

**The Parish Magazine of
Whitchurch-on-Thames
and Whitchurch Hill**



April 2002

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A letter for Easter from the Reverend Father Peter Jefford

Dear People of the Parish,

THE RHYTHM OF LIFE

There is one day that gave a sense of time to our world, that is the day of Christ's birth that gave us AD - Anno Domini - The Year of the Lord.

Then there is also another one day that has given Rhythm to the World and precious rhythm to our lives, and that day is the First Day of the Week - which we call Sunday. That day is found in St Paul's simple prescriptive words: "UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK...". But why the First day of the week? Why?

Let us therefore think about some names of this first day of the week. We call it the day of the sun - Sunday. But there is in the world a very famous tenor whose name is Placido Domingo and he is Spanish. But what does his name mean - Placido Domingo? It means peaceful or placid Sunday, for Domingo in Spanish is like Domenica in Italian or Dimanche in French. It means the Lord's Day.

But in Russian the word for the first day of the week is a word that means The Rising. This is very valuable for the whole meaning of the word Resurrection and were the very first words they used on the first Easter Day. For they did not say "He is alive", they said "He is risen, He is risen from the dead."

A tree is alive, rocks are alive, coal is alive, but Jesus was more than just alive. FOR HE HAD DIED. HE HAD BEEN BURIED. HE IS NOW RISEN. 'He is very much standing on his feet.' This we need to remember today. So that very first day of the week, at

Easter, gave a very valuable rhythm to the lives of people. The rhythm of the week where the first day of the week, and not the old Sabbath day, became first the day of worship and then also the day of rest, the day in Russian called, not Sunday, but The Rising. In the past this day has been so very important.

Two centuries ago in the days of sail, on that day at noon or before, in His Majesty's ships if the weather was fair then the ship was rigged for church. This meant for the sailors not just the Church Service but it meant also a time they could put on clean and dry clothes, a chance for some rest when they did not have to work the ship or work the sails. It was truly a blessed relief.

In the great three volumes of *The Gulag Archipelago* written by Alexander Solzhenitsyn he writes of the terrible hardships suffered by the Zeks in the camps of the Gulag. But in his writing he writes of the great store set by the Zeks upon this day called The Rising (our Sunday) for on that day, and that single day, they did not have to work. They did not have to go out into the frozen wastes and hew timber or go underground and hew coal, or gold, or nickel, in the frozen ground. On that day they could have some time for themselves and then set out to survive the next six days until they either died, or they had done their stretch. It was a precious breathing space. The day of the Rising kept them alive.

It seems to me at the present time that the previous government has taken away our Sunday as we used to know it. All there is now is shopping. More shopping days, more shopping hours. But to what end I do not know! Christ's Easter Rising brought not only the day of worship, it brought the reality of Eternal Life. "Christ

is risen, Christ is risen indeed”. It brought rhythm to people’s lives as well as hope – and people need hope more than possessions today.

It brought also the time and the moment of worship. “Upon the first day of the week, early in the morning...” – the time when Christ was met outside his Easter tomb. So for us this ‘Holy Day’ has brought other things as well, a day of renewal, of refreshment, of peace. A chance just to be ourselves for a short while before the onset of the next six days.

So today we still need to remind ourselves that Sunday still is our Holy Day. It is an ongoing memorial to that very first Easter Day. Not just to the life of Our Lord but to his glorious risen life as well.

So to you all, a very happy Easter.

With my best wishes,

Peter Jefford.



NOTICES FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

Cremation

On March 21st at Reading Crematorium, Gordon Lesley, aged 79 years, of Eastfield House, Eastfield Lane, who died on March 8th at the Royal Berks.

Burial of Ashes

On March 17th at St John’s , Alan Geoffrey Harding, aged 79 years, who died on July 8th 1999 at Beacher Hall Nursing Home, Bath Road, Reading.

On March 22nd at St John’s, Richard John Munn, aged 63 years, of Chalgrove, formerly of Whitchurch Hill, who died on 23rd May 2001.

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord. May light perpetual shine upon them.

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March 11th 2002

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Mrs Eiluned Jones

Those of us who were in church on Mothering Sunday, March 10th, at the Mothering Sunday Eucharist at St John's church, were very distressed that Eiluned became ill in the middle of the service. For a while we could not go on. But I would like to thank all those who took care of her in the church while we waited, to thank also the ambulance crew from Reading and those who have been taking care of her in hospital since.

I heard last night that she was much more comfortable so that is very good. But we did pray for her, as we are to continue to pray for her, and we do hope that in her own good time she will be home again at Wells House and back with us in church each Sunday where she belongs.

Take care, Eiluned.

Peter Jefford.

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History of Englefield Garden Centre

TACT (the Thames and Chiltern Trust) started the nursery in 1995 on land in Tidmarsh. Clients from TACT developed horticultural skills and gained work experience while producing a range of plants in the nursery. The plants produced were sold outside the United Reform Church in Pangbourne and a loyal clientele was quickly established. In May 1996 an opportunity arose to take over an existing garden centre business in the grounds of Englefield Estate owned by Sir William and Lady Benyon. The garden centre is situated off the A340 Pangbourne to Theale road.

Children's Page

Peter was excited. Do you remember how last time we left him very unhappy because he had let his special friend Yeshua down? The Romans had killed Yeshua and Peter thought there was nothing left to live for. But then something so stupendous, so amazing, so unheard-of happened – Yeshua came alive again. And Peter remembered that he'd promised beforehand that this would happen.

Now Peter was in his boat, fishing, and suddenly he saw on the shore a well-loved figure. It was Yeshua. Peter leapt out of the boat and swam to the shore. Yeshua greeted him. When the others arrived in the boat, they all had breakfast. Yeshua had cooked some fish for them on a fire he'd made on the stony beach. They had a lovely breakfast together, talking about all that had happened. After breakfast Yeshua took Peter aside and asked gently, 'Peter, do you love me?' 'Yes, Lord.' Peter replied.

'Then feed my lambs.' Yeshua told him. A few moments later he asked again.

'Peter, do you love me?'

'Yes Lord, I do.'

'Take care of my sheep.'

And a third time.

'Peter, do you love me?'

'Lord, you know everything. You know I love you.'

'Then feed my sheep.'

And Peter knew that Yeshua had forgiven him. He'd asked him three times to say he loved him, to wipe out the three times last week when he'd said he didn't even know him. Peter knew that Yeshua would always be his friend.

Yeshua or Jesus, as we call him, died and came alive again and Easter is the time when we remember it. Just like Peter, he wants us to be his friends, and will always forgive us for the wrong things we do.

Geraldine Witcher



Family Service.

When you read these words in a church context what do they mean to you? Is a family service something where the children run wild and you can't concentrate? Is it a new fangled idea that doesn't fit in our traditional church setting here in Whitchurch? Or is it a good idea because you'd like the children to hear the Bible stories? Or a service where adults and children together can worship God in a rather less formal structure than usual?

Or have you no idea at all what might constitute a family service?

Well, now is your chance to find out what it means. On April 7th at 4pm at St Mary's Church, Whitchurch, the first family service of the year will be taking place. Normally these will be held on the 5th Sunday of months which have one, but since the fifth Sunday of March is actually Easter Day, this one has been delayed by a week.

On April 7th we are hoping that lots of families will join us in a short service exploring the meaning of Easter. As with the Christingle service we hope children will enjoy joining in and adults will enjoy seeing the children involved in church life. We hope that everyone who comes, both adults and children, will find something relevant for them in the service. We also hope that we will all together enjoy celebrating Easter.

And we promise not to go on too long!



EVENSONG

To remind you:-

A short Evensong is said on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 6.00 pm at St Mary's.

A small group already regularly attend but more would be most welcome at this ancient and contemplative service of the church.

Dalby Landen



Our Old Organs

We have recently had the organs at St Mary's and St John's serviced. Robin Rance who looks after them says that the two of them, both built Walker, are of excellent quality. St John's organ is in good condition but the organ at St Mary's, which had its last major service in 1972, will sooner or later need a radical overhaul. Robert Noble used to say the same. Norman Hutt and Anne Bolam do too. We already have an organ fund in existence. We need to set about raising serious money now for the future.

Tanya Hawley



'The All Churches Together Good Friday march is this year starting from Pangbourne Primary School at 10 am and will make its way around Pangbourne, finishing at St James church. All members of St Mary's and St John's are welcome to join the marchers.'



Notice outside a small church: "Emergency prayers only during revarnishing of pews."

*From 'Peterborough' in The Daily Telegraph,
Submitted by John Dolby*

Get up, get out, get happy

Recent research in America has shown that religion is good for your health and that regular attendance at your church, mosque, Buddhist monastery or synagogue is related to significantly longer life. The more you attend church, the better your health. Religious people have lower blood pressure, suffer less from heart disease, have a greater long-term survival rate after open-heart surgery and are less likely to get cancer. They are also less depressed and less likely to be obese. It is not enough to be religious, you have to actively participate.

An American Gallup poll compared highly spiritual people with those low in 'spiritual commitment' and the former are more likely to consider themselves happy. With close links between physical and mental wellbeing, believers have a contentment and resilience and because they feel good about themselves they take care of themselves better.



My appointment as its pastor coincided with the church's appeal for aid for the victims of a hurricane. Unfortunately, the centre page of the church bulletin had fallen out and the congregation read from the bottom of the second page to the top of the last: "Welcome to Reverend Andrew Jensen and his family...The worst disaster to hit the area this century. The full extent of the tragedy is not yet known." REVEREND ANDREW JENSEN, CHATHAM, CANADA

From the Reader's Digest, Submitted by John Dolby



Someone once said: What goes around comes around.
Work like you don't need the money.
Love like you've never been hurt.
Dance like nobody's watching.
Sing like nobody's listening.
Live like it's Heaven on Earth.

Submitted by Pam Phillipson.

More on Mow Cop

Sue,

I read with interest the article in the March 2002 Parish Magazine about Tony Voysey's house in the High Street. My family all live within 15 miles of Mow Cop in Cheshire. The village is very close to the border between the North Staffordshire and South Cheshire. It stands on a hill overlooking the Cheshire plain and is best known by locals as a landmark because it is home to an 18th century folly, a ruined castle that never actually existed.

I was not aware of the link with Methodism. However North Staffordshire and South Cheshire are very strong Methodist areas. The village where my mother lives had 3 Methodist chapels inside a 600 yd. stretch of the main street, called Church Street. One survives as a chapel, another made way for a supermarket, and the third is now an Antiochian Orthodox church.

Lastly, the local pronunciation of Mow Cop is "mow" as in "Chairman Mao" and "cop" as in "cops and robbers".

David Browning
29 Swanston Field



More Misprints

From St Michael and All Angels Parish News, Bramhill, Stockport: "The nineteenth century was a time of a great many thoughts and inventions. People stopped reproducing by hand and started reproducing by machine. The invention of the steam boat by Robert Fulton caused a network of rivers to spring up. Thomas Edison invented the pornograph, and Cyrus McCormick invented the McCormick Raper, which did the work of 100 men.'

Submitted by Elisabeth Napier-Munn

Joining Words For Aching Joints

On Saturday 19th January, The Barn in Beech Road became the centre of the UK Scrabble scene when West Berks Scrabble Club held its second open tournament in the spacious 16th century building. Although being only a single day event, with each player playing 6 games, the tournament attracted some of the bigger names from the UK Scrabble fraternity, including 2 who had played in the 2002 World Championships, being present amongst the 76 competitors. With participants travelling from as far afield as Cardiff, the south coast and Southend, all eyes were on the weather given that it was in the middle of January. In the event we need not have worried as the only weather problem was caused by the bright sun in players' eyes.

The players were split into 3 divisions according to strength. In each of the divisions, the winner remained unbeaten throughout the 6 games, although in the B division it was 5 wins and a draw, rather than 6 wins.

In the top division, Andy Davis from the Middlesex league was triumphant, repeating his success from the previous year's tournament. In the other 2 divisions, the East Berks club based in Bracknell, swept all before them with Andy Becher winning the B division and Maureen Barlow winning the C. From the home club's perspective, 6 members actually competed in the tournament, with Elizabeth Hull being the best of the West Berks players, being placed 4th in division B.

All other members of the club played some part in the proceedings which ensured that the tournament went off without any hitches, and with competitors promising to "come again next year". All administrative services were given free, including a veritable banquet of home made

(Continued on page 17)

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THOMAS EDGAR GOODALL

11.03.1920 - 17.02.2002

Tom was born in Coombe Side Cottage, Whitchurch, the second son of Edgar and Elsie Goodall. He attended the village school in Hardwick Road, until he was thirteen when he left to go to work. Tom enlisted in the Grenadier Guards in 1940 and after spending time on duty in London served in North Africa, Italy, Austria and Palestine.

Tom married his wife Betty in 1947. They have two sons, Roy and Richard, and have lived in Whitchurch all their married life. Tom joined the Post Office Telephones in 1953 until his retirement in 1985. He was a member of the bowling club and captained the team for a while.

Tom's knowledge of Whitchurch was extensive and his family have been associated with the village for many years. His great grandfather on his father's side came to the village in the early 1800's and was the landlord of the Bridge House, now known as the Ferryboat Inn. His ancestors on his mother's side, the Lewendons, have lived in the area much longer. Tom is survived by his wife and two sons.

This was also published in the Whitchurch Bulletin March edition.



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Services for

Easter and April

29th March, Good Friday

St John's *12 noon* *An Hour by the Cross*

31st March, Easter Day

St John's **8 a.m.** **The Holy Communion**

St Mary's **10 a.m.** **Parish Communion**

7th April, 1st Sunday after Easter

St John's *8 a.m.* *The Holy Communion*

St Mary's *10 a.m.* *Parish Communion*

St Mary's *4 p.m.* *Family Service*

14th April, 2nd Sunday after Easter

St Mary's *8 a.m.* *The Holy Communion*

St John's *10 a.m.* *Parish Communion*

St Mary's *6 p.m.* *Evensong*

21st April, 3rd Sunday after Easter

St John's *8 a.m.* *The Holy Communion*

St Mary's *10 a.m.* *Parish Communion*

28th April, 4th Sunday after Easter

St Mary's *8 a.m.* *The Holy Communion*

St John's *10 a.m.* *Parish Communion*

St Mary's *6 p.m.* *Evensong*