

Tarleton & Rufford

Parish Magazine



TREASURE WITHIN



APRIL / MAY 2026
ISSUE

DW

DAVID WILKINSON

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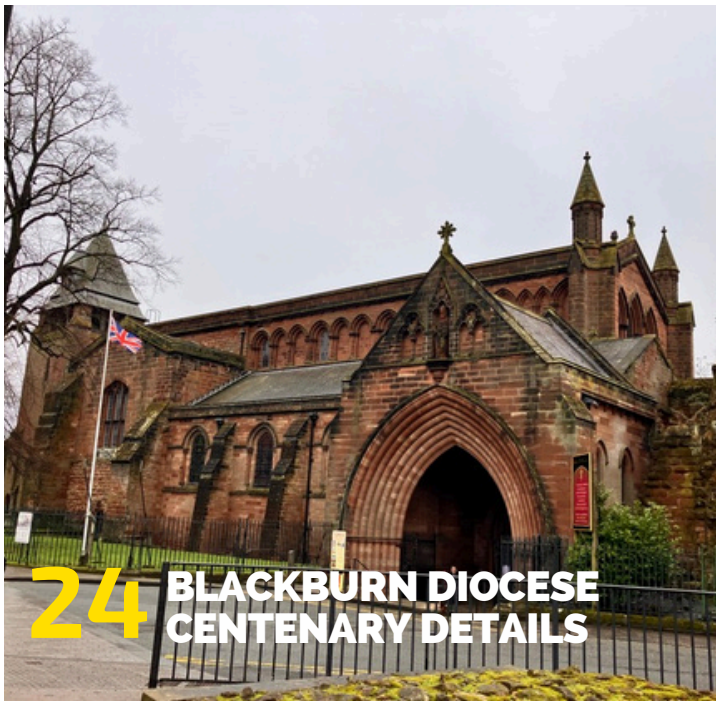
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EDITOR@RSMTHT.CHURCH

**Deadline for next magazine is:
Thursday 15th May
2026**

Clergy Thoughts

I Have Seen the Lord

By Fr. Joe Kochanski - Assistant Curate

Mary stood outside the tomb weeping...

The stone had been rolled away, and Jesus' body was gone. She told Peter and John who ran to the tomb, who saw what she saw, but then went away confused – unsure of what to think... But Mary stayed. Overcome with emotion, her mind racing, not sure of where else to be. Mary stayed...

She bent low to look into the tomb one more time. What was she looking for? Answers? Explanations? Hope?

Suddenly there were two angels where none had been before – and yet Mary seems almost unfazed. “Why are you weeping?” they ask her. “Because they have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him.”

Who could blame her for thinking thus? Before she had seen the risen Christ for herself, before Jesus had revealed himself to hundreds of people, before his followers would willingly endure torture and death upholding the truth of the resurrection – who could blame her for thinking that the body was simply moved?

She turns around and sees a man she assumes is the gardener. “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him.” But then, Jesus calls her by name. “Mary,” he gently says to her.

And then, there is a moment. The moment.

In a split-second, her entire world outlook changes. She recognises Jesus. She realises that he is risen,

that death could not contain him. She comes to understand the victory he has won. In that split-second, the Good News changes her life forever.

Was there a moment like that in your life that you can recall? An epiphany moment? Even for those of us who were raised as Christians since birth, was there a moment where you realised that all you had been told is true?

I am rather taken by the painting *Noli me Tangere* ("touch me not") by the twentieth century painter Graham Sutherland. The original is displayed on the altar of the Mary Magdalene Chapel in the south-eastern corner of Chichester Cathedral

The painting captures something of that moment of realisation – but it does so in a way that feels raw and contemporary. It is not a soft, pastel resurrection scene. The colours are bold with reds and oranges dominating the background, almost like fire or upheaval. The shapes are angular. The space feels fractured.

It was painted in a century marked by world wars, uncertainty and deep cultural shifts. The artist was not painting into a serene, stable world. He was painting into brokenness.

That's important to bear in mind because the resurrection did not happen in a serene, stable world either. It happened in a world of Roman occupation, political tension, betrayal and execution. It happened in the aftermath of state violence and public humiliation. It happened when hope seemed extinguished.

The painting reflects that tension. Mary is not depicted as calm and composed. Her posture is strained, almost collapsing forward. Her expression carries shock, confusion, desperation – and perhaps the very first instant of hope and understanding. She is caught in that split-second moment between despair and recognition.

And Jesus is not shown as a pale, floating figure from heaven. He's there in a gardener's hat. He leans towards her. There is movement. There is urgency.



This is not a still, lifeless religious picture... this is encounter.

But what strikes me most about the painting is that it captures the moment of turning. The turning of Mary's head. The turning of her understanding. The turning of history itself.

Before that moment, she is looking into a tomb. After that moment, she is looking into the face of the risen Lord. Before that moment, she is searching for a body. After that moment, she is entrusted with sharing the Good News.

In John's Gospel, when Mary recognises Jesus, he says to her, "... Go and tell my brothers". And Mary went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord."

The resurrection is not only something to experience - it is something to proclaim. Mary's epiphany moment was never meant to remain private.

She becomes, in that instant, the first witness. The first bearer of Easter news. God chooses her to be the first to carry resurrection hope back to a confused and frightened community.

Notice how simple her message is. "I have seen the Lord!"

That is mission in its purest form. And here is where this connects so directly to us, in this Year of Mission. Mary did not have a theology degree. She did not have all the answers. She had been weeping only moments before. Her understanding was still forming. But she had encountered the risen Christ - and that was enough. That's all the qualification she needed.

Her task was simple: go and tell.

Mission, at its heart, is not about having a perfectly polished argument. It is not about winning debates or having every question resolved. It is about bearing witness to what we have seen and heard. It is about saying, in our own way, "I have met the risen Lord."

For some of us, that encounter may have been dramatic. For others, it may have been gradual - more like a slow dawning than a sudden flash. But Christ has called us each by name, and if we have come to recognise his voice in our lives, then we too have something to share.

The painting's fractured backdrop reminds us that we still live in a broken world. Conflict continues. Illness and grief remain real. Many feel anxious about the future. In such a world, Easter is not a sentimental story; it is a radical declaration. Death does not have the final word. Despair does not have the final say. Christ is risen!

In our own lives, “going and telling” will most likely take place within a quiet conversation. It may mean inviting someone to come with us to a church service. It may mean speaking honestly about why faith matters to us – or the difference which Jesus has made to our lives. It may mean living in such a way that others glimpse resurrection hope in our patience, our kindness, our love toward others.

By telling others, we may become part of someone else’s epiphany moment.

Perhaps there is someone you know who is standing, metaphorically, outside a tomb – grieving, confused, searching. Perhaps they are asking questions they have never voiced. Perhaps they don’t know where to find hope.

What if, through you, they were to hear their name spoken? What if, through your words or your witness, they were to turn and see Christ differently?

Mary’s world changed in a split-second when Jesus called her by name. Our calling is to help others hear that same voice.

The resurrection is not just something that happened long ago. It is a living reality that continues to transform lives. The risen Christ still meets people in their confusion. He still speaks into grief. He still turns despair into hope.

And he still says to his followers: “Go and tell”.

As we celebrate Easter, may we remember that the empty tomb is not the end of the story. It is the beginning of mission. The same Lord who called Mary by name calls us too – and sends us out into a world that needs resurrection hope.

Perhaps, through our faithfulness, someone else will have their own moment. Their own turning. Their own recognition. And perhaps one day, they too will say, “I have seen the Lord.”



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Planting to Publishing

Do you enjoy losing yourself in a good book?

Are you free at 12 noon on Saturday 18th April?

If so, we would love to welcome you to our first ever literary event at Tarleton Holy Trinity Church.

Popular and prolific local author Suzanne Snow will be joining us to talk about her work and read extracts from some of her novels which exude feel-good rural themes, entirely fitting for springtime in Tarleton. We will conclude with a seasonal raffle.

Tickets for this event include soup and roll, coffee or tea and (of course!) delicious cake. They cost £10, and proceeds will be shared between Queenscourt Hospice and the church. Please contact Victoria Rimmer (01772 812960) or Shirley Gornall (07876 593815) if you would like to attend.

Going Green

Since we announced in the December/January Magazine that as part of the Commemorations of the Centenary of the Diocesan of Blackburn, in Tarleton we would hold a Let's Go Green Festival on the weekend of September 12/13. Since then much work and planning has taken place.

We choose the theme of Let's Go Green because Tarleton is an area of growing and market gardening, hence displaying produce, crafts and flowers in an environmentally way, using sustainable materials.

On 24th January a demonstration was given by Angela Coulton. This was attended by a large representative audience from groups doing displays for Let's Go Green. Angela used seasonal flowers and greenery and had many ideas regarding containers and materials available. We thank Angela for her demonstration and her commitment to environmental sustainability.

We are pleased that among the community groups involved are the volunteer gardeners at Bank Hall, who will work with pupils and staff at Holy Trinity School, from late April onwards, to tidy up the school's open air Prayer Area. This will be re-dedicated at the Celebration Weekend with a Family Mass.

Details of the many activities for all ages which will take place over the weekend will be revealed close to the date. Watch this space.

RUFFORD COFFEE AND CHAT

My partner and I had often walked past the poster on the cricket club gates advertising the Coffee and Chat group. A short while ago we made a daring decision to stick our heads through the door and were met with the warmest of welcomes, fabulous conversation plus coffee and cake to boot!

We have returned several times since and on doing so have got to know more faces and learned more about our local community than we have in the 20 years we have lived here! The group is run by an amazing group of volunteers and is supported by our local church, St Mary's. It offers a warm and welcoming space for anyone who fancies an hour or so of fabulous and fascinating company, interesting, informative and often humorous conversation, along with a hot cuppa and a biscuit or two.

What more could you ask for?

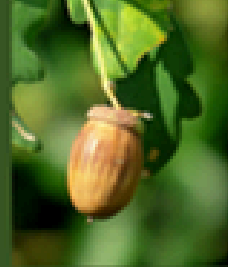


Weekly Rector Update E-mails

Please note that we have switched our e-mail updates from the Rector to a new platform. We attempted to move the current mailing list over, but if you have not received an update e-mail from the rector recently, please scan this QR code with your Smartphone, and follow the link to add your e-mail details, if you wish to be added to our mailing list.

Alternatively, please visit the following link:
<https://ruffordtarletonparish.churchsuite.com/-/groups/3o9yzhxk>

Renewal



Friday 10th April 2026
Tarleton Holy Trinity Church
7.30pm to 8.30pm

For this session we will have a go at balloon modelling.
If you prefer, you can continue with any craft or project you are doing at the moment. There will also be mindful colouring pages available. You would also be most welcome to just come along and simply be with the group.

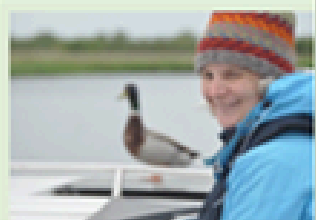


The session will conclude with music and a short Christian reflection.

Future session

Friday 1st May 2026

*He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord will renew their strength.
Isaiah 40: 21-31a*



For further information, contact
Helen Hindle (Anna Chaplain)
hmhindle@googlemail.com

01772 815738



Lyrics and Laughter is part of
Lyrics and Lunch Network
www.lyricsandlunch.org

LYRICS AND LAUGHTER AT RUFFORD ST MARY'S CHURCH

Held at Rufford St Mary's Church,
Church Road, Rufford L40 1TA
on Thursday 7th May 2026
from 2.00pm to 3.30pm



Come and join us once a month for singing, fun, friendship and memories. Each session will begin with tea/coffee and biscuits, followed by a time of singing favourite songs from the past. We will conclude with two hymns and a thought for the day. The session is open to all people including people with dementia and their carers to come and enjoy time together.
The session is free of charge.

For further details please contact
Helen Hindle (Anna Chaplain) 01772 815738 hmhindle@googlemail.com

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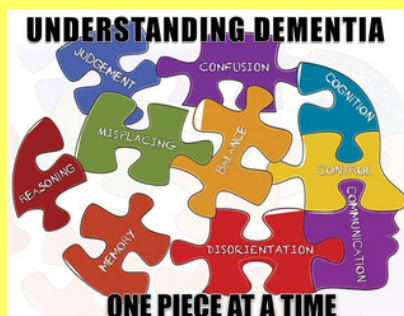
In addition to our annual Pancake Evening at John and Victoria Rimmer's House, this year Hattie arranged a family fun morning of pancakes, colouring and games at the Community Space at Holy Trinity Church.



ASH WEDNESDAY



Dementia Carers



We offer support in a safe environment to express your worries and concerns with like minded people no need to book everyone welcome

Hesketh Bank Community Centre

Station road PR4 6SR
Thursday 2pm till 4pm

If we can help you or you can help us by becoming a volunteer, please contact us on Heskethbankandtarletonhelpers@gmail.com

Hesketh Bank & Tarleton Helpers



Community café

Every Friday, volunteers from Hesketh bank and Tarleton helpers deliver a community café at Hesketh bank community centre. No need to book



We offer a three-course home-cooked lunch for a donation of what you can afford.

The event is open to everyone, and most visitors are happy to donate £5 for a very pleasant dining experience in a welcoming atmosphere.

Memories R Made Choir for people living with memory loss & those who support them. No need to book



Sutton Grange Care Home, Banks

🕒 Wednesdays, 11:00–12:00pm

📍 Alsley Lodge Care Home, Rufford

🕒 Wednesdays, 2:30–3:30pm



Calling for volunteer befrienders

A free service that aims to help older people who live locally and feel lonely or socially isolated. Our friendly befriender volunteers visit befriended clients regularly in their own homes or, if preferred, out in the community for a minimum of one hour a week.



LEPROSY MISSION

I feel very privileged to be the new Parish representative for The Leprosy Mission.

About forty years ago I was on holiday in Crete and visited the small island of Spinalonga where those suffering from Leprosy were banished to. Visitors weren't allowed and food had to be thrown from small boats onto the island. Those images stayed with me ever since so maybe God's plan was for me to do something however small to help those afflicted by this disease today.

Thank you for giving so generously when John Harrison spoke to us in January. Kathryn the new Community Partnership Manager for the north west has sent a poster in recognition of your wonderful donations which you can see on the notice board. STOP PRESS - we raised £577.07!

Please pick up a leaflet from the back of church and pray for all those affected by this dreadful disease.

Ann Bryan

MOTHERS' UNION



On Wednesday 11 February we enjoyed an interesting talk from Philip Walsh about his travels around Lancashire. Two of our members also attended a talk on dementia at St Ambrose, Leyland.

On Wednesday 11 March we looked forward to a talk from a crime reporter at 2 o'clock. On Saturday 14 March we bunched daffodils in the parish room; Mothering Sunday followed on 15 March.

On Wednesday 25 March it was Lady Day, with a service at Holy Trinity Church, Tarleton, at 10 am.

On Wednesday 8 April at 2 o'clock, Lynn Birchall will give a talk on her travels.

On Monday 11 May there will be a prayer meeting led by Pat.

Our Mother's Union meeting in May will celebrate 150 years of the Mothers' Union with an afternoon tea at 2.00 pm. On Wednesday 13 May the Mother's Union Leyland Deanery Festival will take place at St Leonard's, Walton-le-Dale.



Starting
14th April

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for babies and toddlers (0-4 years)

INCENSE

Psalm 141 says

"Let my prayer be counted as incense before you"
(ESV)

"Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense;
" (KSV)

As I write this article I have just ordered a supply of Incense from the Benedictine Abbey at Mucknell in Worcestershire, because we will be using it heavily at Holy Hour in Lent and through the Easter Triduum.

As the Psalmist says the rising of Incense reminds us of the rising of our prayers to Heaven. In the Anglo-Catholic Tradition we worship God with all our senses: Smell as well as taste, hearing sight and touch. God gave us these 5 senses so we could appreciate his created order, and so I believe we should use all five in our worship of him.

Some people tell me they struggle with Incense for health reasons, but it is being used increasingly for medicinal and therapeutic reasons. In the body of Christ we are all different - I struggle with the noise in church sometimes.

The Incense we use is made principally from the sap of the Boswellia tree. The tree is found in Africa and Arabia, but with climate change and civil war it is getting harder and harder to harvest insufficient quantities.

In December the BBC reported, "It can take 10 years or more for a tree to recover from damage inflicted by excessive harvesting.

Every year, Salad Muse camps for three to six months in a cave near the site he owns with these trees on it. Each day he heads out the land, owned and tended by his family for generations. He moves from tree to tree, inspecting the bark for pests, scraping back sand and tending to seedlings he planted earlier in the season.

But the fate of these groves, and the entire livelihood of frankincense harvesters, is hanging in the balance. As groves fail, the local and global industries built up around frankincense are being forced to reconsider how this precious substance is produced, traced and sold around the world."

Added to the sap are different oils and myrrhs depending on the blend we use. At Holy Trinity, Tarleton we mainly use a blend of called Glastonbury, although over Christmas we use Incense brought by Fr Joe from Bethlehem. The blends have monastic names because they have been made in monasteries for centuries, a reminder of the role it plays in the prayer life of Religious Houses.

Fr Mark Soady SSC



PATHWAYS TO PRAYER

Praying on my own is something I have really struggled with throughout my Christian journey. I have found it hard to discern how to pray. How do we communicate with God?

In order to try and develop my “prayer toolkit,” I participated in a ‘Pathways to Prayer’ Workshop At Whalley Abbey. The day focused on a branch of prayer called contemplative prayer, looking at four different methods:

- breath of contemplation
- imaginative prayer
- centering prayer
- visio divina

The first workshop was the breath of contemplation held in the abbey’s very comfortable lounge. It was easy to get immersed in the experience on a relaxing chair, gazing out of the window! We began by considering how Jesus used to pray. As a Jewish man, he would have prayed set prayers three times daily. However, Jesus’ prayer life still looked different....

Jesus taught his disciples a different way of praying, prayer which involves being still and maintaining silence. This is the foundation for breath of contemplation. The prayer method was developed by the desert mothers and fathers of the early monastic tradition. They believed that prayer is an act of love which is manifested in calm, focused oneness. Jesus invites us into this way of praying because we are united with him in the trinity through our baptism. Breath of contemplation is about receiving and retuning God’s love - being in a unique and direct relationship with him through the trinity.

How does the breath of contemplation practice work? This is the sequence we were taught:

Step 1: Seat yourself in a position that is comfortable for you

Step 2: Recall the gift of your Baptism

Step 3: Focus on your relationship with Jesus (love)

Step 4: Inhale- as you breathe in ‘receive’ the love of the father, in Christ, His beloved son You may wish to say “love” to help you focus

Step 5: Exhale – as you breathe out return the love, in the spirit to the father. You may wish to say “love”

After a short break we then went down to the chapel to participate in an imaginative prayer exercise.

Imaginative prayer was developed by St Ignatius who suggested that prayer is a form of communication whereby ‘one friend speaks to another.’

The first step of imaginative contemplation is to select a Bible passage. The baptism of Jesus Christ was the focus of our session. Firstly, the leader read the passage and then invited us in to the scene through our senses. We had to picture ourselves seated on the bank of the River Jordan observing Jesus being baptised by John. We imagined feeling the water’s coolness or the grass at our fingertips. The leader invited us into a personal conversation with Jesus, imagining what Jesus would say to us, sitting on the river bank and what we would say to him. I pictured Jesus inviting me into the water and I asked Jesus if he would help me to develop in my faith. I wonder what you would picture?

Imaginative prayer felt like a very personal way of engaging with scripture, a powerful way of discerning messages from Jesus.

After using a lot of brain power we then had lunch (delicious!) and got to know our fellow participants, who had travelled from across the North West to experience Whalley.

The third contemplative exercise we focused on was centring prayer in the impressive library. Centering prayer was developed in the twentieth

PATHWAYS TO PRAYER

century by Trappist monks. It involves being in a quiet place with minimal disturbance. To support individuals with focus a sacred word is used to help bring a person's attention back onto God. The sacred word should be used any time an individual feels distracted. As I found during the practice, it is very easy to let your mind wander, surprisingly challenging to not do anything except to listen out for God. It was recommended to try this exercise for a few minutes per day.

Here is a guide for how you may wish to try this prayer

Step 1: Find a quiet place

Step 2: Sit up right but in comfortable position (you may wish to use a cushion to support you back)

Step 3: Close your eyes

Step 4: Bring your attention to what you experience in the present moment, to how God is within you in the here and now

If your mind becomes distracted say your chosen sacred word

Step 5: When you are ready to finish the exercise, take a few minutes to return your attention to your environment. Do not rush.

The final exercise was visio divina (Latin for 'divine seeing') held in the magnificent wood panelled main hall at the abbey. We were invited to select a photograph from a selection displayed on the table. Many of the photographs were of natural objects and I chose an image of a dandelion. During the exercise we were invited to look closely at different aspects of the image, foreground, background and detailed features. We then narrowed our focus to the part of the image that captured our attention the most. For me, this was the very centre of the intricate flower. We then spent some time reflecting on what God may be trying to communicate to us through the image. I felt that God was trying to call me into development and growth of my faith, also the importance of reaching out to others to talk about faith. The leader of the

final session suggested that a way of practising visio divina is to notice things that capture your attention such as when out for a walk. If a particular image intrigues you, take a picture. Then find time to reflect on the image at home, perhaps journal about the aspects of the image which bring into focus what God might be trying to tell you through the image.

I hope that these different exercises may inspire you to try some new ways of praying!

Article kindly provided by Sophie Gornall.

If you would like to find out more about Retreats and Quiet Days at Whalley Abbey visit: <https://www.whalleyabbey.org>



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SERVICES & DIARY DATES

BISHOPS GALORE

EASTER TRIDUUM

We are so pleased that in this Centenary Year of the Diocese of Blackburn, that the Bishop of Blackburn will spend the Easter Triduum with us in Rufford and Tarleton.

Bishop Philip will Preside and preach on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and at the Paschal Vigil on Easter Eve.

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

7.30pm Mass of the Last Supper, Washing of Feet and Stripping of the Altars, followed by the Watch of the Passion (Tarleton)

Good Friday, April 3rd

10.15 Stations of the Cross (Rufford)
2pm Liturgy of the Day (Tarleton)

Easter Eve (April 4th)

7.30pm Paschal Vigil

FEAST OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY - FEAST OF TITLE

On Trinity Sunday (May 31st) we will welcome Bishop Glyn Webster as our Preacher at 10.45am at Holy Trinity Church, Tarleton , as we Celebrate our Feast of Title at Tarleton.

FAMILIES@4

Easter Saturday (April 11th),
Tarleton

No Families @ 4 in May as we shall all be at the Diocesan Big Day out in Blackpool

SUNDAYS

Easter Day

8am Said Mass (Tarleton)
9.15am Sung Eucharist (Rufford)
10.45am Solemn Mass (Tarleton)

OTHER SUNDAYS

Weekly 9.15am Rufford & 10.45am
Tarleton

May 24th is The Feast of Pentecost
& May 31st is Trinity Sunday

8am Services

Rufford: April 12th , 26th & May 10th
, 24th

Tarleton: April 19th & May 3rd and
17th

No 8am on May 31st

SERVICES & DIARY DATES

APCMs

The Annual Meetings for our two parishes will take place as follows:

TARLETON: Sunday May 3rd after the 10.45 Mass

RUFFORD: Thursday May 14 after 7pm Mid-week Service

May 16th The Blackpool Big Day Out

Bishop Philip writes, "In the early years of the Diocese, the annual beach mission to Blackpool was a key event every year in which people came together from across the county. It seems right therefore to return to this seaside town for a day to celebrate our life together in Jesus. The day will start at 11.00am with lots of fun activities for primary and pre-school aged children and their families/carers (in St John's, Church Blackpool) and secondary aged young people (in St John's school). Lunch will be provided free of charge to all who have booked and we will have a big outdoor all-age celebration at 2.00pm". See page 25 for details on how to book!

FEAST DAYS/HOLY DAYS

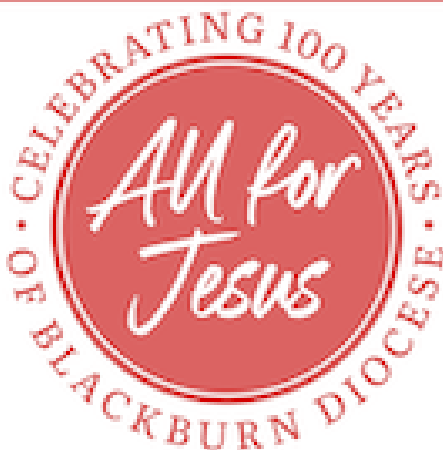
April 23rd, St George : 7pm at Rufford

May 1st Ss Philip & James 12.15pm Tarleton

MAY 14th ASCENSION DAY

10.30am Outdoors at St Mary's, Windgate

7pm Rufford



Heavenly Father,
in our Centenary year
we rededicate ourselves and our Diocese to you.
Send the Holy Spirit to give us
confidence in our witness,
generosity in our service,
and love for our neighbours,
that your Church may be renewed
and many come home to you,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

Rufford Centenary

WALKING GROUP

Tuesday 28th April

**10am start - approx. 2 hours
/ 4.5 miles**

Meeting point: St Mary's Church

Church Road, Rufford, L40 1TA

Refreshments in Church

Accessible walking route, suitable for all abilities

To book your place, email molyneux.irene@yahoo.com

Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment

BLACKBURN DIOCESE

A HUNDRED YEARS OF THE DIOCESE OF BLACKBURN...AND MORE YEARS OF PROCLAIMING JESUS

While the Diocese is 100 years old this year, there has been a church at Rufford since the 1300s. Our Rector looks at the Diocesan history of our Benefice.

The first Diocese of which we were part was the Diocese of Lichfield

During the Reformation we became part of the Diocese of Chester and later in 1847 the Diocese of Manchester.

At the time the Diocese of Blackburn split from the Diocese of Manchester William Temple was Bishop of Manchester. Bishop William Temple was the 98th Archbishop of Canterbury, The son of an Archbishop of Canterbury, Temple had a traditional education after which he was briefly a lecturer at the

University of Oxford before becoming headmaster of Repton School from 1910 to 1914. After serving as a parish priest in London from 1914 to 1917 and as a Canon of Westminster Abbey, he was appointed Bishop of Manchester in 1921 and in 1926 he formed the Diocese of Blackburn. William Temple worked for improved social conditions for workers and for closer ties with other Christian churches. He became Archbishop of York in 1929 and in 1942 he became the Archbishop of Canterbury. Archbishop Temple was admired and respected for his writing, his inspirational teaching and preaching, for his constant concern for those in need or under persecution, and for his willingness to stand up on their behalf to governments at home and abroad.

Dr Percy Herbert was the Inaugural Bishop of Blackburn. He was translated to be Bishop of Norfolk in 1942, and on retirement became Rector of Sandringham. Bishop Phillip is the 10th Bishop who has overseen the Diocese.

The Church of St John was the Cathedral Church of Chester until 1541.



Blackburn Diocesan Centenary **BIG DAY OUT** Saturday 16th May 2026

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ROSE QUEEN

Rose Queen Reunion

On Saturday 25th April between 1-3pm Isabelle is inviting all previous Tarleton Rose Queen's to join her at Tarleton Holy Trinity Church for light refreshments. Everyone is welcome to come and share in this celebration of Rose Queen, a wonderful opportunity to share memories and stories of this lovely tradition.

Please feel free to pass on this invitation to anyone you know that has been involved in Rose Queen over the years and would like to join us in this special afternoon.

Tarleton Scarecrow Festival

Look out for the Rose Queen Scarecrow which will be part of this years Scarecrow Festival which is taking place over the weekend of Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th May.

SCHOOLS



Our Parish Primary School Headteachers spent the day at Blackburn Rovers Grounds with clergy and Hattie, as part of a Diocesan Conference to encourage schools and churches to work together to transform lives and Communities" L/R Fr Joe, Mrs Cookson (Head of Rufford CE School), Mr Smith (Head of Tarleton Holy Trinity CE School), Fr Mark, Miss Rowe (Head of Tarleton Mere Brow CE School) Hattie Boak (Parish Youth coordinator).

SCHOOLS

Tarleton Holy Trinity Church of England (Aided) Primary School

In my Headteacher entry for the April and May Parish magazine last year I wrote that, 'There are going to be some exciting times ahead at THT's two neighbouring church schools with both Mrs Livesey (Mere Brow) and Mrs Ellery (Rufford) retiring at the end of the academic year.'

Well one year on, as many of you know I have now decided to retire from my role as Headteacher of Tarleton Holy Trinity CE Primary School after 13 wonderful years at THT. As I put in my letter to parents and carers, it feels like the right time for me to step into retirement and begin a new chapter in my life. I look forward to making the most of my remaining time at Tarleton Holy Trinity and to saying goodbye properly at the end of the summer term.

But we have a lot to do before then... Easter will soon be upon us, and is always one of the two most exciting times in the Christian Calendar (see below). We will also be helping Year 6 with their final preparations for their SATs test and after that, be preparing them for High School. Most of them, as usual will be off to Tarleton Academy in September, with one or two going elsewhere to Bishop Rawstorne, All Hallows and Hutton Grammar School.

As I actually write this entry, we are still building up to the actual Sunday of Easter – and, as I've said on many occasions, I always think of my Gran at this

time - On Good Friday we always woke up to the smell of toasting Hot Cross Buns for breakfast and then my Gran (who always came to stay at Easter) would make her famous Fish Pie for tea...Fond, fond memories.

So as you read this sometime around the Easter weekend...whatever you got up to over the Easter Break – or indeed get up to during the May Holidays - make sure you make some memories – spend some time doing whatever you love to do...with the person (or people) who you love to do it with - and most importantly – we hope you had a Special and Blessed Easter!!

See you soon!!

Stephen B Smith (Headteacher)

On the morning of Holocaust Memorial Day. Year 6 pupils from Tarleton Holy Trinity Church of England School, Rufford Church of England School and Tarleton Mere Brow Church of England School attended a service in church along with about 50 adults.

Fr Mark led the service - but the children from all three schools contributed by lighting candles, reading poems and leading us in prayer in what was a very moving service.

Photographed are the three candle lighters.



SCHOOLS

Pupils from Tarleton Holy Trinity CE and Tarleton Mere Brow CE School had a great day with RISE Theatre company last month. Funded by Tarleton PCC, as part of our Diocesan Centenary Year of Mission the pupils learnt about 7 key treasures with in all Christians: Life and dignity of the human person; Call to family, community, and participation; Care for God's creation; Rights and responsibilities; Option for the poor and vulnerable; The dignity of work and rights of workers; Solidarity.

Through song, acting, drawing and playing they spent the day learning more about these 7 Treasures with in us can be developed. Rufford CE School will host a visiting Christian Drama Group in June.



SCHOOLS

A Busy and Joyful Spring Term at Mere Brow CE School

It has been a wonderfully busy and exciting spring term in Mere Brow: filled with learning, celebration and plenty of opportunities for our children to shine. Our Year 6 children have taken part in some very important and reflective services this term. They represented the school our school well during the Holocaust Memorial Day service and again on Ash Wednesday. They showed great maturity and respect, and we were extremely proud of the thoughtful way they participated.

Our school community has also enjoyed coming together through several Forest Church and Messy Church sessions. These have been well attended and provide wonderful opportunities for families, children and staff to share time together in reflection, creativity and fellowship. Thanks also to our youth worker – Hattie – as she has come in weekly to deliver Lego Bible Sessions. Our children look forward to these each week – showing our value of creativity each week to explore a story of the Bible.

We have also enjoyed learning about and celebrating different festivals. We welcomed Prags into school who helped us explore the vibrant Hindu festival of Holi, the Festival of Colours. The children took part in a range of engaging activities and learning experiences, discovering the meaning behind the celebration. It was a joyful day, full of colour, creativity and smiles.

Sport has certainly been a highlight this term, with many of our pupils showing our Christian values of perseverance and joy. Our sporting stars have proudly represented the school in football, netball and orienteering events, demonstrating excellent teamwork and resilience. Alongside these competitions, children across school have also enjoyed trying new activities such as yoga and tri-golf. It has certainly been a very active term and it

has been fantastic to see so many children developing a love of sport and physical activity.

Another highlight of the term has been our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils taking part in a course to become Mini Police Officers. The children worked hard throughout the programme, learning about responsibility, teamwork and the role of the police in our community. They all successfully completed the course, earning a certificate — and a well-deserved doughnut! They were excellent representatives of both our school and the police.

Of course, our love of reading continues to flourish in school. We celebrated World Book Day by sharing stories across different classes, giving children the chance to read together and enjoy a wide range of books. Some pupils dressed up as their favourite characters, while others came in cosy clothes ready to relax with a good story. It was a lovely celebration of reading and imagination.

We are incredibly proud of our whole school community — our children, parents, staff and the many visitors who support us. Together, you help make our school a truly wonderful place to learn, grow and belong.



SCHOOLS





Rufford C. of E. Primary School

'Together in Faith and Learning'



SPRING HAS SPRUNG HERE AT RUFFORD!



School has been a very busy and exciting place this Spring Term! From exploring new Christian Values, to making the most of our fantastic outdoor space, we have certainly been working hard and having lots of fun!

Friendship Friday:

In honour of Valentine's Day, we celebrated with our friends with a lunch time packed with games and activities! We made a friendship forest, friendship bracelets, played friendship games and even enjoyed a friendship photobooth! We also used this opportunity to launch our celebrations on 100 years of Blackburn Diocese, starting with our kindness kites!



Faith in the Forest:

Hattie worked her magic again in Forest School with a session themed around courage. The children in Ash Class explored the story of David and Goliath, going on to make their very own catapults! Hattie is continuing this term exploring our value of forgiveness with our oldest and youngest children.



Ash Wednesday Service:

Father Mark, Father Joe and Hattie led us in a fantastic Ash Wednesday service in church. We learnt that Lent is a time of preparation for Easter. We were all invited to be marked with an ash cross and staff also were invited to share the Eucharist.



Lent here at Rufford:

This season of Lent, we are busy counting our blessings! We have set ourselves a target of 10,000 blessings to count by the time we finish school for the Easter holidays! Phew! That is a lot of blessings! We have also invited the community to help us, via our Facebook posts. Our first week went well and we counted a huge 978 blessings as a school. We share our totals together every week in worship. Wish us luck and we will keep you all updated!





Rufford C. of E. Primary School

'Together in Faith and Learning'



Little Nutkins at Rufford:

This term we have launched our baby and toddler group called Little Nutkins. We meet every Friday morning at school from 9am - 10am. Everyone is welcome to join us for a brew, tasty snacks, stories, songs and lots of activities too! Our numbers are growing each week and this has become a lovely addition to our Rufford family.



Year 6 Residential Trip to Winmarleigh Hall:

Year 6 have had an amazing time at their residential trip to Winmarleigh in Garstang. Their Christian value of courage was certainly needed as they took on canoeing, high ropes and the mighty giant swing. A great time was had by all and the instructors commented on how amazing the group were. Our Year 6 also modelled their new leaver's hoodies in rainforest green!



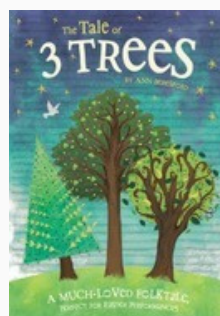
New Kit for our Girls:

Our girls' football team modelled their new kit at practice recently and aren't they looking the part! They had huge smiles for their team photo and we cannot wait to see them in action!



Elm Class Easter Performance:

Our Elm Class have been busy preparing for their performance of The Three Trees. This is a story of three trees that are chopped down to make something for Jesus. The first one being the manger, to the last being the cross. We are definitely in for a treat!



Easter Wishes:

As the days grow longer and the first signs of spring appear, we are reminded that Easter is a time of hope, renewal, and new beginnings. In our school community, this season offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the message of Easter—the joy of the Resurrection and the promise of light after darkness.

We send you Easter wishes from us all here at Rufford. We hope the Easter Bunny comes to your house too!

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SAINTS

9th April Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Born 4th February 1906CE in Breslau, Germany (now Poland), one of eight children. He completed his Doctor of Theology degree at Humboldt University in Berlin aged 21 and became a lecturer in Systematic Theology there. Deeply interested in ecumenism, he was appointed by the World Alliance for Promoting International Friendship through the Churches (a forerunner of the world Council of Churches) as one of its three European youth secretaries. On 15th November 1931CE, at age 25, he was ordained into the Lutheran Church at Old-Prussian United St Matthew in Berlin-Tiergarten. In 1933CE he accepted a two-year appointment as a pastor of two German-speaking Protestant churches in London: the German Lutheran Church in Dacres Road, Sydenham, and the German Reformed Church of St Paul's, Goulston Street, Whitechapel.

His writings on Christianity's role in the secular world have become widely influential; his 1937 book 'The Cost of Discipleship' is a study on the Sermon on the Mount in which he attacked "cheap grace" as a cover for ethical laxity against the virtues of "costly grace" - following God's word fully. His other great work on Ethics has become a classic.

In May 1942CE, he met Anglican Bishop George Bell of Chichester, hoping through his ecumenical contacts abroad, to secure possible peace terms with the Allies for a post-Hitler government, which were ignored. He was arrested in 1943CE by the Gestapo and imprisoned at Tegel Prison for a year and a half. Later, he was transferred to Flossenburg concentration camp where on 4th April 1945CE he was executed. Dietrich is commemorated in many parts of the Anglican Communion as a martyr.

13th April Caradoc or Caradog

A native of Brecknockshire Caradoc obtained a place at the court of Rhys ap Tewdwr who ruled much of South Wales in the late eleventh century. At court he played several musical instruments,

most notably the harp. Having fallen out of favour at court he moved to St Teilo's church, Llandeilo then St Cenydd's at Llangennech devoting his time to prayer. He was summoned to St David's where he was ordained priest and displayed healing powers. He next withdrew to "the island called Ary" on the Pembrokeshire coast. After he and his companions were briefly carried off Ary by Norwegian pirates, Bishop Bernard appointed him to a more secure base at Haroldston St Issells in the settlement of Rhos where he remained from about 1105 until his death.

It is said that, in April 1124CE while he was preparing for Easter, two men in glittering stoles entered his church; between them they carried a golden altar on which was written "Follow us, we have meat to eat that thou knowest not of." To Caradoc's question of when he would feast with them, they replied that it would be "at the Lamb's high banquet." He was taken with fever four days later and died on Low Sunday. His last wish was to be buried at St David's (which in the previous year had been declared a centre of pilgrimage for the Western world). The body was eventually interred with great honour in the left aisle of the church at St David's beside the altar of the protomartyr St Stephen.

A few years later it was exhumed for transfer to a newly-built church in the settlement and was reportedly found in a remarkable state of preservation, "uncorrupt and undefiled". In the 1990CEs the casket was disinterred so that the bones might be subjected to radiocarbon dating. This process established them to be the bones of "an 11th or 12th century man who ate a lot of fish" - allowing, it was said, the possibility that this was Caradoc. What is believed to be Caradoc's tomb is behind the choir-stalls and open to the north transept of the present St David's Cathedral. Between the shelf and the arch of the tomb is a tapestry embroidered with symbols and images traditionally associated with the saint.

SAINTS

5th May Saint Asaph

No traditional Welsh account devoted to the life of Asaph exists. He is, though, well-attested to through place names. Local tradition points out many landmarks attested to him; his ash tree, his church, his well and his Valley. Many local names bear the "asa" associated with his name all near Holywell in Tegeing (Flintshire), indicating probably that the saint may once have had a hermitage in that area. The 'Bonedd y Saint' ('Descent of the Saints' 13th cent) tells us that he was a son of King Sawyl Penuchel from the Old North or modern Northern England; his mother was said to be Gwenaseth, daughter of Rhufon Rhufoniog.

In Jocelyn of Furness's 'Life of St. Kentigern' which tells the story of Cyndeyrn (Kentigern) alias Saint Mungo, the founder of the Diocese of Glasgow. During his exile (c. 545CE), Kentigern took himself to Wales and there founded the Celtic Monastery of Llanelwy (the church on the River Elwy), as the Welsh still call the city of St Asaph. Kentigern would frequently pray standing in the icy cold river. On one occasion, having suffered very severely under this hardship, he sent the boy, Asaph, who was then attending him, to bring a brand of blazing wood to burn and warm him. Asaph instead brought him live coals in his apron, and the miracle revealed to Kentigern the sanctity of his disciple. So when the old man was recalled to Strathclyde, after the Battle of Arfderydd, in 573CE Asaph was consecrated bishop to succeed him, and became the first Welsh bishop of the see. Asaph is said to have died in 596CE.

30th May Josephine Butler (Nee Grey)

Josephine Elizabeth Grey was born on 13th April 1828CE and grew up in a well-to-do and politically connected progressive family which helped develop in her a strong social conscience and firmly held religious ideals. She married George Butler, an Anglican divine and schoolmaster, and the couple had four children.

The death of her daughter Eva was a turning point for Butler, and she focused her feelings on helping others, starting with the inhabitants of a local workhouse. She campaigned for women's suffrage, the right of women to better education, the end of coverture (the loss of a woman's rights to the husband when married) in British law, the abolition of child prostitution and to human trafficking of young women and children. In 1869CE she became involved in the campaign to repeal the Contagious Diseases Acts, The campaign achieved its final success in 1886CE with the repeal of the Acts. Butler also formed the International Abolitionist Federation. Her work brought about raising the age of consent from 13 to 16.

Josephine wrote more than 90 books and pamphlets over the course of her career. She is celebrated by representations of her in the stained glass windows of Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral and St Olave's Church in the City of London. Her name appears on the Reformers Memorial in Kensal Green Cemetery, London, and Durham University named one of their colleges after her. After her death in 1906CE the feminist leader Millicent Fawcett hailed her as "the most distinguished Englishwoman of the nineteenth century".

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HYMNOLOGY

It is recommended that you read the hymn before reading the individual narrative. This magazine article includes four sections; Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension.

PALM SUNDAY

Ride on, ride on in majesty

This hymn was written by Henry Hart Milman (1791-1868) and is the most popular of Palm Sunday hymns. The third line of the first verse originally said 'Thine humble beast pursues its road' and was changed to 'O Saviour meek, pursue Thy road'.

Dean Milman was the youngest son of Sir F. Milman, an eminent Court physician. He became Vicar of Reading, and in 1821 Professor of Poetry at Oxford University. From poetry he then studied history. His history of the Jews raised a storm of criticism, but, as Dean Stanley said, it treated the characters and events of sacred history both critically and reverently. In 1835 Dr. Milman became a Canon of Westminster Abbey, and Rector of St. Margaret's. He was appointed Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in 1849. His work on Latin Christianity is one of the masterpieces of English ecclesiastical history.

The Dean's thirteen hymns, including two for Lent, two for Advent, two funeral hymns, one for Passiontide, one for Easter, and some hymns for those at sea, all were composed before 1823. and published by his friend in Heber's Hymn-book 1827.

GOOD FRIDAY

When I survey the wondrous Cross

Isaac Watts (1674-1748) is the father of modern hymnology and the first to mark the passage from psalm-singing to hymn-singing. As a child he was brought up in the dark days of persecuted Nonconformity. After he returned home from higher scholastic attainments he complained to his father, who was one of the deacons at the meeting house,

of the poor singing and was told somewhat sharply to produce something better. The result was the next Sunday, when his first hymn was sung, he was asked to write another hymn for the following week and for two years he produced a new one each Sunday.

The hymn 'When I survey the wondrous Cross' is one of his best and most loved hymns and has been of great consolation to countless believers. Though the hymn was intended originally as a communion hymn it gives us plenty to contemplate during lent as our focus is on the crucified Christ. The hymn is based on Galatians 6 v.14 'May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.'

This is evident in verse 4 of the hymn (this verse is omitted in some hymn-books)

His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er his body on the Tree;
Then am I dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.

In the first published edition, 1707, the hymn begins :-

When I survey the wondrous cross
Where the young Prince of Glory dy'd.

EASTER

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

The hymn was first written in Latin entitled 'Surrexit Christus Hodie' it is a Bohemian hymn written in the 14th century, by an unknown author. In Latin it had eleven verses. The verses of the hymns were revised in 1749 by John Arnold. Initially the hymn only had three verses translated into English with just the first verse being a direct translation.

HYMNOLOGY

In 1740 Charles Wesley added a fourth verse to the hymn, which was later adopted into the hymn as part of it. His fourth verse is:-

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia,
Praise eternal as his love, Alleluia,
Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia,

The above verse is not included in some hymn-books.

The hymn is also noted for having 'Hallelujah' in melisma as a refrain after every line.

The hymn is set to a piece of music entitled 'Easter Hymn' which was composed in the *Lyra Davidica* for 'Jesus Christ is Risen today.' The hymn is sometimes confused with Charles Wesley's hymn 'Christ the Lord is risen today.' Both hymns are sung to the same tune - 'Easter Hymn', and in both hymns the 'Hallelujah!' is sung at the end of each line. The use of Hallelujah after every line represents an old Christian custom. It became the recognized salutation on Easter morning, and has left its stamp on the English liturgy in the, 'Praise ye the Lord', which is simply the old Hebrew 'Hallelujah'.

The Day of Resurrection

The hymn was written by St. John of Damascus (8th Century); translated by John Mason Neale.

St. John of Damascus belonged to a good family in that ancient city. He was educated by Cosmas, one of the greatest Greek ecclesiastical poets. He retired to the Laura of St. Sabas, situated between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, with his foster-brother, Cosmas the younger, who became 'the most learned' of the Greek poets. At Saba he composed his hymns and works on theology. This monastery was the centre of a school of hymn-writers, and John was probably musician as well as poet. He was ordained priest of the Church of Jerusalem late in life, and died about 780 in his 84th or 100th year. His

empty tomb is at Mar Saba, but his body was carried to Constantinople. He was famous as a theologian, and his three celebrated orations in favour of the icons won him the title 'The Doctor of Christian Art.'

He gave a great impetus to Greek hymnology, and besides his influence on their forms of music, he gave their doctrinal character to the canons, which is held to be 'the grandest piece in Greek sacred poetry.' 'The brilliant phases, culminating in acclamation, the freedom of the thoughts, the ringing, victorious joy, and the lofty presentation of the import of the Resurrection, compose a series of magnificent efforts of imaginative devotion'. His hymns are grouped round the incarnation and life of Christ.

This hymn is sung every Easter Day in Athens and throughout the Greek Church amid scenes of triumph. Men clasp each other's hands and rejoice as though some great joy had suddenly come to all of them.

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son.

The hymn was written by Edmond Louis Budry (1854-1932) ; Translated by Richard Birch Hoyle, (1875-1939).

This hymn made a profound impression when sung at the at the Jerusalem Conference, 1928. Edmond Budry was a pastor at Vevey in Switzerland. He composed this hymn for the Hymn-book issued in 1904 for the Lausanne Y.M.C.A. The hymn was written in German and translated by the Rev. Birch Hoyle, Baptist Minister at Kingston-on-Thames, who at that time was editor of 'The Red Triangle' for the English Y.M.C.A. He translated about thirty hymns and included this for the hymn-book at the request of the World Student Federation at Geneva. He has also translated many French hymns also.

Mr. Hoyle's mother and his wife's mother were both Methodists, and he himself owed his introduction to Christ partly to a Methodist class leader. The hymn

was also played during a service of thanksgiving in commemoration of Queen Elizabeth II's 80th birthday. The hymn is also used during funerals and is listed in the Church of England services hymn-book. During The Last Night of the Proms 'Thine be the Glory' is played after the 'Fantasia on British Sea Songs', with the attendees traditionally whistling the tune.

The hymn is sung to George Frederick Handel's famous tune Maccabaeus from his oratorio Judas Maccabaeus. The music chosen is the piece 'See the conquering hero comes,' with original additions.

ASCENSION

The Head that once was crowned with thorns

The Rev. Thomas Kelly (1769- 1854) wrote nearly eight hundred hymns but the hymn by which he is principally known is, The Head that once was crowned with thorns, based on Hebrews, 2 v.10, 'Christ perfect through sufferings'.

Thomas Kelly, the son of an Irish judge, was born at Dublin in 1769. After passing through Dublin University he entered at the Temple with the intention of practising at the Bar. While living in London, one of his closest friends was the famous writer and statesman, Edmond Burke, then at the height of his career. Kelly's studies included Hebrew, for which he used Romaine's edition of Casio's Hebrew Concordance. This contact with Romaine induced him to enquire into the famous preacher's evangelical doctrines.

Kelly took holy orders in 1792, but his earnest evangelical preaching in Dublin led Archbishop Fowler to give him a severe reproof and inhibited him from preaching in his diocese. Ever since his ordination Kelly had had doubts regarding his association with the Established Church, and the archbishop's decree settled the question and determined his belief to join the Irish Congregationalists. Having ample means, he built

four independent churches in Ireland and preached in these and other similar places of worship.

All his hymns were published in a volume called. 'Hymns on Various Passages of Scripture,' there were seven hundred and sixty-seven of them. In the preface the writer says: 'It will be perceived by those who read these hymns that though there is an interval between the first and last of nearly sixty years, both speak of the same truths, and in the same way. In the course of that long period the author has seen much and heard much; but nothing that he has seen or heard has made the least change in his mind, that he is conscious of, as the grand truths of the Gospel. What pacified the conscience then, does so now. What gave hope then does so now. "Other foundations can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus".'

He was an excellent biblical scholar and a magnetic preacher, and was greatly admired for his zeal and liberality to the poor during the famine year. He was much loved by the poor of Dublin; and one man is said to have cheered his wife in a time of great trouble by saying, ' Hould up, Bridget, bedad; there's always Misther Kelly to pull us out of the bog afther we've sunk for the last time.

There are two other hymns in our current Ancient and Modern hymn-book written by Thomas Kelly:-

Sing we the praise of him who died,
Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious.

Kelly died in 1854.

Article kindly provided by Michael Gray



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SCAN ME

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Rt Revd Paul Thomas SSC
Bishop of Oswestry

Rosary 12noon
Mass 12.30pm
Lunch 1.30pm
(please bring a packed lunch)
Sprinkling and Benediction 2.30pm



FORWARD IN FAITH



The answer is yes, and here is how.....

Article by: Sue Lockwood

Recently I joined a trip to Uganda, travelling with a small group from St John's church in Burscough. The trip was organised in conjunction with International Needs (IN). I have been a bit sceptical of people shaking aid buckets in the streets, always questioning if donations actually go to people they are meant to help. However, his trip let me see for myself where the monies donated to IN are used and the difference the donations make.

My friend Joanna Marshall from St Johns's led the trip. She had invited me along several times over the years, but this year timings fitted and I signed up. I had no idea how I would fit in with 12 other complete strangers or how I would manage in a country that suffers such deprivation.

We landed in Entebbe and were collected by IN staff Danny & Jamil. Initially they drove us along tarmac roads, though the busy outskirts of Kampala and then onto the red mud and dust tracks to our destination in Buikwe. A little unsure of what to expect, we dropped our bags at the guest house in the grounds of the local school. We were soon welcomed by the school children with songs and dancing. The children were joyful about our arrival, and it was soon to be clear why.

The school was well run and the children smartly turned out in uniforms. On meeting the children, both at play and in the classrooms, it became clear that these children were bright and articulate. The thing that struck me most was that not only did these children want to learn, but they felt privileged to have the opportunity to better themselves. Bright, happy articulate kids with the neatest writing I can remember seeing in a long time. Buikwe Primary school takes children from age of 4 -13 and the senior school up to 18 years old.

During our stay we visited several villages where the happiness of the children became clear, despite often suffering extreme poverty. In some of the families we visited there were many children living within one household. The homes were basic, with mud floors and walls and a curtain giving the only protection from the outside world. They mostly contained just one or maybe two rooms with cooking, washing etc all taking place outside. Their diet was simple, fruit, vegetables and beans taken from the local landscape. Meat or fish is a rarity saved for special occasions, if the family can afford it. Many families are looked after by grandparents as parents go further afield looking for work or have died as a result of HIV. Poor levels of education means that many of the people can only get work either working in fields or in houses cleaning. All low paid jobs or indeed payment maybe in food alone. There are government schools but the buildings we saw were ramshackle and teaching standards vary as the teachers are not necessarily trained as they are here. IN have 3 schools where they employ trained teachers and standards are high.



Can you change a child's life for the price of a pint a week?

Water for these villages is supplied via bore hole, wells, water tanks and springs. IN run THE WASH PROJECT (Water Sanitation and Health). The work involved is incredible and works with the community to provide clean water sources. Previously water sources were open and maybe shared with animals. Death and sickness caused by water borne diseases was not uncommon.

The project not only helps to provide clean, accessible water but also aims to educate communities to improve their health and sanitation. The project is done in negotiation with the village elders. A committee of villagers are trained to help build and maintain the water sources. IN reach out to the villagers. They assess the needs, arrange training and do outreach work to teach people in the school churches and communities, the importance of hygiene and personal health. They work tirelessly.

We had the opportunity to make a basic tippy tap (a wooden frame with a cleaned-out petrol can attached with a simple string and foot pedal mechanism. The can is filled with water for simple hand washing). We also helped construct a wooden drying rack, so utensils can be washed and dried off the floor away from the ground shared with animals etc.

Where bore holes, provided by other agencies, fall into disrepair, there is little help available. However IN work with the community to reinstate broken bore holes or protect natural springs and train up a mechanics to ensure the community can be independent in terms of water supply.

Anyway back to my original question how can you change a child's life for less than the price of a pint?

In order to have the education system opened to them, children in Buikwe can be sponsored. For the cost of £25 per month, a child can attend a good school, they have two proper meals a day, access health care, be provided with initial books and uniform. This means they can study instead of worrying about hunger and where the next food is



coming from. They get a proper education, which in turn will help them to a better future. More importantly this shift in education will help the family as one child teaches another. Education is the way to evoke change. And whilst this is only a stone in a vast ocean, one has to ask what do the ripples on the water mean to the lives of these children? Whilst I am under no illusion that my little stone in the water will not change the world, but it will certainly make a difference to the children I have sponsored, and it all has to start with little gestures of kindness.

If you want to know more you can come along to St Johns Church Burscough on Saturday 28th March 2-4pm, where we will be sharing stories from our time away. Or if you want to join me in making a difference to a child through sponsorship, drop me a message.

Sue Lockwood

(Sue will be known to many of you as the owner of the Rufford Arms. Her contact details can be found on their advert on the back page).

PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms

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John Parkinson, Val Sandells**

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Deadline for the next magazine is **THURSDAY 14th MAY 2026**

Please e-mail to: **editor@rsmtht.church**

Sign up for parish updates, direct from the rectory ->



Both our PCCs are now registered charities and they have been entered onto the Register of Charities with the following names and numbers:

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Rufford in the Diocese of Blackburn
(Rufford PCC) : 1215289.

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Tarleton in the Diocese of Blackburn
(Holy Trinity Church, Tarleton) : 1214834.

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Curate	Fr Joe Kochanski (5 Fairclough Drive, Tarleton, PR4 6EX)	07975 686 552
Youth Coordinator	Hattie Boak	07496 425 953
ANNA Chaplain	Dr Helen Hindle	(01772) 815 738
Rufford Churchwardens	Mr Graham Langley	(01772) 224 036
Tarleton Churchwardens	Mrs Victoria Rimmer Mrs Shirley Gornall	(01772) 812960 or 07876 593 815
Organist	Mr Christopher Hartnett	07896 107 684
Secretary - Rufford	Mrs Alex Garden	(01704) 821 303
Secretary - Tarleton	Mr Andrew Mills	(01772) 811 893
Treasurer - Rufford	Fr Joe Kochanski	07975 686 552
Treasurer - Tarleton	Mrs Debbie Williams	07729 550 815
Rufford Sunday School	Mrs Chris Whittingham	(01704) 822 878

Role	Name	Contact
Rufford Safeguarding	Mrs Rosemary Lyon	(01257) 464 541
Tarleton Safeguarding	Mrs Shirley Gornall	(01772) 811 114
Rufford Verger	Mrs Pam Hall	(01704) 821 885
Tarleton Verger	Mr Michael Gray	(01772) 814 024
Tarleton Tower / Bells	Mrs Debbie Williams	07729 550 815
Rufford Church Hall	Mrs Alex Garden	(01704) 821 303
Holy Trinity CE School	Mr Stephen Smith	(01772) 812 662
Rufford CE School	Mrs Sarah Cookson	(01704) 821 300
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