

EASTER 2019

**He is
Risen!**



**The
Faringdon
United
Church
Newsletter**

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WELCOME

My dear friends at Faringdon..

This Spring time has been a bit of a double whammy for you good folk at Faringdon. Not only have you had to endure week after week the goings on (or lack of things going on) at Westminster with all the uncertainty and lack of direction that has created, not to mention the stress, frustration and for some the anger of indecision, but alongside that at church you have followed the Lenten journey of Christ to his cross. Week after week you have reflected on the symbols of:

- Bread and wine
- Towel and basin
- The Money Bag
- Crown and robe
- Whip
- Palm
- Nails

The tragedy of Christ's final days.

And whilst a million people were roused to march at Westminster (including folk from Faringdon) about a union within Europe, countless numbers of faithful folk across the globe have also reflected on the passion of Christ through Lent.

So here's the good news and the not so good news.

The "not so good news" is this. At the time of writing (and I suspect at the time of reading) matters BREXIT are still all over the place and whatever the outcome, the long term consequences for our Nation are uncertain, unclear. Whatever side we may be on this, we all know we head into uncharted waters.

The good news is that the tragedy of the journey that we witness of Christ ends gloriously. On Easter day you demonstrate this by transforming the cross from tragedy to Triumph, celebrating the miracle of his resurrection. For you and I that simply means this: whatever life throws our way we can know the truth of the scripture that "there is nothing in life or in death that can separate us from the love of God that is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Whatever goes on in the world around us, may we always remember that the things of this world are transient, but the power of God's love in Christ are eternal and, praise God, we are inheritors of that reality.

I wish you all the joy of this blessed season. With kindest regards,

Fred

Easter Calendar

Sunday April 14th

Palm Sunday. Morning Worship 10.20 am led by Rev. Fred Ireland, with Holy Communion.

Friday April 19th

Good Friday. Reflections at the Cross: a devotional service at All Saints between 1.00 pm and 3.00 pm to which all are welcome to come or go at 2 p.m. (or stay for two hours if you wish)

Sunday April 21st

Easter Day. Dawn Service on Folly Hill, 5.45 am
Morning worship 10.20 am led by Pete Haskins.

Easter Flowers

Please remember on Easter Sunday to bring flowers to decorate the cross, also any donations if you so wish to give. It would be nice also if we had the names of people which anyone felt would appreciate some flowers.

Jane Rimmer



Womens Fellowship

30th Jan - Henry Richardson spoke about *Restore* and his role as a fund raiser.

Restore is an Oxfordshire-based mental health charity that supports people in taking control of their recovery, developing skills and leading meaningful lives. It started in the 1970's with a vegetable Garden at Littlemore. The charity helps people to get employment or to become members of *Restore* and help in gardening, cooking or painting so that the person gets out of their flat to help with their recovery. The local Root and Branch is affiliated to *Restore*.

Henry has a personal interest in *Restore* as they helped his brother who unfortunately did lose his life because of mental ill health. Henry together with another fund raiser have to find £400,000 towards the £1.5 million it needs (the NHS contributes the rest). If in Cowley at anytime visit the garden café, Manzill Way Gardens, OX4 1YH. (MB)

6th Feb - We welcomed **Tracey Liddiard** talking about her bee-keeping. She has had bees for six years and now has 10 hives. She started by going on an evening course during the winter followed by a summer one.

During March to August she is busy making sure the bees don't swarm. The Queen and the worker honeybees are female, the drones are male. There is usually one Queen in a colony and she lays all the eggs. The many workers (say 50,000 in summer) do almost all the work. Also in summer there may be a few hundred drones, but these die before winter.



There are different designs when choosing a hive; we saw pictures of the varying kinds. It's always good to talk to other local bee-keepers when first starting up. There is a lot to meeting the bees' needs: adequate forage and a water supply all through the year, shade from the midday sun, avoiding frost pockets, and shelter from prevailing wind. A bee-keeper needs easy access, storage for spare hives and equipment and space around the hives to allow inspection. Precautions – don't position under trees, where there is risk of flooding, and not close to public rights of way. Fence the apiary to prevent livestock access.

We were shown slides of how the honey was made; sometimes during the summer if the weather is poor the colonies may need feeding. Colonies need 40lb. of stores to survive the winter. Feed with thick syrup to make up shortfall before the weather turns cold. There were many posters from the BBKA (British Bee-keepers Association) around the room giving information, also a great many reference books which Tracey has collected. If you like honey do try some from Tracey it is delicious and good value for money considering all the hard work which is involved.

13th Feb - John was ill unfortunately, so thankfully **Jeannie Taylor** stepped in, telling us about the job she had when she was Chaplain at the Homestead, Carterton. Her morning started around nine, when she met up with the lady in charge of the activities. She always visited the three floors to speak to whoever was in charge to see how people were and if there was anything she needed to know. She then met with some residents in a small room for morning prayers.



Visiting residents in their rooms led up to lunch time when she would assist with meals; perhaps there was someone who needed help with feeding. Visits to the bedridden might have involved her music box, as many enjoyed music and singing or perhaps a story being read to them. Jeannie always said “you are not alone, Jesus is with you.” Jesus said “Behold I am with you even till the end of the age.” (Matt. 28 v16-20).

Notes for the day were written up, then Jeannie would be home at about 5 p.m. On Tuesday mornings 15-20 residents would turn up for exercises and Tai Chi. Wednesdays were spent visiting residents who had no visitors. Thursdays was Songs of Praise, hymns, poems, discussion and a chance for a bit of feedback. On Fridays, often in the summer, there would be trips out - Jeannie would go along and help with the wheel chairs.

At 3 p.m. on Sundays Jeannie held a church service for residents and visitors. Lent, Easter, Harvest, Advent and Christmas were all celebrated with activities included. Amongst her other duties Jeannie did Hospital visiting, sat with the dying

(which she said was a privilege), took funerals, blessed rings and marriages and gave Holy Communion. The Homestead has links with the Parish Church in Carterton, the Chaplain of Brize Norton and with Father Andrew from the Catholic Church. It was a big decision to retire from a job she truly loved and I'm sure the Homestead residents must miss her a great deal.



The gardens at the Homestead (and previous page)

20th Feb – Our AGM led by **Rev. Fred Ireland**. Our president Margaret Broadberry thanked Joan for supplying our varied speakers over the year. She said she was pleased with members' attendance and how we all pulled together to make our meeting tick. Thanks to Jane for leading and setting up for our meeting. Joan our Treasurer reported that we had a balance of £681.58 in our funds. It was the wish of members that we give the Church £200, Community Bus £50 and Faringdon First Responders £50. Thank you Joan for keeping our books in order and also collecting the Christmas club money.

The income from our monthly mission table will be given to a charity of our choosing. This enables us to give to what is near to our hearts and possibly see the reward. Jane reported that with money from the bring and buy today we gave £540.88 to Mission over the last year. An increase of £11 on the year before. Well done everyone. She also said how lucky we were to have more than one pianist: Joy, Margaret, Ann and Heather, not to mention Margaret T. and Win (retired).

Fred asked us had we noticed we are in a time of change - he had observed and was saddened. A bank and cashpoint, a supermarket, jewellers and two pubs had closed. It is stated that nationally 20 pubs per week close. Is banking online via the internet the way forward? Is it Change for good – or change for challenge? Brexit will bring huge changes. The political landscape has changed; MPs have left their parties and formed new groups. Honda closing will increase unemployment in our area. Across Europe churches are closing; in our own Witney circuit we have lost three churches.

But there are many organisations which use our building. The Womens' Fellowship is a very strong group. Come along to keep the fellowship together and to share. Fred's prayer that the Sunday School, Youth groups and churches would go from strength to strength to provide a good future for our children and our grandchildren.

Our mission table raised £46.50 which is included in our grand total mentioned previously.

27th Feb - Mary Blow was unwell so Jane led the meeting. Given a book for Christmas *How it all began* by Maurice Baren, she asked the ladies whether they had considered who had thought up these ideas, how they had been created, and do we take for granted their inspiration and work? In some cases we do not even know their names. From her shopping bag she produced the following: Anchor Butter (made in a large plant at Swindon), Bassetts Liquorice Allsorts (remember Bertie Bassett?), Beecham powders (Thomas Beecham was born in Curbridge, near Witney, in 1820).

Jane also showed us PG Tips tea bags (will sample these later) and Toblerone, her favourite chocolate (we shared our large bar). The book goes on with other well known brands some items far too large to bring along. So if you are eating your Kelloggs for breakfast, playing Lego or putting Vick on your chest, just stop and think how it all began.



Today also was an ideal opportunity to learn a new song. Margaret B. chose two *Take this moment* and *God said world*. We closed with a welcome cup of tea.

6th March – It was good to see Barbara Caldecourt back with us again after her knee operation. Our speaker was **Rev. Barbara Mapley** talking about Lent, which was fitting as it was Ash Wednesday. In the early days of the first and second centuries it was not a long period for Lent but about 28 to 48 hours when it was preparing people to be baptised on Easter Sunday. In the fourth and fifth century it became a special time, turning from sin and turning to Christ, and became the forty days and nights Jesus spent in the wilderness.

Different churches have different habits but in more recent days it has become a time to reflect on the past and our sins, wrong attitudes, falling short on the standards of God.

Lent means Spring, new beginnings, new journeys, and the full sunshine of Christ resurrection. An Anglican practice is to use the ash of last years Palm Crosses to mark a cross on the forehead in the service held on Ash Wednesday. There are no flowers in church during Lent; not until it is Easter Sunday. Lent colours are black, navy or purple, while Easter ones are white and gold.

13th March - Joy Blake spoke to us about the history of our meeting illustrated with photos and newspaper articles.

She told us about the origins of the Methodist Church in Faringdon. Primitive Methodism was established in Coxwell Street, and Wesleyan in what is now the Masonic Hall. In 1895 the foundation Stone was laid for the Church (our Hall) – the tea was held in the Baptist Chapel and the service in the Congregational Church.

Bright Hour, as it was then called, was established in Nov.1929 by Joy's grandmother Mrs. T. Lee, Mrs Langham and Mrs. Reason, so it will be our 90th anniversary this November.

In 1932 it was called *Womens Own* and there were missionary meetings and they had a sale as we have every month. We do not know when it became Women's Fellowship - is anyone able to tell us?

Joy told us of the register being taken and the women were known by their husbands name so I would have been Mrs. K. Broadberry. They also sang a birthday song as we do today, but we now use the song written by Pete Haskins. There was also a bell that was rung which carried on into the time when Mrs.Reeves ran the meeting. It was great to look back on the history and hopefully we will have a tea in November. (MB)



Nancy Reeves

0th March – We were in the large hall today as it was our Daffodil Tea. After a short service we were entertained by **Dave Headey** with his guitar and ukulele. He soon had us foot tapping and singing-along to well known songs from the past, *Traveling Light* and *Hello Mary Lou*. Dave asked us if we could guess this particular piece of music which was written in 1907. Flora, his granddaughter, has just had her 3rd birthday and had a themed tea party. The tune was *Teddy Bears Picnic*. We hope Flora and her teddy enjoyed their picnic. Further songs were *Ain't she Sweet*, *All my Loving* (the Beatles), Bobby Darin's *Dream Lover*, a medley of songs including, *Diana* and *Oh Carol* finishing with Buddy Holly's *Rave On*. Thank you Dave for uplifting our afternoon. Thanks also to everyone for the donations of trifles, sandwiches, savouries, cakes and daffodils. As per usual their were doggy bags and flowers to take home.



Buddy Holly

27th March – **David Sarbutts** said that a year ago he and his wife Jill had run the London Marathon for VICTA charity (Visually Impaired Children Taking Action). Last week at Long Hanborough there was a band concert and this raised £450 for the charity.

David spoke about their trip to Australia. They flew from Manchester as it's near where their son lives and they could stay overnight ready for the flight. They flew to Brisbane and Jill had a (toy) koala bear with her who featured in many of the slides which followed. They saw the Story Bridge built in 1940, had a river cruise, visited the Botanical gardens and the Anzac War Memorial. They hired a small motor home or camper (the bed wasn't long enough for David.) It was what you might term cosy.

There was a visit to Fraser Island, where there were signs about not to feed the wild Dingos. It was very hot while they were there, about 30°. Jill took a dip in the sea at Ballina where there were were lifeguards and patrols for sharks. They went to Maclean where all the telegraph poles were painted tartan (Jill belongs to the Sutherland clan). They did see koala bears but in a zoo. The koalas sleep between 17-18 hours per day.

They drove on to Sydney where they got rid of the motor home and spent one week there. They attended a concert at the Opera House. Donning boiler suits they climbed the Sydney Harbour Bridge, stopping every 30 steps for a glass of water. They also took a trip to the Blue Mountains named after the blue haze of the eucalyptus trees. In Hebrews it says The Christian life is a marathon, not a short race. Whatever we do, God is with us.



Sydney Harbour Bridge and Opera House

This week our bring and buy together with our offering raised £57.30. We have donated this to David's charity VICTA.

Jane Rimmer and Margaret Broadberry

Women's Fellowship Speakers for April and May

April	3rd	John Taylor
	"	10th Mary Blow
	"	17th Nic Allen
	"	24th Rev. Fred Ireland
May	1st	Rev. Richard Donoghue
	"	8th Andrew Steele M.A.F.
	"	15th Water Aid
	"	22nd Beryl Cooper
	"	29th Ingrid Allen

Joan Boreham

Tenants of the King

At the suggestion of the Churches Together Earth and Faith group, this year's Lent course adopted *Tenants of the King*, a four week group study put together by Operation Noah, a Christian charity working to inspire action on Climate Change.

Although not specifically designed as a Lent course, most people seemed to think that TOTK lent itself (no pun intended) very well to this season when renewal of the earth is very much on our minds.

Each of the four sessions that comprise the course followed a basic pattern: an "icebreaker" activity, a Bible passage to read, a five-minute video to watch, followed by discussion based on six or seven questions, some of which were quite challenging. Finally we shared a prayer and were given some ideas and activities to think about in the coming week – not "homework" as such; fortunately it wasn't marked next time.

The sessions, entitled *My Property?*, *Creation Groans*, *Do Not Fear!* and *Speak Up*, led us through the stages of concern for the planet of which we are God's tenants – hopelessness, realising that all is not lost, and challenging us as to what we can do about it.

The booklet accompanying TOTK contains much more than the course notes: there are case studies, common questions about a Christian approach to climate change (and answers), suggestions for further reading and useful websites. A book that's well worth looking at even if you didn't attend the course this time.

By pure chance, the group I attended had its final meeting just a few hours after the climate change protest in the House of Commons. The final Bible passage we were to study, Romans 13:1-7, began: *Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established* which appears at first sight to contradict the actions of such protesters. But does it? As well as the small changes we can all make in our everyday lives as individuals, families and churches, we need to somehow challenge and apply consistent pressure to our political leaders if we want to ensure the global causes of man-made climate change are tackled in the twelve years we have to avoid irreversible harm to our planet.

Dave Headey



The Fishermen's Friends

A review

Directed by Chris Foggin and starring Daniel Mays, Tuppence Middleton and James Purefoy, the film is based on the true story of an a capella band made up mainly of fishermen from Port Isaac, Cornwall who were signed up by Universal Records and whose album of sea-shanties made it into the top ten chart in 2010.

On a stag-trip to Cornwall, a brash music A&R man, Danny (played by Daniel Mays) is challenged by his boss, Troy, to sign-up a local sea-shanty-singing group. Without realising this was a joke, Danny successfully persuades the initially sceptical singers to do a recording session. However, getting a record company to publish their songs proves more difficult. In the end, though, they have a lucky break, and their album makes it into the chart, leaving Troy miffed when he realises his joke has rebounded. In the course of the story, Danny's initially cynical and materialistic outlook is challenged, and he comes to realise through the ups and downs that love and loyalty count for more than money and status.

The film is fun to watch; it has happy and sad moments and is good entertainment. (For the sensitive, I have to say the language is – shall we say – authentic)

While the story concept is not highly original, it shows an interesting similarity to the film, *Bohemian Rhapsody*. This tells of the rise to fame of the rock-band Queen after they took on the energetic and eccentric genius lead singer Freddie Mercury. As with Fishermen's Friends, Queen had to overcome much rejection before their innovative first single, entitled *Bohemian Rhapsody*, made it into the charts. One other thing both films demonstrate is this: while communities create songs, songs create communities. They give a community a sense of cohesion and a common set of shared values. This is no less true for us as a church.

Pete Haskins



Freddie Mercury