Holy Trinity WATERHEAD

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April 2020

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Services at Holy Trinity Church

Sunday	**11:00 am**	**Parish Worship**
Wednesday	**7:00 pm**	**Family Communion**
Thursday	**9:30 am**	**Morning prayer in the vestry**

Baptisms and marriages by arrangement with the Vicar.

Please submit items for the May 2020magazine by 15 April. You can e-mail files to paulmonk111@gmail.com

People at Holy Trinity Church

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Parish Hall Manager	**Naomi Parkes**	**(07907) 410 606**
Sunday School	**Yolanda Ryder**	
Rainbows	**Sarah Wilson and Natalie Morris**	
Brownies	**Val Lees and Moira Belcher**	
Guides	**Karen and Lisa Cannon**	
Beavers and Cubs	**Lee Thompson (07907) 907 354**	

Letter from the Vicar

Spring started officially on 21 March, and the clocks changed later that same month. Suddenly the evenings are lighter and the air somehow seems more transparent, letting through more precious light. Undeniably, everything is brighter: even my mood feels lighter.

Modern science shows that sunlight has powerful effects on the human body. It produces vitamins in the skin and mood-enhancing chemicals in the brain. Light can be amazingly powerful even at low intensity. Think of a laser.

At this time of year, the Church directs our attention to another light of greater power. Light was the first thing God ever made (Genesis 1:1). During Lent, we allowed God to shine His light of love into the gloom and dust of our innermost souls. And, like all forms of light, we ask him to drive away the darkness.

The most potent illustration of light beating back dark-ness occurs as we celebrate Easter. We rejoice at the way Jesus showed himself to be the original inextinguishable light when he came back to life. No wonder that Jesus describes himself as the 'light of the world'.

So as we see the evenings become lighter and enjoy the greater transparency of the spring air, remember that they point toward God.

Wishing you great joy as we celebrate the living light of Christ:

PAUL

Coronavirus

The Church of England has prohibited all services and gatherings in its Churches and buildings. Accordingly, all services are cancelled until further notice.

Please consult the Church webpage holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk/virus for advice, updates, and resources.

Each week, we will produce at least two detailed services as downloadable files. These files will include links to Youtube hymns, Bible readings, prayers, and a full sermon transcript.

Please share these resources widely. Thank you.

Quiz night

We host a good quiz in the Church Hall on Saturday 16 May. Tickets cost £5.00. seating. The concert is of course subject to the lifting of the Coronavirus ban.

Hope Singers

The Hope Singers will come to our sister Church St Barnabas for a concert on Saturday 23 May. Tickets cost £7.50. seating. You may bring your own drinks. The concert is of course subject to the lifting of the Coronavirus ban.

Church and Parish news

Easter

"We do not know ... how can we know the way?"

Courageous master of the awkward question,

You spoke the words the others dared not say

And cut through their evasion and abstraction.

Oh doubting Thomas, father of my faith,

You put your finger on the nub of things

We cannot love some disembodied wraith,

But flesh and blood must be our king of kings.

Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint,

Feel after Him and find Him in the flesh.

Because He loved your awkward counter-point

The Word has heard and granted you your wish.

Oh place my hands with yours, help me divine

The wounded God whose wounds are healing mine.

Malcolm Guite

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2020 dates for your diary

No services will occur in the Church until further notice owing to the Coronavirus. The dates below are subject to cancellation as a result of the virus. Hopefully most will be allowed to go ahead.

Saturday 16 May	7:00 for 7:30 pm: **Quiz Night** in the Church Hall.
Saturday 23 May	7:30: **Concert** with the Hope Singers at St Barnabas' Church.
Sunday 31 May	**Whit Sunday**: service at 9:30 am and the annual event at 2:00 pm.
Sunday 7 June	11:00 am: service to celebrate **Trinity Sunday**, which includes our **Annual Gift Day**.
Friday 19 June	7:00 pm: **Annual Confirmation service** at Holy Trinity

Christ is Risen!

He is risen indeed! **Alleluia!**

From the Parish Registers

Christian Baptism

Sunday 23 Feb	Lisa Bulley
Sunday 8 March	Heidi Beau Logan
	Isla Ann Finnigan

Renewal of wedding vows

Sunday 1 March	Barrie and Val Wild

Christian funeral

Tuesday 3 March	Sheila Walton at Waterhead Church followed by a committal at Hollinwood Cemetery.

Bible readings for April

Sunday 5 April

Palm Sunday

First: Matthew 21:1–11
Epistle: Philippians 2:5–11
Gospel: Matthew 26:1–2, 17–30

Sunday 12 April

Easter Sunday

First: Acts 10:34–43
Epistle: Colossians 3:1–4
Gospel: John 20:1–18

Sunday 19 April

Low Sunday

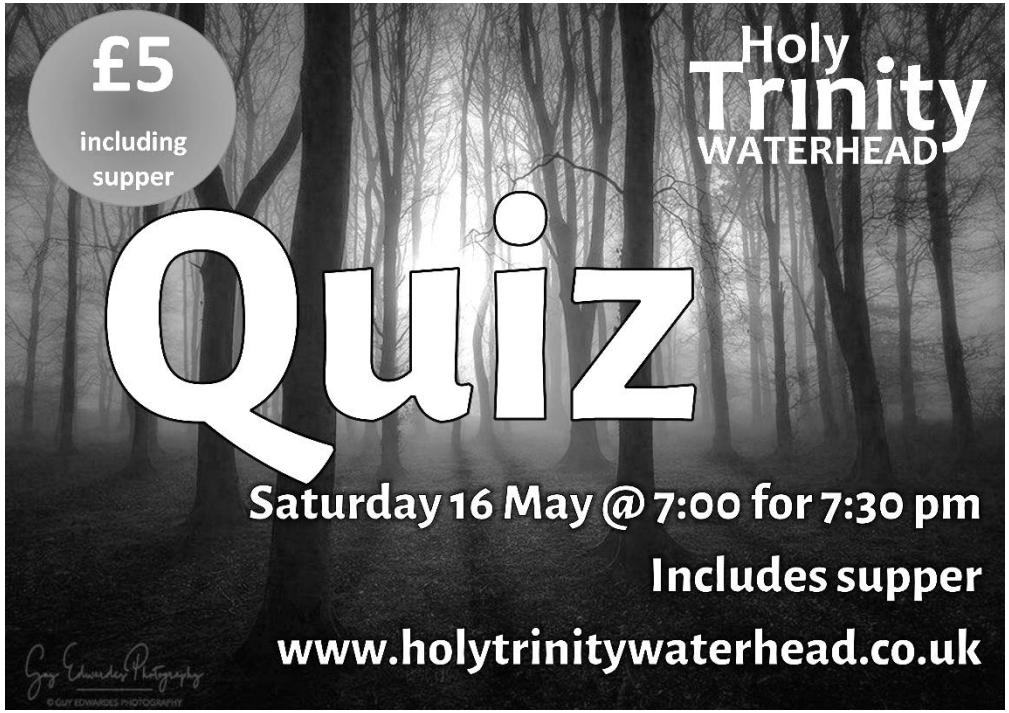
First: Acts 2:14a,22–32
Epistle: 1 Peter 1:3–9
Gospel: John 20:19–29

Sunday 26 April

Third Sunday of Easter

First: Acts 2:14a,36–41
Epistle: 1 Peter 1:17–23
Gospel: Luke 24:13–35

Moses pranks Peter



Thinking about judgement

One of the main themes behind all faiths (including Christianity) is the way we will be judged when we die. Will God find us acceptable or not?

The second major theme is the way that Jesus took away our sins on the Cross. Becoming sinless through Jesus means the judgement of 'Not Guilty' becomes a certainty for those who live in Him. That's why Christians celebrate at Easter and why Easter is the foremost Christian festival.

Several ideas and activities about judgment occur on pages 8–11.

Answers

Page 8: Blasphemy, idolatry, murder, stealing , swearing, thieving
Page 9: In fact, there is no hierarchy. The Bible says that all sin is sin.
Page 10: The highlighted word is AFTERLIFE
Page 11: Jesus is the judge; the barrister for the defence is the Holy Spirit and the barrister for the prosecution is Satan. And we are the defendant in the dock.

Statue of Hildegard in the garden of St Hildegard Abbey near Rüdesheim.

A delicate balancing act

Jesus will judge everyone when they die
Some people think they will be judged using scales like these, so they try to do as many good things as possible to outweigh the bad things they have done.

Rearrange these anagrams to reveal some of the sins mentioned in the Bible

Satin Gel

Earn wigs

Lambs hype

Lady Riot

Give hint

Red rum

Bad, badder, baddest ...

Look at the following sins, and rank then from the worst (=1) to least important (=10).

Draw an arrow between each sin and the score you think it deserves.

Killing someone	**1**
Stealing	**2**
Lying	**3**
Driving through a red light	**4**
Being nasty at school	**5**
Pretending not to follow God	**6**
Hitting animals	**7**
Polluting the environment	**8**
Child abuse	**9**
Other (please state what)	**10**

Hildegard of Bingen

Hildegard of Bingen was also known as Saint Hildegard and 'the Sibyl of the Rhine'. She was a German Benedictine abbess, writer, composer, philosopher, Christian mystic, visionary, and polymath. She is one of the best-known composers of sacred monophony of her era.

Hildegard was born around the year 1098 into a family from the lower nobility. She was sickly from birth and was the youngest and tenth child.

Hildegard began having visions at a very young age — probably from about three years of age. She soon realised that these 'luminous visions' were abnormal and so hid them for quite some time.

When Hildegard was eight years of age, her parents offered her as an oblate to the nearest Benedictine monastery, where she excelled. She achieved such status that she was designated the group's next superior when only 38 years of age. Her visions persisted all this time and, two years later, the Church ordered her to write down her visions. These visions caused her to see humans as 'living sparks of God's love'.

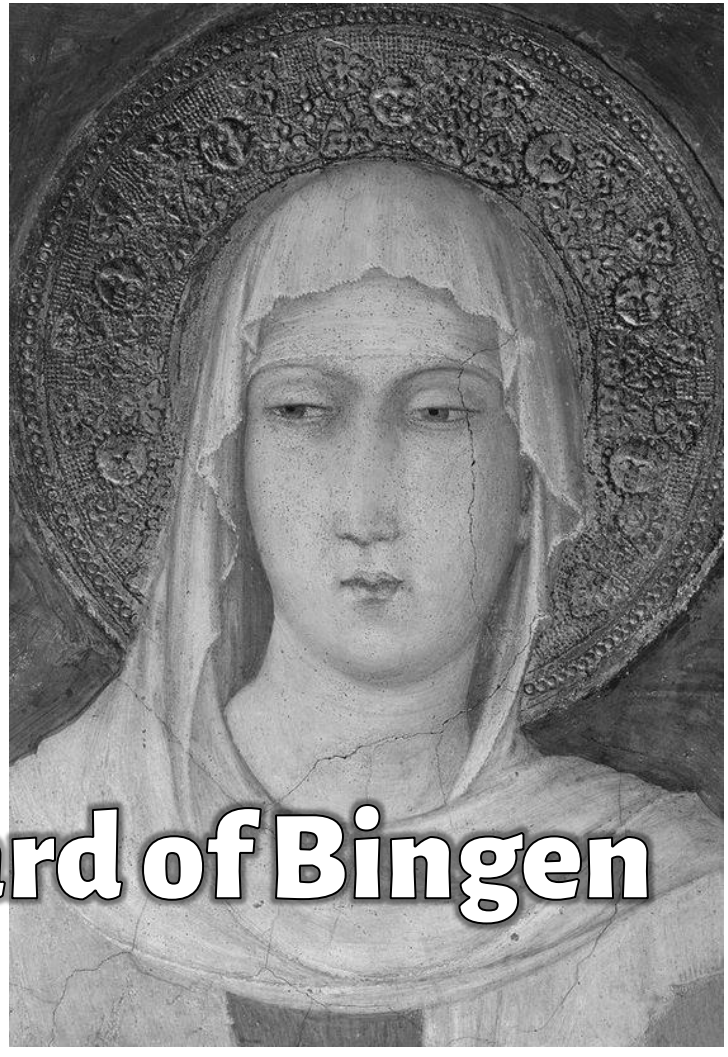
Hildegard was brilliant. At a time when women carried little official authority, Hildegard was consulted by and advised bishops, popes, and kings. She was considered the founder of scientific and natural history in Germany and wrote treatises on the medicinal uses of plants. She was a composer and founded a community in which her musical plays were performed. And she left one of the largest bodies of letters (nearly 400) to survive from the Middle Ages. We also have records of many of her sermons from the 1160s and 70s; two volumes of material on natural medicine and cures; an invented language; and minor works, including a gospel commentary and two major works of hagiography.

She died on 17 September 1179. Hildegard was one of the first people for whom the canonisation process was officially applied but the process took so long that four attempts at canonisation were never completed. She was finally canonised in 2012.

In recent years, Hildegard has been of great interest to feminist writers. They note how Hildegard often referred to herself as 'an unlearned woman' and 'incapable' of Biblical exegesis. These statements worked to her advantage because they made her statements (that her writings and music came from visions of the Divine) more believable. They gave Hildegard the authority to speak in a time and place where few women were permitted a voice. Two popes gave her permission to preach in public against the Cathar Movement and challenges facing the Church: at that time such permission was usually only given to men.

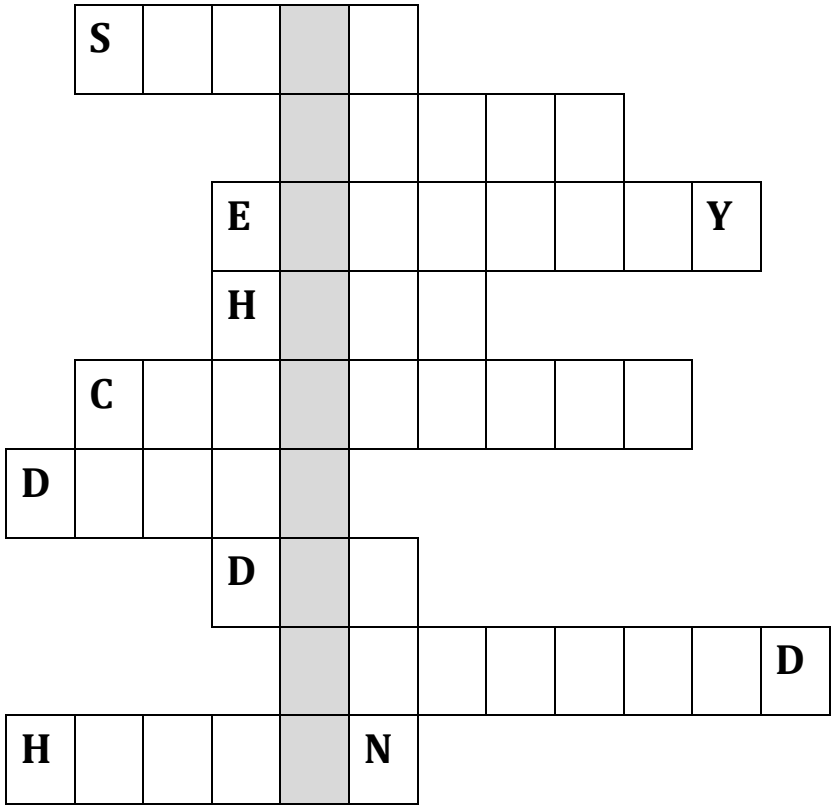
Hildegard spoke out against many forms of corruption such as simony — the buying of rank and position.

Recordings and performances of Hildegard's music have gained increasing critical praise and popularity since about 1980.



For more information, please visit the following sites:

https://www.fuller.edu/next-faithful-step/resources/women-mystics/
https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/13-powerful-women-mystics-who-helped-shape-christianity_n_55f9a53ce4b0d6492d63e7c7?ri18n=true
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hildegard_of_Bingen



What happens when we die?

Fill the grid with the following words and work out the shaded word.

DEVIL	**HEAVEN**	**FEAST**	**HELL**	**COURTROOM**
DIE	**ETERNITY**	**SATAN**	**FINISHED**	

Judgement

Everyone is judged when they die

Jesus sits as _ _ _ _ _
(e.g. 2 Timothy 4:1).

We sit in the dock:
we are the _ _ _ _ _ _ _

The devil acts as the barrister for the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ .
('Satan' is Hebrew for 'accuser', e.g. see Job 2:1–7).

The Holy Spirit acts as our barrister — the attorney for the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ (Romans 8:26, 27).

Many of us will be inside our homes during the Coronavirus crisis. We'll feel very alone and wanting more spiritual content than usual, because we can't go to Church. The list below cites many potential resources.

Our own website

Each week, we will produce at least two detailed services as downloadable files. These files will include links to Youtube hymns, Bible readings, prayers, and a full sermon transcript. We will also post links to a growing number if resources.

Go to *www.medlockhead.co.uk/virus*

Lectionary readings

Page 7 of this magazine lists all the lectionary readings for the Sunday services in April.

Roots for Churches

The Roots strapline is 'Worship and learning resources for the whole Church'. It's a web-based resource with useful links for those at home. Go to *https://www.rootsontheweb.com/*

Church services

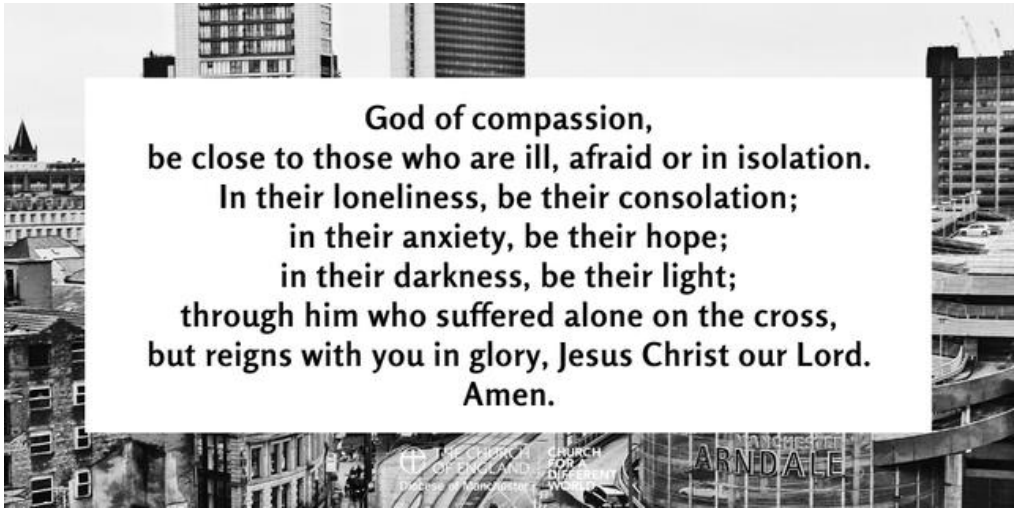
The BBC is planning to broadcast one live service each Sunday. Please look at your TV listings for more details.

Magnificat

Magnificat is a Roman Catholic website that offers videoclips and prayers. It's free at the moment. Access requires your email address and inventing a password. Go to *https://us.magnificat.net/free*

Poetry

The well-known actor Samuel West is reading a poem a day during the crisis. He's broadcasting each reading through Twitter. His handle is *@exitthelemming*



When it came to breaking bread, he was the best in the business.

What an amazing day it was. Meeting such warm and friendly people from our sister churches including Middleton and Rochdale. We started with a cuppa whilst collecting our name badge which gave us all a chance to mix and mingle. The atmosphere seemed to me to be one of anticipation and excitement. Then it was time to start.

There were 5 workshops of which we each chose 3. Paul mentioned that those leading were by no means experts 'with a capital E'. More of that later. I chose the following: Praying with Icons, Breathing Space, the Jesus Prayer.

All the leaders brought examples and Aids to use in the session. This certainly helped you to look at your prayers in a different way. I for one had never thought of using an icon to help me in my prayers. In Breathing Space initially we talked about how busy life is today made even more so because of the technology. We are bombarded by visual and aural stimulation constantly. Then we were asked to not talk to anyone but occupy ourselves in a way that would bring us closer to God for 20 minutes. There were many different ways offered to us to do this, for example a jigsaw. You wouldn't usually connect prayer with a jigsaw would you? In the Jesus Prayer workshop we were shown how to make a prayer rope and an explanation of the many ways it is used. I have to be honest here and admit that I did not know the Jesus Prayer even though I have often prayed with beads. The short break for lunch passed in a flash as we were all eager to get on to our next session.

Obviously I cannot tell you about the other 2 workshops. What I can say is I heard many murmurings saying about how good and useful this or that was. Remember Pauls remark earlier? Well even if not experts with a capital E they certainly were in my humble opinion. Made more so by their obvious love of the subject. We finished with a short Taizé service.

There is talk of another School of Prayer and I would recommend it highly to everyone. I shall certainly go myself. I would like to thank Jane for suggesting and organising the day and all those who led the workshops. *Linda Birkby*

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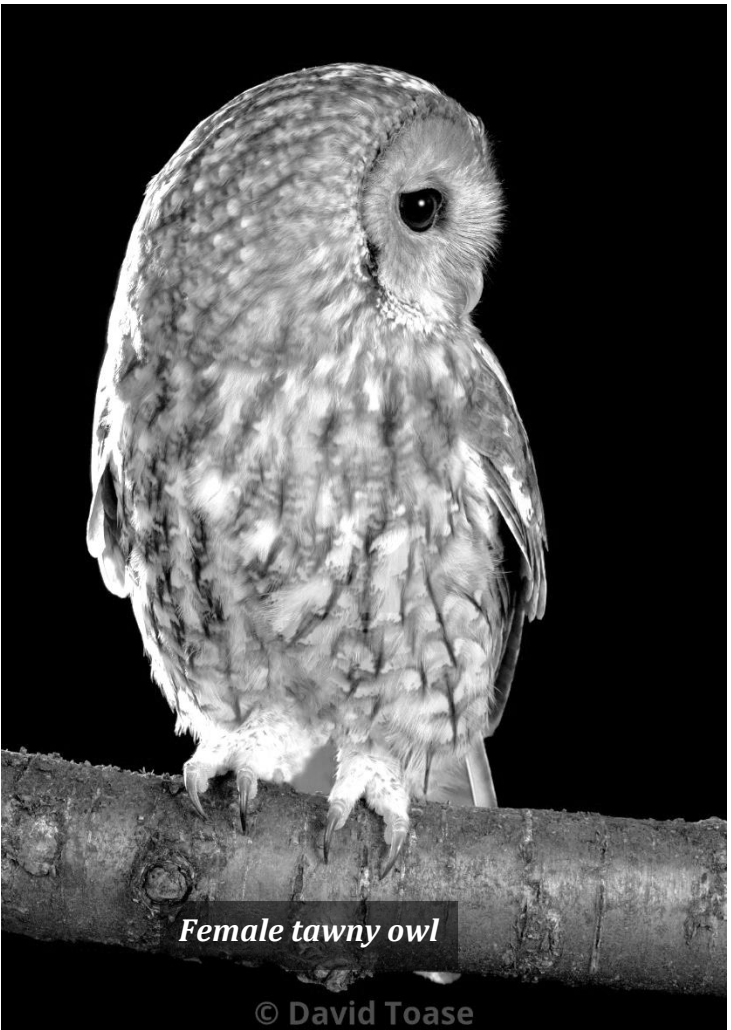
Evidence

A great wild-life success over many years has been the owl-nesting box installed in local woodland. During the winter the box is occupied by grey squirrels who sometimes sit on the top as if they own it and I wondered if this would prevent the female tawny owl from nesting. However, last week all the comfy squirrel bedding of moss and dry leaves was ejected by the owl who needs no nesting material. She has begun to incubate and since the trees are not yet in leaf there is sufficient light to see a round feathered face through the aperture in the front of the box.

The roe deer are very active. While a thorough nuisance in some places, destroying gardens or causing serious traffic accidents, they are still a novelty here, often delighting walkers by making a sudden appearance. What fascinates me is their stealth and ability to vanish by blending with their surroundings. Behind the RSPCA centre I could see a tree stump with a patch of weathered bark resembling the face of a deer. Upon further inspection it was a deer. Somehow the creature had contrived to freeze with legs close together somewhere and head held erect to look as wooden as any stump. I could make out its companions ambling about in a cool and unperturbed manner further back among the trees.



Female tawny owl

© David Toase

As the snowdrops are fading, signs of transition from winter into spring can be seen. Song thrushes have begun their high-energy output although not yet at full volume, there is nuthatch activity around a hole in a tree and the pond in the King's Meadow is half filled with frogspawn. On Holroyd's field a flock of fieldfares, colourful winter thrushes, is feeding and chattering noisily. Soon they will re-cross the North Sea on a return journey to their native Scandinavia.

Bright and brassy yellow flowers of coltsfoot gleam at the side of the path. The scientific name of Tussilago is derived from Latin for 'cough remedy' and coltsfoot figures in Culpepers Herbal originally published in 1652. 'The plant is under Venus: the fresh leaves or juice, or a syrup thereof is good for a hot, dry cough, or wheesing (sic) and shortness of breath.'

From the memorial book

2 **Alice Baron** died 1992 aged 79 years. 'Loving memories of a dear friend.'
Edward Robinson Loving Husband, Dad, Grandpa and Cousin died 1992 aged 77 years. 'In Heavenly Love Abiding.'

6 **Samuel Mellor Schofield** died 1982. 'Loved and remembered every day.'
Donald Joseph Harris died this day 1989 aged 61. 'A Dearly Loved Husband, Dad and Grandad.'
Martin Connell, died this day 2012 aged 62. Always remembered.

9 **Harry Widdall, DSM RN,** donor of this book, died 1989, aged 77. He served with distinction on H.M. 'U' Boat *Graph* during World War Two.
Alan John Clegg died this day 1984. 'Remembered always. Love you for ever. Mum and Dad.'
Vera Cunnington nee Pemberton, died 1994 aged 74 years. Beloved Wife of Stanley, Mother of Averil and John.

11 **Allen Smith** died this day 1990. 'Memories of you will never die.'
Eunice Kirkpatrick beloved wife of the late Frank, died this day 1997, aged 79. Loved and remembered always.

12 **Doris Lees** died this day 1990. Simple words but very true. We will always love and remember you.

19 **Sarah Lizzie Dunkerley (Sally)** Died 1996.Remembered with affection. 'O Lord, in Thee I have trusted. Let me never be confounded.'

22 **Bill Stott** died this day 2000. Lovingly remembered by Eileen and family.

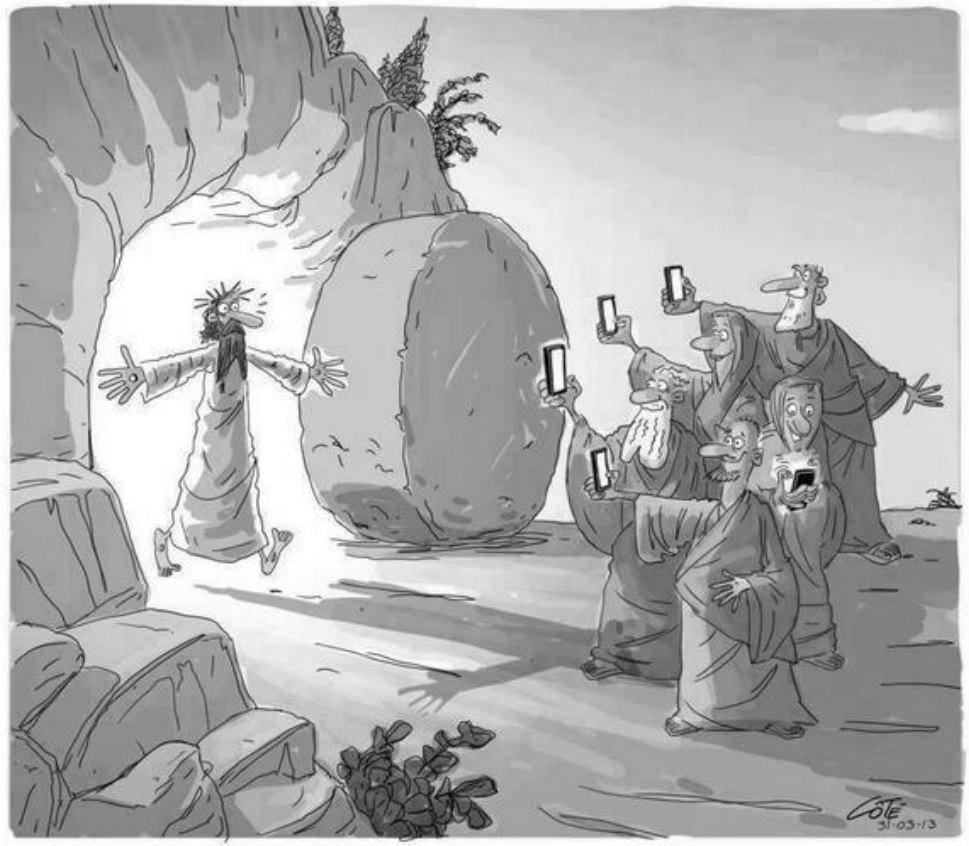
23 **Joseph Connell** died this day 1983 aged 63years.
'Always remembered.'

26 **Frank Wadsworth** born this day 1934. Birthday memories.
Gone but not forgotten.

27 **Lisa Kershaw** died this day 1999 aged 16. An angel too beautiful for this earth.

Church diary

Owing to the Coronovirus, we anticipate the ban on all services and events in the Church extending to at least the end of April. Please consult the Church website *holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk* for up-to-date details.



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