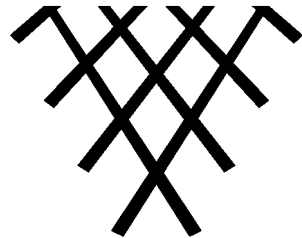




ST PETER'S
CHURCH STANLEY



April 2016
Parish News



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The Minister writes:

Easter is always a special time for the followers of Christ. We have walked with Jesus through the ups and downs of his last week on earth: the excitement of the crowds welcoming Him into Jerusalem; His weeping at seeing what would happen to that city; His anger at the profiteering in the temple; then the quiet sadness of the last supper, when He knew he would be betrayed. Nevertheless He did the slave's job of washing the disciples feet, and used it as a lesson for us to sacrificially love one another. Then he memorably gave a new message with the bread and wine of Passover, so we would have something tangible to remember Him with; followed by the sham trial and cruel crucifixion; then the world changing glory of His resurrection.

Remembering this story encourages us to think about our lives and how we live. One of the dangerous gifts God has given us is free will. We can choose how we act and how we behave towards each other. Our choices do a lot to define us as people



As I said in my letter last month, after Easter we are looking at how as a church we might live with the priorities that Jesus taught. This will help us make choices that are in line with God's will for us as we seek to be people shaped like Jesus.

There are different important areas of life to study and think about; how we respond to each other as people; what we believe and teach; how we work together; how we pray and finally how we speak truth to those in power and seek justice. It's quite a challenge, but this is a special opportunity to seek God together and be more effective and fulfilled in our daily lives. This is true for us as individuals and for us as a church.

The course will be launched on 10th April, when Gordon Dey who wrote the course is coming to help us. Please see page 15 of this magazine for the details of the discussion groups that will be meeting during each week. There is lots of choice, so I hope, if you are interested, there will be a time and place to suit you.

Rev Bill Henderson

Wakefield Wool Company



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Blades Hairdressers

58 Lake Lock Road, Stanley, Tel: 822133

*Lindsey & Amy would like to introduce our junior stylist, Beth.
Appointments now available. Welcome to all customers, old and new.*

New to Blades: Wednesday
is now Pensioner day:

- Perms £25
- Shampoo & set £10
- Colour, cut & dry £30

New to Blades: Prom and wedding hair day a
speciality! Up do's, curling etc. We also now
offer hair extension. Call in for a consultation.

Now offering home visits to housebound and
disabled customers. Please give us a ring.

St Peter's Church Services

*All services are held at St Peter's Church,
Lake Lock Road, Stanley, WF3 4HW*

Sunday	10am	Family Communion
	7.30pm	Holy Space <i>(3rd Sun of month)</i>
Tuesday	2pm	Prayers
Wednesday	9.30 am	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Taize <i>(1st Weds of month)</i>
Thursday	9:15 am	Children's Ark

Other Christian Worship

METHODIST CHURCH: Lee Mount Chapel

Sunday: 10:30am service

Minister: Revd Barry Owen

email: barry.owen@Methodist.org.uk, tel: 07753 127681

Steward: Mrs Doreen Abson, telephone: 01924 824577

ZION CHRISTIAN CENTRE

466a Aberford Road, Stanley,

www.zionchurch.co.uk, telephone: 01924 872262

Sunday:	10:30am Service
	11:00am Sunday School & crèche
Tuesdays:	7:30pm Prayer meeting
Wednesdays:	7:30pm Bible Study, discussions

Minister: David Dixon, telephone: 01924 872262

Linda Skelton

MICB CB.Cert PM.Dip

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DATES FOR APRIL

- Tues 5th April 10am—2pm** Senior Citizens' Lunch club with activities and a hot meal, every Tuesday. See p13 for details.
- Weds 6th April 2pm-4pm** Coffee Afternoon at Mount Road Chapel with cakes, refreshments etc. See p10 for details.
- Weds 6th April 7.30pm** Taize service with contemplation, prayer and meditative music.
- Fri 8th April 7.30pm** Film Club: 'After Earth' a sci-fi thriller starring Will Smith. See p16 for a review
- Sat 9th April 10am-12pm** Coffee morning at the Community Centre with tombola, cake stall, and much more, see p11.
- Sun 10th April 10am** Launch of 'Jesus Shaped People' programme: see page 15 for all the information.
- Weds 13th April, 1.30pm** Jumble Sale at Mount Road chapel. See page 10 for more information.
- Fri 15th April 7pm** Wine tasting evening with 'Guess the Wine' competition, nibbles and lots of fun. See p11.
- Sun 17th April 4pm** Memorial Service for anyone who has recently been bereaved.
- Sun 17th April 7.30pm** Holy Space: a relaxed and informal evening service.
- Weds 20th April, 7.30pm** PCC Meeting at the church.
- Sunday 24th April, 10am** St George's Day family and parade service with the uniformed organisations.
- Sunday 24th April, 12pm** Church APCM: the annual meeting will be held after the morning service.

STANLEY LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

Stanley Library offers a wide selection of books, talking books, selected language tapes, DVDs for hire, as well as a photocopier/A4 colour photocopier, fax machine, newspapers and selected magazines. There are also public access computers, offering free internet access, and basic computer programs (i.e. word processing). There are also free UK Online computer courses available offering internet training and Introduction to Computers —please ask in the library.

OPENING HOURS

Monday	9am—5pm
Tuesday	9am—5pm
Wednesday	Closed all day
Thursday	9am—7pm
Friday	9am—5pm
Saturday	9am—1pm

Reading Groups: There are two Reading groups: one meets in the morning of the first Monday of every month, and the second meets in the evening of the first Thursday of every month. Check with the library for times and book details.

Activities for Children: There is a Tiny Tots Storytime for under 5's, 11:30-12pm on certain Mondays: check with the Library for dates. Other activities for children are organised in most school holidays—please ask for details.

Family History Group: Family history sessions take place in the library on Saturday mornings from 10am-12pm.

Coffee Morning: There is a coffee morning every Thursday morning, 10am-12 noon. Come and relax with friends over a cuppa.

The Community Centre: The hall, two rooms and well equipped kitchen are available for hire. Contact the Librarian on 01924 303130 to book in advance.

St Peter's Spring Fayre – a review

The annual Spring Fayre was held at Stanley Community Centre on Saturday 19th March, and was a wonderful success. A fantastic £887.32 was raised which was a superb result and more than last year.



As always, there were some excellent stalls: cake stall, bottle tombola, chocolate egg tombola, handmade greetings cards, jewellery, toys, books, bric-a-brac, a raffle, children's tombola, homemade knitted and craft items, Brownie Guide's stall and much more. Visitors were also able to enjoy refreshments including tea, coffee, cakes, bacon butties and hot cross buns.

Many thanks to the organisers of the event for all their planning and hard work. Thanks also to the stallholders who always work very hard to make their stalls successful, and often put in many hours of work to prepare items for sale. There were also many people who donated raffle prizes and items for the stalls. Lastly, thank you to all the visitors who came to the Spring Fayre and gave it such great support; it was wonderful to see such a large number of people there.

Stanley Community Singers


The Stanley Community Singers meet at St Peter's Church, every Monday (in term-time), 1pm—2:30pm

Come and join our friendly group of singers!

No previous experience required, just a love of singing!
We sing a variety of different music including pop, musicals, spirituals and modern classics. Come along, make some new friends and enjoy a good sing-song!

We sing from 1pm-2pm with time afterwards for refreshments and chat. Cost per session = £2.

Mount Road Methodist Chapel Events

- Enjoy a cake and chat at the next Coffee afternoon at Mount Road chapel on Wednesday 6th April from 2pm—4pm, with refreshments and various other stalls. 
- There will be a Jumble Sale at the chapel on Wednesday 13th April from 1.30pm. Any donations of unwanted items would be gratefully received. Items may be left at the chapel at any time.
- Everyone is welcome at the Sacrament service on Sunday 17th April at 10.30am. The preacher will be Rev Barry Owen.
- Thank you to everyone who supported, attended or assisted at last month's Spring Fayre; the event raised £390.

Knit and Natter, Sew and Chatter!

At St Peter's Church Centre, every Thursday, 2pm-4pm
Enjoy a cuppa, company and a 'crafty' afternoon!

Please come and join this established group of ladies as they knit, sew, compare ideas and patterns, learn new crafty skills, and share conversation, refreshments and friendship.

Just turn up: you will be very warmly welcomed



Prayer Meeting—every Tuesday from 2pm-3pm

The weekly prayer meeting at St Peter's Church continues to meet every Tuesday from 2pm-3pm, led by Calli McKenna. Call in to pray for those in trouble, sorrow, sickness or need; for family, friends, the community and the world. Everyone is very welcome; please come along.

Moorhouse Community Action Group

The Moorhouse Community Action Group is now meeting once every two months. The next meeting will be on Thursday 12th May at 6pm at St Peter's Church. Come along and raise any issues about Moorhouse with local councillors and WDH representatives.



Wine tasting evening

At St Peter's Church,

Friday 15th April, 7:30pm 'til late

The popular annual event returns with a 'Guess the Wine' competition, nibbles, and a raffle.

Tickets £10: includes a sample of 6 different wines; 3 white and 3 red. Soft drink tasting menu also available for £6. Tickets are available from the Church Office, telephone 835746. Formal dress optional.

Coffee morning thank-you

Thank you to everyone who supported the church coffee morning last month; it raised £243.10. The next coffee morning will be on Saturday 9th April from 10am—12pm at Stanley Community Centre. There will be lots of great stalls: tombola, raffle, cakes, handmade greetings cards, jigsaws, books and toys, and refreshments including bacon butties.



Donations of books, small toys and jigsaws in good condition would be very much appreciated. They can be brought to the church on Lake Lock Road anytime, or on the Saturday morning to the community centre. Please join us for a very pleasant morning.



Argentine Tango

at St Peter's Church, Stanley
Every Monday 7pm—9pm

All levels of experience welcome

£8 per session

Contact: Dickson on 07796 520839

From the Stanley Parish Register

Funerals

Mary Cooper	26 January 2016
Freda Cornish	29 January 2016
Wilf Greasley	12 February 2016
Cecelia Shillitoe	18 February 2016
Jean Steel	25 February 2016
Irene Morris	7 March 2016
Harry Schofield	14 March 2016
Jane Richardson	15 March 2016

Baptisms

Freddie Sherwin	21 February 2016
Bentley Sebastian Zackarya Fennel	28 February 2016

- “People who fly into a rage always make a bad landing” - *Will Rogers*
- “Wars to end war are an illusion. Wars, more than any other human activity, create the conditions which breed more war” - *John Foster Dulles*
- “People will not care what you know until they know that you care”—*Anon*

Women’s Day of Prayer review

The Stanley & Outwood 2016 Women's World day of Prayer service, "Receive Children, Receive Me", written by the Christian women of Cuba, was held at Outwood Parish Church on March 4th.



Part of the service included a meditation and slide show led by Josephine Smith from Parkside Methodist Church. Thirty one people attended the service and an offering of £80 was sent to the work of the organisation.

The service was led by Rev Gill Butterworth. Gill has been an active member of our local committee for many years, being branch secretary before she was ordained. However, time moves on and she bid a sad farewell as she and her husband retire this year and move away from Outwood. We will all miss her very much.

Thank you to all the readers, helpers and everyone who came to join the day of prayer.



St Peter's Senior Citizens'
Lunch Club



At St Peter's Church, Lake Lock Road

Every Tuesday, 10am—2pm

This is the timetable for the next few weeks:

Tues 5th April	Wakefield Historical Society
Tues 12th April	Visit by Bishop Tony Robinson
Tues 19th April	Queen's 90th birthday activities
Tues 26th April	Healthy eating cookery

- Arrive from 10am-10.30 and enjoy tea or coffee and a chat, followed by the activity of the day.
- Lunch served from about 12:15pm: a freshly cooked hot meal followed by dessert.
- Ideal for anyone wanting a bit of companionship and something to do!

Cost per person = £5

Phone the church office on 01924 835746 for more info.

Why does the other queue move faster? You know the scenario—you are stuck in one checkout queue, which is crawling along, and meanwhile you are watching the other queue, which seems to be flying by.

According to David Andrews, an American researcher who has written extensively on the subject, it seems that the answer is that we experience time differently when waiting, as opposed to when we are engaged in a process. That means that if you have finally chosen the fastest queue at a checkout, you are too busy unloading your trolley to notice your blessing.

It's time for the Annual General Meeting!!

St Peter's Church will hold its Annual General meeting on Sunday 24th April at 12pm after the morning service. It is an important event in the life of the church: it sets out the church's plans for the year ahead, as well as reviewing what has happened over the past year.

One of the important tasks is to elect the churchwardens for the year. They are the Bishop's agents in the parish and represent all parishioners. The members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) which helps run the church, are also elected. Everyone who is on the electoral roll of the church is entitled to vote in these elections. Anyone who lives in the parish of Stanley can ask to join the electoral roll (you also have to be over 16, and have been baptised): you don't have to be a regular attendee at church.

The church's financial accounts will also be presented and discussed at the AGM. You can discover how much we will need to pay the Diocese next year and how the church proposes to meet these costs.

Rev Bill Henderson will report on what has happened in the past 12 months and his plans for the future. Various other reports will be presented e.g. by the PCC, the uniformed groups, the Ladies Society, Children's Ark and Sunday Gang, the church wardens and more.

If you want to learn about what St Peter's church does, what its ministry is all about, where we get our money from and how we spend it, and what the various church officers do, please come along to our AGM. You may be surprised to learn how much goes on!

The most difficult place in the world to be a Christian

North Korea is the most difficult place in which to be a Christian for the 14th consecutive year. According to the 2016 Open Doors World Watch List, North Korea's 'dictatorial paranoia' has kept it at the head of the 50 countries on the annual list.



But Open Doors said that the gap between North Korea and the rest of the world is narrowing. Throughout the 49 other countries on the list, the dominant and growing source of pressure on Christians is 'Islamic extremism.' It is the primary driver of persecution in the top 10 countries on the list. They are, in order from 1 to 10: North Korea, Iraq, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Syria, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan and Iran.

Jesus Shaped People

On Sunday 10th April, St Peter's church in Stanley is launching a 15 week course entitled 'Jesus Shaped People'.



Jesus Shaped People looks at the life of Jesus in a fresh way. It builds on five key themes from the life of Jesus with each theme taking up three weeks within the overall 15-week programme. The five themes are: people, teaching, team-building, prayer and prophetic challenge.

Within each theme we will be exploring the teachings of Jesus, and asking ourselves 'What would happen to our church if we based everything we do on the life of Jesus?' It is a radical way to look at the Gospels, and will hopefully lead to a transformation of our church.

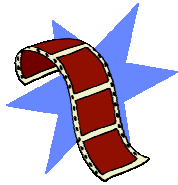
At the heart of the programme are small groups, which will meet every week to different themes in more detail. The small groups will be using detailed resources with bible study questions, interactive exercises, prayers, activities and much more. They will be meeting at the following places and times:

- Mondays at 10.30am at church
- Tuesdays at 2pm at church
- Tuesdays at 6.30pm (location to be advised)
- Tuesdays at 7.30pm (location to be advised)
- Thursdays at 7.30pm at the Vicarage

Anyone is very welcome to come along to these small and friendly groups. Please contact the vicar or the church office for more information.

This is not simply another course. St Peter's is embarking on Jesus Shaped People in order to bring about a transformation in how our church operates. In essence, it will encourage us to read the gospel and ask ourselves: "What would happen if we actually did all this stuff that Jesus talked about?"

Please join us as we embark on this deeply enriching process which we hope will bear much fruit in our church, community and relationships with one another.



St Peter's Church
Film Club



Friday evening, 8th April 7:30pm

'After Earth' (2013)



"After Earth" is a science-fiction thriller film directed by M. Night Shyamalan, starring real-life father and son Will and Jaden Smith as Cypher and Kitai Raige. A crash landing on Earth, 1,000 years after cataclysmic events that forced humanity to abandon the planet, leaves teenager Kitai Raige (Jaden Smith) and his father General Cypher Raige (Will Smith) stranded. With Cypher critically injured, Kitai must embark on a perilous journey to signal for help so they can return to humanity's new home Nova Prime, facing uncharted terrain, evolved animal species that now rule the planet, and an unstoppable alien creature that escaped during the crash. The father and son must learn to work together and learn to trust one another if they want any chance of escaping Earth and returning home.

Doors open 7pm, film start 7.30pm

Free admission, tea & coffee; bring your own popcorn!

*West Riding Watercolour Society
& Art Group*

The group meets every month at St Peter's Church for demonstrations by artists, informal painting evenings and to share techniques and knowledge.



Open to everyone; the cost is £3 per session.

Next meeting: Monday 18th April, 7pm-9pm
for a informal painting evening

Prayers for HM The Queen's 90th Birthday published

Her Majesty The Queen has approved prayers written for the celebration of her 90th Birthday. Two prayers (or Collects) have been published in traditional and modern forms. The prayers are primarily intended for use in services marking the national celebrations in April and June. In addition two graces have been published for use as thanksgivings at the start of other celebrations such as street parties.

The Bishop of Exeter, Robert Atwell, who chairs the Liturgical Commission which prepares liturgy for the Church said: "The Queen has steered Britain through some challenging and difficult times over the past seven decades, providing the country with stability and wisdom. She is an inspiration to many people, young and old. The Queen's 90th birthday gives an opportunity not only to thank God for her service, but to celebrate the gifts of all older people in our society."



The text of the collect in modern form is as follows:

*Heavenly Father,
as we celebrate the ninetieth birthday of Her Majesty the Queen,
receive our heartfelt thanks
for all that you have given her in these ninety years
and for all that she has given to her people.
Continue, we pray, your loving purposes in her,
and as you gather us together in celebration,
unite us also in love and service to one another;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

One of the graces, shown below, reflects the words used in The Queen's first Christmas broadcast in 1952, a year in which her father, George VI died and at the end of which she was looking forward to her Coronation, the following year:

*Gracious God, give our Queen continued wisdom and strength
to carry out the promises she has made;
and bless (this food, and) those who are gathered here,
That, sustained by service for others,
we may faithfully serve you, all the days of our life.*

Report from St Peter's CofE Primary & Nursery School

Lake Lock Road, Stanley, Wakefield, WF3 4HS, Tel: 01924 303175

Website: www.stanleypeters.co.uk, Headteacher: Dr S Trussler

The Governing body of St Peter's school is very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Sarah Trussler as the new Head Teacher. She will start her new role in the school on 11th April.

It has been a very short, but busy five-week term. The children had a great time on World Book day and dressed up as their favourite book characters. Year 1 had another dressing-up day when they dressed up as superheroes, and were visited by Conrad Burdekin who helped them act out some silly stories and poems.

Year 2 enjoyed an afternoon of science investigations, when Dr Grooby came to the school and helped them test fingerprints and other evidence to find out who took Miss Martin's lunch (the culprit turned out to be Baby Jake, the guinea-pig!)

The children have started to plant the seeds for the vegetables that we will be growing in the school garden. Some year 5 and 6 children have formed a gardening club to meet every Wednesday to carry out gardening tasks.

The school is hoping to support the Stanley Residents Group and display our own hanging baskets outside the school during the summer. This is also as part of the run-up to the Queen's 90th birthday. The school has generously been given £60 by Morrison Logistics to spend on plants for our baskets. However, any donations of baskets or equipment would be gratefully received.



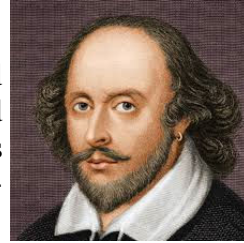
Our Daily Bread

Would you like to spend more time reading the Bible but don't know where to start? The Daily Bread booklets are specially designed for those who want to be guided through their Bible reading.

Sign up by calling 01539 564149, email uk@odb.org or visit the website www.ourdailybread.org and you will receive a small booklet every 3 months. The booklets have one page for each day, with a Bible reading for each day, inspirational stories and short prayers. The booklets are free, although a donation can be sent if wished.

Shakespeare - the Bard of Avon

William Shakespeare, universally recognised as the world's greatest playwright, died on 23rd April 1616. The 400th anniversary of that event is being widely marked – the BBC is broadcasting every one of his plays, for instance.



Even people who have never read any of them are familiar with bits of their speeches: ‘To be or not to be?’ and ‘Neither a borrower nor a lender be’ (Hamlet); ‘Out, out damned spot!’ (Macbeth); ‘Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears!’ (Julius Caesar); ‘If music be the food of love, play on’ (Twelfth Night); ‘Beware the green-eyed monster’ (Othello); ‘Now is the Winter of our discontent’ (Richard the Third) and scores more.

We probably endured studying his plays as teenagers and if not then, then perhaps later found how wonderfully he tuned his words to the human spirit.

Shakespeare was a jobbing actor, a script writer, a master of the sonnet as well as being a truly great dramatist. He lifted the English language to new heights. Let's celebrate him this month!

Also in the month of April:

- 200 years ago on 21st April 1816: the novelist Charlotte Bronte was born, best known for writing ‘Jane Eyre’.
- 125 years ago on 1st April 1891: the first London to Paris telephone line was opened to the public; traversing the sea bed of the Channel.
- 100 years ago on 24th—29th April 1916: the Easter uprisings in Dublin against British rule, in which 446 people died. Martial law was imposed and most of the ringleaders were executed.
- 90 years ago on 21st April 1926: Queen Elizabeth II was born.
- 65 years ago on 17th April 1951: the Peak District National Park was established as Britain's first national park.
- 40 years ago on 5th April 1976: Apple Inc. was founded.
- 30 years ago on 26th April 1986: the Chernobyl disaster took place in Ukraine; the world's worst nuclear power plant accident.

Leave Easter Alone?

Writer David Winter considers the pros and cons of 'fixing' Easter

We have just recently celebrated Easter, which this year fell on 27th March. The early Easter may have felt strange, with some schools deciding to have their holidays either side of Easter, and some waiting til the beginning of April.

In fact, Easter can fall as early as 22nd March, although the next time this is scheduled to happen is not until 2285! When Easter was on 23rd March in 2008, it was the earliest that Easter had been for nearly a century. At the other end of the scale, Easter can be as late as 25th April, the most recent 'late' Easter being 2011 when Easter was on 24th April.



But why does Easter move around so much? Way back in 325 AD the Council of Nicaea decided that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. Simple (!?!)

Now some people want a 'fixed' Easter. It would be more convenient. Holidays could be planned, school terms would be more sensible, and we could get rid of its old-fashioned religious implications. Even the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, announced on 15th January that he is working with other Christian denominations to agree on a fixed date for Easter. However, I suspect that it won't happen, not least because there have been 15 attempts to 'fix' Easter since the 10th century and none have succeeded.

There's something deliciously ridiculous about a national holiday that can swing dizzily from March to April and which can only be calculated with the help of a complicated Table in the Book of Common Prayer. I remember as a choirboy ages ago whiling away a dull sermon by calculating when Easter would come in 1984.

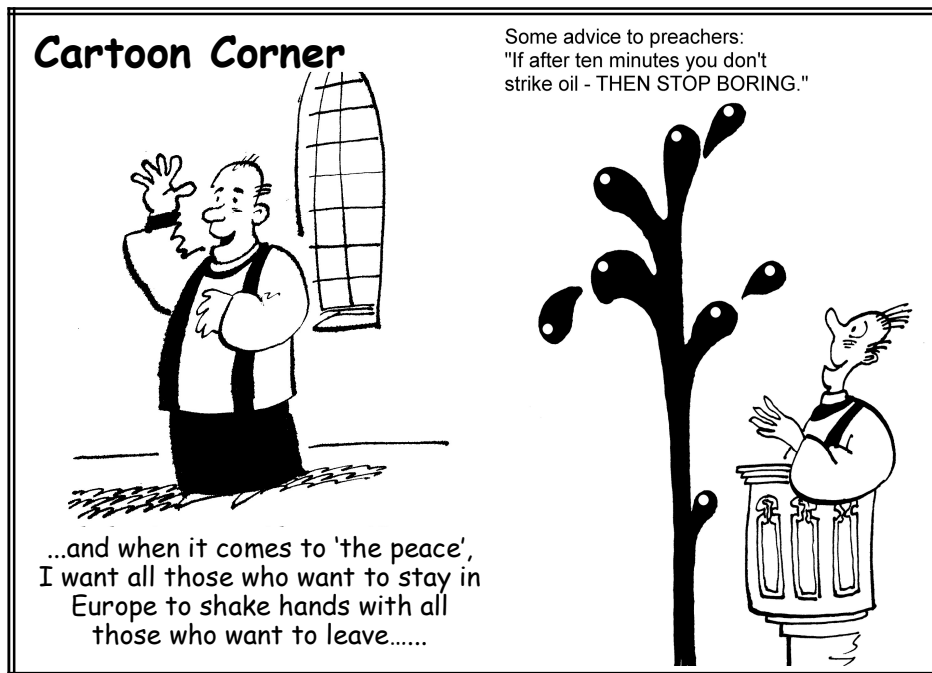
As for the religious bit, I think the secularists would be surprised at how deeply attached many people are to the wonderful story of death and resurrection that the season constantly retells. Up and down the land choirs sing Handel's 'Messiah'. People in town centres stand and watch a Good Friday procession or even a simple re-enactment of the story. They may not go to church, but at passion-tide and Easter the church comes to them.

29th April: St Mark's Day

Mark, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and his 12 apostles, is considered the traditional author of the second gospel. He is also usually identified as the young man, described in Mark 14:51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind.

Papias, in 130, said that in later years Mark became Peter's interpreter. If so, then this close friendship would have been how Mark gathered so much information about Jesus' life. Peter referred to him affectionately as his 'son'. Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys. When Paul was held captive at Rome, Mark was with him, helping him. Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, perhaps in Rome, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus. Mark died about 74 AD.

Early in the 9th century Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. There, the symbol of Mark as an evangelist, the lion, is much in evidence.



The story behind the Hymn: ‘Praise my Soul the King of Heaven’

*Praise my soul the King of heaven,
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.*
By Henry Francis Lyte (1793—1847)



This stately poetic paraphrase of Psalm 103 has been included in probably more solemn ceremonies than any other hymn in the English language. It was even chosen by Queen Elizabeth for her wedding to the Duke of Edinburgh in 1947.

Henry Lyte had been a brilliant theological student at university in Dublin, with a gift for versifying. After graduation he moved to a tiny and remote parish in County Wexford to serve his curacy. It was here, when he was about 25, that Henry had a religious experience which would transform his life.

A close friend of his, another clergyman, had fallen ill, and was clearly dying. Henry went to visit him. The friend was not as distressed as Henry had imagined he would be. Instead the friend confessed that he had been re-reading the New Testament, with an eye on eternity, and had made a great discovery. There was no need to rely on religious duties and formalities and good deeds to gain peace with God. Instead, we can trust completely in the mercy of Christ and his saving power.

Henry was sophisticated and had been very formal in his ministry. But this encounter with his friend’s faith at death’s very door, made him reconsider his faith. He wrote later that his dear friend ‘who died happy in the thought that there was One who would atone for his delinquencies’ made him ‘study my Bible and preach in another manner than I had previously done’. And soon after this hymn appeared, in 1834.

Lyte rejoices in the majesty and wonder of the living God, who in turn loves us. He captures the measure of the Psalm in enduring lyrics, which combine time, eternity, God and man all swept up into one embrace. Its last verse summons all of the created order to join in a great act of joyous praise – surely a preview of eternity!

Prayers for April

Prayer for every day after Easter

Living, Almighty God,

Thank you that by your Spirit living in me, made possible by the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, you give me all I need. Like Peter, you forgive and re-commission me. Like Thomas, you meet me in ways tailor-made for me.

Lord, thank you for the daily personal “nudges” that assure me of your reality, your presence in my life, just when I need so much to know you are here.

Thank you that we are Easter People every day, because of Jesus, and in His name we pray. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Dawn Chorus

A glow in the east, faint fingers of dawn
A single bird wakes, and greets the dim rays
His voice fills the air, as morning takes form
And soon he is joined by a chorus of praise.

They praise for their life, and the end of the night
For perils survived, and hunters unfed.
They praise for the day, and the beauty of light
The praise for their flight; while we lay abed!

And yet, as we lay, and hear their fine song
Our praises join theirs, our hearts lift with joy.
We can't match their skill, but yet sing along
The birds and ourselves our voices employ

In worship of God, for gifts of new days
A cadence of song, dawn chorus of praise.

By Nigel Beeton

Daily Strength

“Everyone
who asks receives,
everyone
who seeks finds;
and to
everyone
who knocks,
the door will
be opened.”
Luke 11: 10

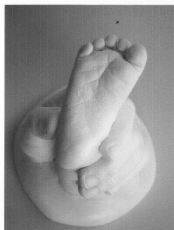
“If you believe,
you will receive
whatever you ask
for in prayer.”
Matthew 21: 22



Please contact the editor, Eleanor Plant, with items for the next magazine on 01924 835746, or by email: churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk

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2 nd & 4 th Saturday of each month	9:30—10:45am	Stanley Community Centre
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Lay Pastoral Ministers	Ray Rushworth	07906 882433
	Margaret Woffendin	
Church Wardens	Barry McCarthy	
	David Sunderland	
Church Office	Eleanor Plant	835746
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Treasurer	Contact Rev Henderson	
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Musical Director	Julie West	829098
Electoral Roll	Eleanor Plant	835746
Prayer Chain	Glenda Oakes	820222
House Groups	Rev W Henderson	822143
Ladies Society	Contact Church Office	835746
Magazine Editor	Eleanor Plant	835746
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Brownies	Via Church Office	835746
Rainbows	Via Church Office	835746

For information regarding weddings and baptisms please contact the Vicar after any church service or by telephone on 01924 822143.

Contact the Church Office on 835746 (answer phone out of office hours) or by email: churchoffice@stpeters-stanley.org.uk

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