

Longfleet United Reformed Church

NEWSLETTER



March 2010

www.longfleeturc.org.uk

Worship rota for March

March 7 th -	The Revd Bryan George (Communion Service)
March 14 th -	Mrs Carol Arnott
March 21 st -	Mr Dave Goodall
March 28 th -	Mrs Lorraine Russell

LECTIONARY READINGS

7 th March Lent 3	Luke 13:1-9, Isaiah 55:1-9, Psalm 63: 1-8, 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13
14 th March Lent 4	Joshua 5 ;9-12, Psalm 32, 11 Corinthians 5: 16-21, Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32
21 st March Lent 5	Isaiah 43: 16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3: 4b-14, John 12: 1-8
28 th March Lent 6	Palm / Passion Sunday Isaiah 50: 4-9a, Psalm 31: 9-16, Philippians 2: 5-11, Luke 19: 28-40

Welcome rota for March

Mr Jeff Russell



March 1st St David's Day

1st March is St David's Day, and it's time for the Welsh to wear daffodils or leeks. Shakespeare called this custom "an honourable tradition begun upon an honourable request" but nobody knows the reason. Why should anyone have ever "requested" that the Welsh wear leeks or daffodils to honour their patron saint? It's a mystery!

We do know that David - or Dafydd - of Pembrokeshire was a monk and bishop of the 6th century. In the 12th century he was made patron of Wales, and he has the honour of being the only Welsh saint to be canonised and culted in the Western Church.

Tradition has it that he was austere with himself and generous with others - living on water and vegetables (leeks, perhaps?!) and devoting himself to works of mercy. He was much loved.

In art, St David is usually depicted in Episcopal vestments, standing on a mound with a dove at his shoulder, in memory of his share at an important Synod for the Welsh Church, the Synod of Brevi.



March 9th Savio 1842-57

The hit film Slumdog Millionaire touched millions of people with its story of a youngster triumphing against all the odds. Dominic Savio did the same thing. In fact, he is a good patron "child saint" for children today who struggle to get anywhere in life.

Savio was born into a poor family in Riva, near Turin. There were 10 children. The father was a blacksmith, the mother a seamstress. Somehow they managed school fees, and when Dominic was 12, he was sent to the famous school of John Bosco at Turin.

A strict Roman Catholic school wasn't exactly the set for "Who wants to be a millionaire" but Savio loved it. He responded with enthusiasm to the wise and moderate spiritual guidance of Bosco, and began to grow. Instead of turning into a fanatic or prig, he was soon widely loved for his cheerfulness and friendliness to all. He was respected by fellow students for his mature, sound advice. Behind it all lay the key: Savio had discovered God for himself, and had responded with all his heart:- one story of him tells how he was rapt in prayer for six hours continuously.

Sadly, Dominic Savio contracted tuberculosis, Like AIDS today, it was incurable. He accepted his disease with dignity and composure. He did not fear death - his deep and radiant faith assured him that something far better lay beyond.

Savio died aged only 15. He had never been a millionaire; his riches lay in his faith in Jesus Christ. The memory of this lovable lad lived on, so deeply had he touched the hearts of the people who knew him. Over 100 years later he was still remembered - and made a saint by the Roman Catholic Church.

March 14th Mothering Sunday

There is an old Jewish saying:-

God could not be everywhere and therefore he made mothers.

Mother Church, Mother Earth, Mother of the Gods- our human mothers - all of them have been part of the celebration of "Mothering Sunday" - as the fourth Sunday in Lent is affectionately known.

In Roman times, great festivals were held every Spring to honour Cybele, Mother of all the Gods. Other pagan festivals in honour of Mother Earth were also celebrated. With the arrival of Christianity, the festival became one honouring Mother Church.

During the Middle Ages, young people apprenticed to craftsmen or working as "live in" servants were allowed only one holiday a year on which to visit their families - which is how "Mothering Sunday" got its name. This special day became a day of family rejoicing, and the Lenten fast was broken. In some places the day was called Simnel Day, because of the sweet cakes called simnel cakes traditionally eaten on that day.

THOUGHTS OF SPRING

**No matter how harsh the winter and deep the driven snow,
No matter how vice like its icy grip It's a comfort to all that we
know,
That when all the snow has melted and the birds once again start
to sing,
The green shoots of nature's new cycle will herald the arrival of
spring.**

By Colin Hammacott

March 17th St Patrick's Day

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. If you've ever been in New York on St Patrick's Day, you'd think he was the patron saint of New York as well. ..the flamboyant parade is full of American/Irish razzmatazz.

It's all a far cry from the hard life of this 5th century humble Christian who became in time both bishop and apostle of Ireland. Patrick was born the son of a town councillor in the west of England between the Severn and the Clyde. But as a young man he was captured by Irish pirates, kidnapped to Ireland, and reduced to slavery. He was made to tend his master's herds.

Desolate and despairing, Patrick turned to prayer. He found God was there for him, even in such desperate circumstances. He spent much time in prayer, and his faith grew and deepened, in contrast to his earlier years, when he "knew not the true God".

Then, after six gruelling, lonely years he was told in a dream he would soon go to his own country, He either escaped or was freed, made his way to a port 200 miles away and eventually persuaded some sailors to take him with them away from Ireland.

After various adventures in other lands, including near starvation, Patrick landed on English soil at last, and returned to his family. But he was much changed. He had enjoyed his life of plenty before, now he wanted to devote the rest of his life to Christ. Patrick received some form of training for the priesthood, but not the higher education he really wanted.

But by 435, well educated or not, Patrick was badly needed. Palladius' mission to the Irish had failed, and so the Pope sent Patrick back to the land of his slavery. He set up his see at Armagh, and worked principally in the north. He urged the Irish to greater spirituality, set up a school, and made several missionary journeys.

Patrick's writings are the first literature certainly identified from the British Church. They reveal sincere simplicity and a deep pastoral care. He wanted to abolish paganism, idolatry, and was ready for imprisonment or death in the following of Christ.

Patrick remains the most popular of the Irish saints. The principal cathedral of New York is dedicated to him, as, of course, is the Anglican cathedral of Dublin.

RESPECT THE PASTOR'S FREE TIME

This is a true story: a little Baptist church had made so many demands on its old minister that he had retired early, just to get away. As the new minister was installed a few months later, the church elders stressed how important it was that the congregation respect the new pastor's free time. Everyone nodded enthusiastically.

Next morning in the parsonage the phone rang before 6am. The pastor leapt for the phone, heart pounding. "Good morning, pastor," said a cheery voice. "I just wanted to catch you before you begin your day off..."

March 19th St Joseph

Why should St Joseph's day be in March? Surely he belongs to Advent and Christmas, at Mary's side in millions of nativity scenes around the world.

In any case, as foster-father of Christ and husband of Mary, Joseph played a major part in the story of the coming of Jesus Christ. All that we know about him for sure is in the gospels. He was of Davidic descent, but his trade as a carpenter shows that he was not at all wealthy.

Joseph's gentleness and decency towards Mary, and his willingness to do God's will when it was revealed to him, portray him as a kind and godly person.

Joseph is the patron saint of fathers of families, and he makes an excellent example. He comes across as a protecting, loyal, thoughtful, self-controlled person, full of integrity, and willing to work hard. Who wouldn't want a father like that?

Joseph is also the patron saint of all who desire a holy death. Thus countless churches, hospitals and religious congregations are dedicated to Joseph.

RULE BRITANNIA!

If you like the Proms, and enjoy singing, "Rule Britannia" each summer, did you know that it was 300 years ago this month, on March 12th 1710, that Thomas Arne, the British composer wrote Rule Britannia was born?

March 25th Lady Day

This story takes place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel come to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant.

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25 March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from his birth on 25 December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked- he was born to die and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar- it is one of the most frequent depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice - humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in his will for her life.

HAPPY

Never miss an opportunity to make others happy, even if you have to leave them alone in order to do it.

March 28th Palm Sunday

Holy week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to his own people in their capital city, and yet he came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds in his path. They knew his reputation as a healer, and welcomed him. But sadly the welcome was short-lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah, and put him to death.

On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

PALM SUNDAY

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, eight year old James stayed home from church with a neighbour. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. James asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by" his father told him.

"Wouldn't you know it," Johnny fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go, and he shows up".

RIDE OF THE KING

**We waved palms and welcomed him,
even on a donkey Jesus had majesty.**

**All our hopes, the hopes of generations,
All our longings, and our expectations-
Our expectations poured upon him through palms and
praises.**

**Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna to the King
Who wept, Knowing our weaknesses,
Knowing our frailty and lack of faith, knowing already our
next cry,
"Crucify"**

**Father forgive us for our knowing and not knowing
King Jesus.**

Daphne Kitching

A Grace for Sunday Lunch

**God of goodness, who blessed our food,
Keep us now in pleasant mood.
Bless the cook, and all who serve us.
From indigestion, Lord, preserve us. Amen**

LURC DATES

1st March Monday LUNCH Club Afternoon meeting Age Concern

2nd - 5th Food Bank

2nd Evening meeting Epilepsy group

3rd Evening meeting SPRING

5th Pilates in the hall, morning session

7th Communion Service The Rev'd Bryan George St Mary's group in the hall

8th Monday LUNCH Club Afternoon meeting Age Concern

9th - 12th Food Bank

12th Pilates morning session in the hall

THURSDAY 11TH CHURCH MEETING 7pm. IN THE CHURCH

14th Service Mrs Carol Arnott St Mary's group in the hall

15th Monday LUNCH Club Afternoon meeting Age Concern

16th - 19th Food Bank

19th Pilates morning session

21st Service Mr David Goodall St Mary's group in the hall

22nd Monday LUNCH Club Afternoon meeting Age Concern

23rd - 26th Food Bank

26th Pilated Morning session

28th Service Mrs Lorraine Russell St Mary's in the hall

29th Monday LUNCH Club Afternoon meeting Age Concern

30th and 31st Food Bank

Longfleet URC on the Internet

The Church has its own website which can be found at :

www.longfleeturc.org.uk

We now also have a link to Broadstone URC and they have “linked” back to us which should mean that both websites will get more visitors.

The Church can now also be found on the popular where you can view contact details and photos.



... and finally

A big “thank you” to those at www.biblequizzes.org.uk for allowing us to continue to reproduce their quizzes on the website and here in the Newsletter.

There now follows the answer to last month’s Anagram puzzle and a little Easter Quiz and Wordsearch to keep you amused !

If you’d like to try some more Easter Quiz questions then look on the LURC Website 😊

Anagrams - Men of the Old Testament - Solution

Created by BibleQuizzes.org.uk

Jonathan	Hat on Jan	Nehemiah	Eh? I'm a hen!
Mordecai	More acid	Shadrach	Hard cash
Ezekiel	Like Zee	Rehoboam	Mob a hero
Goliath	Hit goal	Samuel	Me Saul?
Moses	SOS! Me?	Isaiah	Hi Asia!
Nebuchadnezzar	Enhance buzzard	Obadiah	I do, Ahab
Benjamin	Jim 'n' Bean	Jehoshaphat	So, a Jephthah!
Solomon	No looms?	Daniel	Denial
Naaman	A Manna	Methuselah	A lush theme
Hezekiah	Hike haze	Ephraim	Hire map
Jeremiah	I jam here!	Ishmael	Seal him
Abraham	Bah! A ram	Nimrod	In dorm
Gideon	I'd gone	Malachi	Hail Cam
Abednego	One badge	Simeon	No semi
Samson	No mass	Belteshazzar	Razzle bathes
Aaron	An oar	Machnadebai	A bad machine
Absalom	A lamb! So?	Nathanael	Heal an ant
Elisha	Sheila	Sennacherib	Canine herbs
Jeroboam	More a job	Esarhaddon	Adores hand

Our thanks to the people at www.biblequizzes.org.uk for allowing us to reproduce this.

Easter Quiz – The Death & Resurrection

1: At Christ's crucifixion what did the soldiers place on his head?

- a. Crown of Nettles**
- b. Crown of Thorns**
- c. Crown of Jewels**
- d. Crown of Thistles**

2: For what of Christ's did the soldiers cast lots?

- a. Clothes**
- b. Jewels**
- c. Donkey**
- d. Cross**

3: For how many pieces of silver did Judas betray Christ?

- a. 10**
- b. 20**
- c. 30**
- d. 40**

4: How did Judas betray Christ?

- a. By pointing at him**
- b. Described him to the authorities**
- c. With a kiss**
- d. Shook his hand**

5: Christ was led away to which high priest first ?

- a. Annas**
- b. Vitellius**
- c. Caiaphas**
- d. Josephus**

6: What was inscribed above the cross ?

- a. Prince of the Jews
- b. King of the Jews
- c. Saviour of the Jews
- d. Captain of the Jews

7: When Jesus died, for how long was there darkness over the land?

- a. 3 days
- b. 3 minutes
- c. 3 hours
- d. 3 weeks

8: What was the name of the man who requested Jesus' body for burial ?

- a. Nicodemus
- b. Joseph
- c. Philip
- d. Jonathan

9: Who was first on the scene after resurrection of Christ ?

- a. Simon Peter
- b. Cleopas
- c. Judas Iscariot
- d. Mary Magdalene

10: Pilate offered to release one prisoner – which prisoner did the Jews request to be released ?

- a. Jesus
- b. Barabbas
- c. Paul
- d. Barnabas

Easter Word Search

by *Philologus*

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Once you have completed the puzzle the remaining letters spell out a verse from the Bible.

T	H	E	K	A	U	Q	H	T	R	A	E	U	S	I	T	I	S	W	R	I
G	S	T	R	E	V	L	I	S	F	O	S	E	C	E	I	P	T	O	M	B
N	E	T	A	L	I	P	I	E	R	C	E	D	T	E	N	T	R	H	A	T
I	V	E	T	H	E	H	S	J	R	R	B	N	A	I	L	S	A	C	H	C
K	E	M	R	I	L	R	I	U	E	O	O	S	T	P	S	H	E	O	R	A
U	I	P	L	D	E	A	C	G	S	S	R	U	S	F	O	F	P	E	E	L
R	H	L	A	I	N	I	Y	D	H	S	U	N	O	A	N	S	S	T	T	V
H	T	E	D	H	F	L	S	A	E	P	R	S	N	T	H	I	T	R	S	A
D	D	L	T	I	A	S	O	A	R	O	R	G	C	Y	R	R	J	L	A	R
I	O	A	X	M	D	N	N	S	H	T	E	I	S	H	E	E	U	F	E	Y
S	E	I	B	R	A	A	O	T	A	L	E	O	E	S	R	M	D	T	H	S
D	O	E	D	E	R	M	F	O	S	C	S	B	U	S	A	I	A	D	A	R
N	N	D	T	H	K	O	G	N	A	Y	R	R	L	T	T	R	S	E	P	E
E	N	T	A	N	N	R	O	E	A	C	R	I	E	O	A	N	I	T	D	V
F	O	R	G	W	E	I	D	D	J	E	V	E	F	N	O	E	S	S	S	O
O	F	S	O	I	S	N	E	O	C	S	S	H	O	I	U	D	C	L	D	S
B	E	R	P	R	S	E	S	T	O	C	L	A	I	M	C	E	A	D	I	S
M	C	N	H	I	R	E	I	A	H	T	O	G	L	O	G	E	R	S	N	A
A	A	M	E	H	P	O	T	O	A	L	L	N	A	T	I	O	I	N	S	P
B	E	R	T	H	N	G	I	N	N	I	N	G	F	R	O	M	O	J	E	R
U	S	A	Y	S	I	M	O	N	O	F	C	Y	R	E	N	E	T	L	E	M

These are the words to try to find :

ANGELS
APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
BLOOD
CALVARY
CROSS
CROWN OF THORNS
CRUCIFIXION
DARKNESS
DEATH
EARTHQUAKE
EASTER
GOLGOTHA
HIGH PRIEST

JESUS CHRIST
JOSEPH
JUDAS ISCARIOT
KING
LAMB
MARY
NAILS
PASSOVER
PIECES OF SILVER
PIERCED
PILATE
RESURRECTION
ROBE
ROMANS

SACRIFICE
SIMON OF CYRENE
SOLDIERS
SON OF GOD
SPEAR
STONE
TEMPLE
THIEVES
THREE DAYS
TOMB

