

Church Newsround April 2011

EASTER

The most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in his joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message is so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will be still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for Good Friday: Friday 7 April 30 AD or Friday 3 April, 33 AD, with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22 March, which last fell in 1818 and won't fall again until 2285. The latest is 25 April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month', but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

Services on Easter Day

9.00am Holy Communion - St Peter's

9.00am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion – St Oswald's

10.30am Holy Communion - St Wilfrid's

Appointment

The Bishop of Grantham is pleased to announce that the Reverend Jonnie Parkin, who is currently Youth & Children's Missioner and Team Vicar in the Harborough Anglican Team in the Diocese of Leicester, has been appointed part time Associate Priest in the benefices of Branston with Nocton and Potterhanworth and Metherringham with Blankney and Dunston in the Graffoe Deanery and part time U2Charist Animatuer for the Mission Initiatives Project, subject to CRB Disclosure.

Jonnie his wife Mel and their family hope to move to Branston in May and will be licensed by The Bishop of Grantham at All Saints Nocton on Tuesday 10th May 2011.

FROM THE REGISTER - BAPTISMS

We welcome into God's Family

Sophia Lilian Farmery

Baptised at St. Oswald's

Sunday 13th March

PCC Annual General Meetings

St Oswald's Blankney - Tuesday 12th April 2011 at 7.00pm in Estate Office Blankney
Everyone Invited

St Peter's Dunston – Tuesday 12th April 2011 at 7.30pm in church. Open to all.

St Wilfrid's Metherringham – Monday 4th April 2011 at 7.30pm in Church. All Welcome

17th April, Palm Sunday **Chapel and Church Walk**

A group of people walking slowly along Metherringham High Street on a Sunday morning handing out little crosses and accompanied by a donkey, might look a little foolish to those heading up Prince's Street to football or confronting them on their way to the Co-op.

1 Corinthian 1 v 18 says that, "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to those who are being saved it is the power of God."

A turning point in my life was to witness a Christian doing something I thought to be both embarrassing and foolish. But I found myself thinking about it more deeply and it dramatically changed the direction of my life.

And so here comes Palm Sunday again with the donkey and the prayer walk from Chapel to Church. We will, perhaps, look a bit foolish but hopefully the message of the cross, initially sounding foolish, might cause some to reflect on it and discover the power of it.

We will meet at the Methodist Chapel in order to begin the walk at 10.15am, stopping at strategic points to pray for our village and beyond, arriving at St Wilfrid's at 10.30am for our United Methodist/Anglican Morning Service.

For various good reasons, some of us will be unable to join the walk but our prayers at home or in church will combine with those of the walkers to release God's love and power.

John Tyrrell

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who has helped with flowers at St Wilfrid's. Two new ladies have now joined us. We welcome anyone who would like to come along, our next Festival is Easter. I would also like to thank everyone for the generous donations throughout the year, they are very much appreciated. If you would like a lily in memory of a loved one for Easter please see or ring Doreen Blackband 321284. **DB**

For Sale at St Wilfrid's

Two church pews, offers considered.
Two Lawnmowers, both need a little work.
See a Churchwarden if interested.

Ascension day 2nd June 2011

The Deanery service this year will be held in St Wilfrid's Metherringham, it is expected that it will be lead by the Rural Dean and Rev Jonnie Parkin. Further details will follow.

Lent Lunches 2011

On behalf of the parishes of Blankney, Dunston and Metherringham

The time for lunches is upon us and I hope you will be able to attend. Come to the Church Hall in Metherringham between 12.00 and 1.30pm on Fridays April 8th, 15th, 22nd and enjoy a light lunch. The choice is of two home-made soups with cheese, roll and butter Followed by tea and coffee, the cost only £2.50

There will be an ongoing raffle which will be drawn at the last lunch. We would be grateful for any donations raffle prizes.

All money raised will be divided between L.I.V.E.S. First Responders, a local charity which is there to benefit us all; and Aim4Change's new school and orphanage, Hope of Life Trust, in Rawapindi Pakistan. This Market Bosworth based charity caters for small vulnerable children who lived on the street and survived on what they could find to eat on the rubbish dumps.

Enjoy a lunch, the company of friends and know that you are also raising money for two excellent charities.

Brenda Robertson

Many thanks go to MAD for a donation of £60 received for St Wilfrid's Church Fabric Fund. This was the sum raised after the Shakespeare Review last year.

**A Night with John Campbell
On Thursday 5th May 2011
In St Wilfrid's Church
Metherringham
With Cheeses and Wine
Tickets £6
Available from Margaret Amos**

Dunston Churches Together

April is a special month for the churches in Dunston. On the 3rd we join together in the Methodist Chapel at 11am for our Mothering Sunday service, when all the children will be given flowers to take home to Mum. There is no service at St Peter's that day. Then we're together again over Easter, first on Good Friday for a special meditative service at 6pm in the Chapel, and then on Easter Day we're all in St Peter's at 9am for Easter Day Communion. There's no service in the Chapel on that day. Everyone is most welcome to join us at any or all of the services.

SERVICES FOR APRIL IN THE THREE PARISHES

Sunday 3rd **The Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday**
8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
10.30am United Service - Metheringham Methodist Chapel
11.00am Dunston Churches Together for Mothering Sunday – Chapel

Thursday 7th **(and each Thursday)**
9.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
2.15pm Family Service with St.Peter's School Dunston
7.30pm Lent Course continues for 2 more weeks, Metheringham

Sunday 10th **The Fifth Sunday of Lent**
9.00am Holy Communion – St. Oswald's
9.00am Morning Worship – St. Peter's
10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

Sunday 17th **Palm Sunday**
9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.15am Procession from Methodist Chapel for Joint Morning
Worship at St.Wilfrid's

Thursday 21st **Maundy Thursday**
7.30pm Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

Friday 22nd **Good Friday**
2.30pm Standing at the Foot of the Cross – St. Wilfrid's
6.00pm Dunston Churches Together at Methodist Chapel
7.30pm Compline - St. Oswald's

Sunday 24th **EASTER SUNDAY**
9.00am Holy Communion - St. Peter's
9.00am Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion - Blankney
10.30am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's

May

Sunday 1st **The Second Sunday of Easter**
8.00am Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
9.00am Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am United Service - St. Wilfrid's

DUNSTON ST PETER'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

First of all I would like to say how much I and the children in our Class 3 (who were invited to the dress rehearsal) enjoyed Branston Community Academy's production of We Will Rock You. It was a very difficult musical to stage but they did it so well with great professionalism.

Here at Dunston the children have enjoyed a multicultural week which included a visit from Sunita Patel who brought us "The Indian Experience". This included story telling and a chance for all of the children to learn some Indian dancing.

Two new after school clubs have started recently. Mr Alan Gibbs and Miss Owen are running a Gardening Club here at school and with the help of Mr Hutchinson I have started a cross country club using the village playing fields.

We have had new multiskills playground markings laid and the staff will be receiving training on the best ways to use these shortly.

On March 18th we will be supporting Red Nose Day and this will include a disco in the evening.

On March 25th Class 3 will be going on a trip to the Jorvik Centre in York to support their topic work on the Vikings.

The dates of our future family services are:

April 7th, May 26th, June 23rd and July 14th.

These are all Thursdays and all start at 2.15pm. You are most welcome to join us.

Graham Boyall

Headteacher

Dunston St. Peter's Church of England Primary School

Metheringham W I Report March 2011

I can envisage the W.I. being thrown out of the village hall:- too much noise, due to Bag Beetle. Good Fun, Noisy, Everyone a winner with 2 prizes each, and well done to Audrey for keeping control.

Prior to Bag Beetle was the business element – The AGM.

The committee was re-elected with Audrey as president. Reports were read out and official thanks given. Trophies were presented, Mary Goddard won the competitions trophy and Audrey Webb the flower of the month.

Sports Report and trophies

Darts League : Metheringham "B" – 2nd
Metheringham "A" – 3rd

Joan Reynolds was awarded a special trophy for the highest league score. Moira and Stella won the W.I. knock-out

Table Tennis league , Metheringham W.I. came 2nd

10 Pin Bowling – Adele Riddell was awarded the trophy for the highest score.

With membership now 57 we are looking forward to another busy, eventful year.

Next Meeting:- Wednesday 20th April – The World of Clarice Cliff.

Metheringham Over 60's Club

On Wednesday, 2nd March 2011, the Club President Mr. Bill Chambers welcomed 110 members and guests to our Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Chairman, Mrs. Margaret Amos - welcomed everyone and all present were requested to stand, in one minute's silence, in memory of our friends who were no longer with us.

Margaret reported another successful year with an average attendance of 120 members at each meeting. Our fund raising has enabled us to have our Christmas Dinner, a Fish and Chip supper and last year we had an Easter lunch, all out of club funds.

Margaret went on to thank everyone for their support at coffee mornings, with the various raffles and the Harvest Auction. Also, a special thanks to those members who donated cakes, books, bric-a-brac and prizes. Members agreed that we should continue to hold coffee mornings in March, June and November. For our stall at the Metheringham Feast, members agreed to continue to put items in jars up to the value of £1.00p. The money raised goes towards providing functions and entertainment that a majority of the members are able to benefit from.

Holiday 2011

The holiday this year would be to the Lauriston Hotel, Weston-Super-Mare from 12-17th June. Accommodation is arranged to ensure there are ample facilities for those members who may have mobility issues. The price is £369.00p per person and that is for 6 days, five nights, and includes insurance, single room supplements, excursions, courier, driver and hotel staff gratuities. Also, evening entertainment and day trips to Bath, Linton & Lynmouth, Exmoor, also Wells Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace with a stop at Cheddar (cheese). For further information members should contact Margaret on Tel: 01526 321049, at the time of the meeting 6 more people were required on the list to allow the holiday to go ahead

Lunch - Petwood Hotel, Woodhall Spa

Margaret announced that on Wednesday 27th April 2011, we would be going to the Petwood Hotel for a late Easter Lunch

The President Bill Chambers - gave his address and went on to propose a vote to re-elect the Club Officers and Committee Members, as follows.

Chairman, Mrs. Margaret Amos, Treasurer, Mr. David Harvey, Mrs. Rita Blow, Mrs. Sheila Kettleborough, Mrs. Ros Bell, Mrs. Doreen Blackband, Mr. Dennis Bowler, Mrs. Doreen Cope, Mrs. Kath Mandall, Mr. Fred Deacon, and Secretary, Mr. David Williams.

Mrs. Sue Clark, her work has been very much appreciated, resigned as the Village Hall representative and Mrs. Ronnie Wright was duly elected.

The meeting closed at 7.47pm and was followed by a Fish and Chips supper paid for by the club.

Dairy events:

Wednesdays	Times:	7.00 - 9.00 pm doors open 6.30pm. The usual tea/coffee and biscuits will be served during the interval.
Wednesday	5th April	Members Signing on night with entertainment by male vocalist Noel Gee.
Wednesday	4th May	New members will be invited to attend to sign on.

Entertainment by vocalist Trev "Budgie" Walton;

presumably he sings like a bird!

Wednesday	11th May	Coach trip to Stamford and Springfields.
Saturday	4th June	Coffee Morning

At the present time we have full membership. We have a waiting list and should you wish to add your details to this please contact the Chairman Margaret Amos on Tel: 01526 321049. Watch out for the posters displayed around the village as a reminder and we looking forward to seeing you at all our events.

Dave Williams

Secretary

Royal promises - and no escape clauses!

Probably not since the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981 will so many people be watching a Christian wedding ceremony as will doubtless be on April 29th. The future heir to the throne, Prince William, will marry Kate Middleton in Westminster Abbey.

The solemn and moving words of the service will echo around the world: 'to have and to hold, from this day forward; for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part'. As one groom - a lawyer, needless to say - remarked to me, 'Not many escape clauses there!'

The exchanging of rings is equally uncompromising: 'all that I am I give to you, and all that I have I share with you'. All that I am? All that I have? My car, my laptop, my precious handbag . . . and my aching heart? All? It's such a comprehensive word; it leaves nothing outside its limits.

Marriage is, on these terms, the total giving of one person to another, for life. It's both wonderful and awesome. No matter how many weddings you attend, those vows still move you. This is what love, as God understands it, is all about. It's not 'I love you and I want you and I'm going to have you' (which is how modern culture sometimes portrays it) but about the total giving of one human being to another. It mirrors the self-giving love of God as we see it in the life of Jesus - which may be why St Paul compares the love of a husband for his wife to Christ's love for his people (Ephesians 5:25).

You may notice, as the service proceeds, just how often the word 'love' occurs in it. Indeed, the opening words sum it all up: 'God is love, and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them.' This is the great sacrament of love. On April 29th we can - wherever we are - share in its joy.

HOLY DAYS IN APRIL

3 Mothering Sunday – 4th Sunday in Lent

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. It has been celebrated in the UK since at least the 16th century.

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.

In recent years the holiday has changed and in many ways now resembles the American Mothers' Day, with families going out to Sunday lunch and generally making a fuss of their mother on the day.

Services in our area are as follows:

Metheringham 8.00am Holy Communion (CPB)

10.30am Joint Service At Methodist Chapel

Dunston 11.00am Churches Together for Mothering Sunday – Chapel

21 Maundy Thursday – time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. (see John 13) Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis' The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion. Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

Service in St Wilfrid's Metherringham at 9.00am Holy Communion (CPB)

7.30pm Holy Communion

22 Good Friday – the day the Son of God died for you

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9am in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

Services:- 2.30pm Standing at the Foot of the Cross St Wilfrid's

6.00pm Dunston Churches Together at Methodist Chapel

7.30pm Compline St Oswald'

Signs & Symbols: Lent is about being 'In' and not 'Of'

You could think about Sundays 'in' Lent as being like a dish of oil and balsamic vinegar together with some lovely crusty bread for dipping. Tastes wonderful – but the question is, "How do you get the oil and vinegar to keep together – emulsified?" The answer, of course is, "You can't!"

Some things just won't stay together. They may come together for a while but inevitably they will separate – or be separated. Jesus told a few parables about this when he spoke of sheep and goats and another time about a wheat field with weeds in it.

In Christian, and indeed Hebrew thinking, the number forty means a long, long time. Hence we have Moses and his people wandering around the wilderness for forty years, and Jesus spending forty days in the desert after his baptism. The church copies this by having forty days of Lent as a time of fasting and preparation for Easter and then forty days of celebration up to the Ascension.

If you count those days carefully from and including Ash Wednesday to the day (the Saturday) before Easter Sunday you'll find there are 46 days. But take away the six intervening Sundays

and hey presto now you have exactly forty days. So Sundays don't count. They're 'in' Lent and not part 'of' Lent: technically it's the 'Second Sunday in Lent' and so on.

This month: What's so special about Sundays that the church does not include them in

this time of Lent? What (or who) is special to you that you would set it (that person) aside from everything and everyone else? And how do we make these preferences and specialities clear to those involved and others around us?

Ears

Why do they have ear piercing 'while you wait'; is there some other shop where you can drop them off and pick them up later?"

Smile

Our local paper runs a popular column called "10 Questions" that spotlights people who live in our community. In addition to the usual inquiries about occupation and age, people are asked questions that give a snapshot of their personalities. Recently one woman was asked, "What's the strangest thing you ever bought?" She answered, "Dog toothpaste." Next question: "What is the most common thing people say to you?" Her answer: "Where did you get such white teeth?"

Praying for wheels

A boy kept praying for a bicycle, and the priest told him to persevere, as prayer could do anything. Later he saw the boy with a bike, and said that confirmed his belief that prayer could do anything. The boy replied, "I stole the bike and now I'm praying for forgiveness".

Show and Tell

An infant school teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object to share with the class that represented their religion.

The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David.." The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary." The third student got in up front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy. I am a Baptist, and this is a casserole."

The Twenty and the One

A well-worn five pound note and a similarly distressed twenty-pound note arrived at the Bank of England to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation. The twenty-pound note reminisced about its travels all over the country. "I've had a pretty good life. I've been to Las Vegas and Monte Carlo, the finest restaurants in Paris, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean. "

"Wow!" said the five-pound note, "You've really had an exciting life!" "So tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?" The five pound note replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church , the Baptist Church , and the Anglican Church " The twenty-pound note interrupts, "What's a church?"

Let's face it - English is a crazy language.

There is no egg in plant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France . Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted but if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital or ship by truck and send cargo by ship or have noses that run and feet that smell? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which an alarm goes off after it's been switched on. English was invented by people, not computers and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

Mouth

My mouth doesn't seem to have a backspace key.

Surprise

Behind every successful man is a surprised mother-in-law.

Party

A teenager had a birthday party and it was a highly successful event. She said it was wonderful. Nineteen out of 12 came.

Petrol

An AA man answered the distress call of a motorist whose car had stopped. He made an examination and informed her she was out of petrol. "Well, will it hurt", she asked, "if I drive it home with the petrol tank empty?"

Money

A thoughtful economist has just written a 200 page short history of money. We could write one in six words: 'here it is; there it goes!'

Definitions

A recession is a period in which you tighten up your belt. A depression is a time in which you have no belt to tighten. When you have no trousers to hold up, it's a panic.

Don't delay

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today, because by that time there will be a tax on it.

Salary

Senior civil servant: a person who never even dreamed of earning the salary he can't get along on today.

Tax collector

A person who has what it takes to take what you have.