*Love from all your friends at St Laurence's
(19/8/10 by Julie James)*



On how maintaining the churchyard can lead to turf wars

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Consider yourself fortunate that your churchyard consists of no more than a small, paved area, and that keeping it tidy requires ten minutes of picking up discarded takeaway boxes on Sunday morning. Our four acres of grass and randomly placed gravestones absorbs a large portion of the time and energy of half the parish.

By getting different people to adopt sections of the churchyard, the hope was that an element of competition would be introduced; Major Rutherford would never let Admiral Crompton's section look tidier than his and the local farmers would want to show the amateurs that they knew far more about land maintenance.

Sadly, human nature has got in the way – as it invariably does. Miss Timmins has declared her section a nature reserve, so that the cuddly field mice and darling hedgehogs have somewhere to live in. This now means that crossing from her patch to the next feels like crossing from Kew Gardens to the Amazon Rainforest. Two feet high grass and a profusion of dandelions give way to manicured lawn with any weed daring to pop its head above the parapet being beheaded in seconds. Miss T is toying with erecting a fence round her plot, to keep her dear furry friends safe and Sir Horace is threatening to have it electrified, to make sure they do not defile his grass billiard table.

Mr Tremble, a retired health and safety officer, whose well-meaning advice on avoiding accidents is such a burden, is applying to have all the gravestones on his patch levelled, so that no one could be killed by having a fall on them. The

fact that this has never happened in 600 years, seems an irrelevance to him. On the other hand, his neighbour spends summer evenings painting his stones with sour milk, in order to encourage lichen. Mr Tremble's warning that some lichens can be quite poisonous have so far fallen on deaf ears.

A local farmer, who maintains the boundary walls, generously planted cherry trees all around the perimeter; not only for their looks in Spring, but so that the birds would have somewhere to roost. Sadly, Lady Lipton, while resting from maintaining her plot, tends to stupefy them when she smokes her briar pipe.

The only area which no one dares criticise surrounds the mausoleum of the Luscombes, maintained by the gardening staff of the present Lord. It contains such a collection of rogues and miscreants that parishioners fear their anger at being disturbed may even cross the divide of death.

I hesitate to admit it, but the thought of an area of concrete with a few pizza boxes scattered round does at times hold a certain attraction.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

Tree planted at Lambeth Palace as part of The Queen's Green Canopy

The Archbishop of Canterbury has planted a fig tree in the garden at Lambeth Palace as part of The Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said: "The beauty of trees reminds us of our responsibility to care for God's creation, for each other and for generations to come. It's a fitting tribute to Her Majesty The Queen's seven decades of service, and the trees we plant this year will be a sign of our gratitude and celebration of this remarkable occasion for many decades to come. I encourage everyone to get involved in The Queen's Green Canopy, and plant a tree to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee."

NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE

Please let me have articles for the May issue by **Sunday 10th April** at the latest!

Dave

The Wonder and the Sorrow of PCR Tests

PCR tests are a fact of life for most of us at the moment. As a biologist who was doing this procedure long before most people had heard of it, I take secret delight in people's use of the acronym. Let me open the laboratory door and share the wonders it conceals.

The swab that you, or someone else, pokes down your throat and up your nose goes into a tube containing a little liquid. That liquid is then heated or mixed with a chemical to kill any live virus particles, then purified to get rid of every part of the virus except RNA.

The test is actually RT-PCR, the first step being Reverse Transcription by an enzyme that converts any RNA present into DNA. Multiple copies of that DNA are then made using the Polymerase Chain Reaction. Reverse transcription produced one half of a DNA helix, like one side of an unzipped zip. The enzyme DNA Polymerase is a little like the zipper, except as well as zipping up it also manufactures the other half of the zip using DNA subunits that have been added to the tube. This process works because a bit like a zip, the two sides of the DNA helix are mirror images of each other. If that new helix is unzipped, DNA polymerase can then make a new strand on both sides.

The beauty of PCR is in its simplicity. Multiple rounds of heating (which melts the DNA helix strands apart) and cooling (which allows the enzyme to make new DNA) produce more and more mirror-image DNA strands.

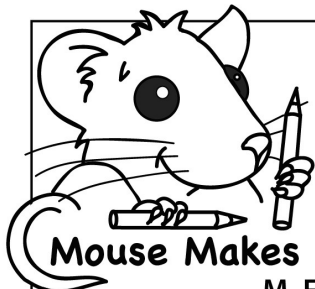
Scientists often have stories to tell about the wonders they study, or make use of, in the lab. Sadly, if this particular process works it means that there was probably COVID-19 in the sample, and someone may be about to become quite ill.

Do you live with similar tensions in your own life? Perhaps you sell a fantastic product that most people in the world can't afford. Maybe you love taking care of people, but your role only exists because others live with great physical or mental challenges.

For the Psalmists, a relationship with God was forged in the confusing space where the struggles of life mingled with praise for creation and trust in Him. How can we learn from these inspired ancient writers, celebrating the wonders we experience in our day-today lives while also lamenting the world's brokenness, praying for healing and justice?

Dr Ruth M Bancewicz

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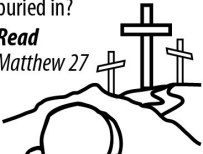
Mouse Makes



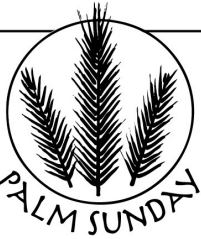
Who betrayed Jesus?
Who denied Jesus?
Read Matthew 26:17-75



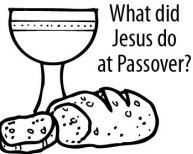
What did the soldiers put on Jesus at his crucifixion?
What time did Jesus die?
Whose tomb was Jesus buried in?
Read Matthew 27



HAPPY EASTER!
Jesus has risen!
Jesus is with us!
Jesus will come again!



What did Jesus send the disciples to find?
What did the crowd do?
Read Matthew 21:1-11



Read Matthew 26:17-30



On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb?
What had happened to Jesus?
Read Matthew 28



M E S S I A H W I N E
E T R E E D O N K E Y
A Q C H R I S T I T P
L R G O D H A O S H A
R O B E A E N V T R S
A O O B R A N C H E S
N M J O K V A P O E O
G O O D N E W S R D V
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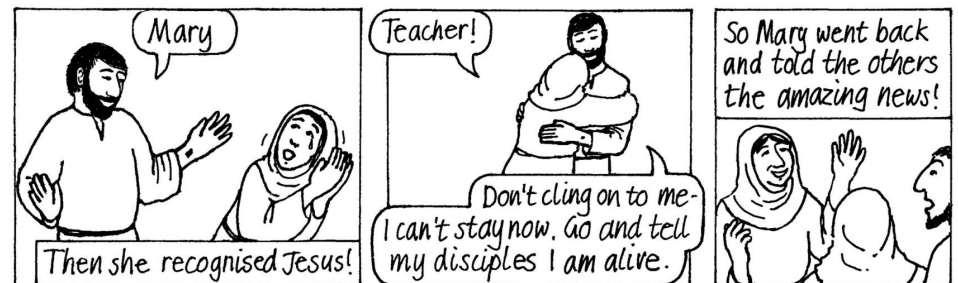
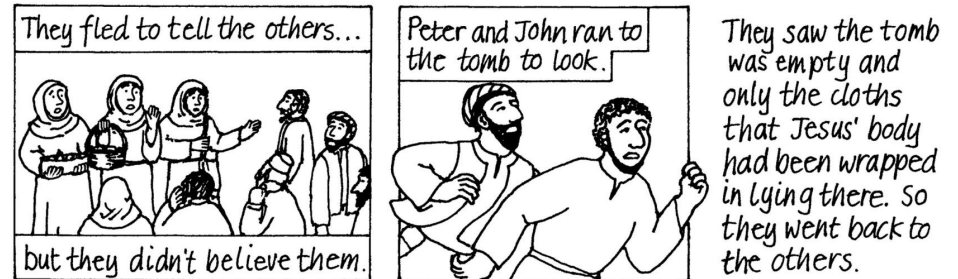
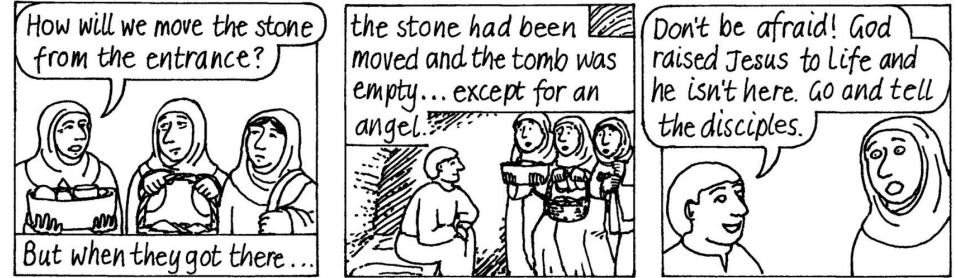
Find these words from the Easter story in the word search:
DONKEY • ROAD • BRANCHES • PALMS • KING • HOSANNA
PASSOVER • ROOM • BREAD • WINE • CUP • MEAL • BODY • BLOOD
KISS • MESSIAH • CHRIST • JESUS • CRUCIFY • CROWN • THORNS
ROBE • TREE • NAILS • CROSS • DARKNESS • QUAKE • DEATH • LOTS
TOMB • LINEN • STONE • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING
MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL
GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT • SAVIOUR • PRAISE • EASTER

Bible Bite

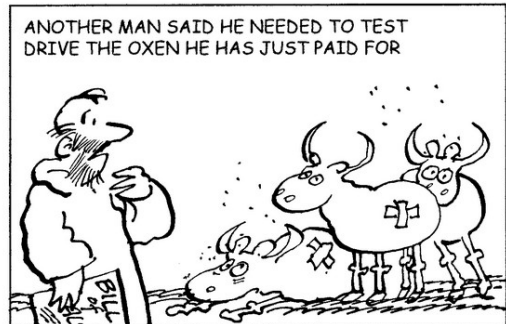
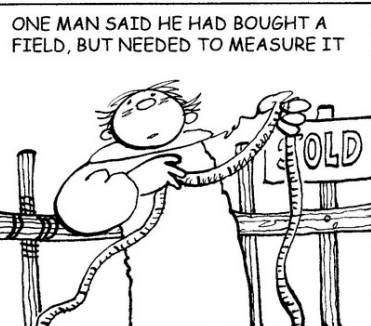
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Mark 16:1-8, John 20:1-18

Jesus' tomb had been sealed with a large stone.
Very early Sunday morning, some of Jesus' friends went to put spices on his body.



The Big Bash!



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Regd. Charity 249723

UPTON-CUM-CHALVEY / LANGLEY BRANCH PROGRAMME

All are joint meetings unless otherwise stated

Third Monday of the month at St Mary's Church Centre, Langley, 2.00pm

oOo

First Tuesday of the month: 2.30-4.00pm "Mulling It Over": Tea, Study and Prayer Group led by Revd Linda Hillier, open to all. (St Laurence's Church)

Useful number: Julie James 01753 532425

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273 Farnham Road
Slough

01753 535556

Offices also in
Loudwater, Marlow, Gerrards Cross & High Wycombe

- Traditional and Alternative Funerals
- 24 Hour Attendance
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www.arnold-funerals.co.uk

SERVICES IN THE PARISH

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Slough, SL1 1PJ

Sunday:	9.30am	Family Eucharist with children's groups.
	6.00pm	Evensong/Evening Prayer (BCP)
Tuesday:	10.00am	Eucharist
Wednesday:	12.30pm	Eucharist

St Laurence's Church, Upton Court Road, Upton, Slough, SL3 7LU

Sunday:	11.00am	Family Eucharist with children's group.
Thursday:	10.00am	Holy Communion

St Peter's Church, Church Street, Chalvey, Slough, SL1 2NL

Sunday:	9.30am	Family Eucharist with children's groups.
Wednesday:	9.30am	Holy Communion

Websites:

<https://stmarys-slough.org.uk>

<https://www.saint-laurence.com>

<https://www.stpetersslough.org.uk>