

Welcome! to St Mary's

Services at St Mary's

Holy Communion

9.15am on 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays

10 am Altogether Communion Service on 2nd and 5th Sundays

9.30am Thursdays followed by Coffee Morning

Open Door, an informal service for all ages

10.45am on 1st and 3rd Sundays, with Children's Church

10.45am on 4th Sundays – All age worship

Refreshments are served after all regular services.

Please do stay and have a chat.

Morning Prayer

8am on Mondays and Tuesdays

Night Prayer

8–9pm Wednesdays on Zoom

Please contact the Church Office for link

Youth Groups

2nd and 4th Sundays – please contact Kathryn for details

The church is open for private prayer during daylight hours

Winter 9am–3pm and Summer 9am–4pm (approx.)



Email: office@stmaryssawston



St Mary's Church, Sawston



www.stmaryssawston.org.net

Welcome to St Peter's

Services at St Peter's

Morning Worship

11am on 1st Sunday

Holy Communion

11am on 3rd Sunday

Morning Prayer

8.15am on Wednesdays

Wednesday

12–2pm Time for a coffee and chat
(Full details on page 6)

The church is open
from 9am–4.30pm daily



St Peter's Church, Babraham



www.stpetersbabraham.org.uk



The Crucifixion: Giotto c. 1311 - 1320, fresco

Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi, Italy

Christ on the cross with Mary Magdalene at the foot. To the left his mother faints into the arms of friends. In pink is St John into whose care he gives his mother. To the right Franciscan monks kneel in veneration and prayer.

Angels circle the upper part of the painting, some weeping, others catching the flowing blood and drawing him towards heaven. [The Crucifixion, c.1311 - c.1320 - Giotto - WikiArt.org](#)

WHAT'S ON

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

IN SAWSTON AND BABRAHAM



Baby and Toddler Group

Mondays 9.30 –11.30am

Chat – toys – rhymes – story – craft

Sawston House Groups

- Mondays 8pm on Zoom
Contact: Rosie Whitmell: rosie.whitmell@gmail.com
- Mondays 8pm at Andrew & Joanne Beale's
Contact: thebeales44@gmail.com.
- Fridays 10am at Petra Shakeshaft's
Contact: petra.shakeshaft1@outlook.com for dates



First Tuesday of each month
2pm or 7.30pm in St Mary's Church

Contact: Janet Martin, tel: 835028, email: janetm.martin@ntlworld.com

TEA AND FRIENDSHIP

warm drinks, warm friendship

First Thursday of each month

2pm–3.30pm in St Mary's Community Hall



SOUP AND SANDWICHES

Second Thursday of each month 12.30–2pm

In St Mary's Community Hall, Church Lane

Supported by Central Cooperative



CRAFT GROUP

Last Thursday of each month 2pm–4pm

In St Mary's Community Hall

Contact: Tina Casey

tina.e.casey@gmail.com



Bring your own craft

From the Vicarage



Dear Friends

As I write this, I have just returned from ten days in Rwanda. As you may or may not know, the Diocese of Ely has a link with the Diocese of Kigali in Rwanda. I had the privilege, alongside one of my colleagues, of accompanying six curates from across the Diocese of Ely to Rwanda on a visit to learn more about the country, the Church and worship in Rwanda, difference and reconciliation. We spent an amazing time visiting churches, parishes and schools, participating in services, meeting members of the Mothers' Union, learning about the genocide in 1994 and visiting several genocide memorials. These visits were harrowing and deeply affecting, particularly at the memorial where we were shown around by a genocide survivor.

We were also able to do some practical work and this included participating in *umuganda*, or community work, in a parish not far from the city itself. This community work takes place across the country on the last Saturday of every month. Shops and businesses are closed for the morning, and people are not allowed to travel, as we discovered when we were stopped by police on the way to the parish! Thankfully our driver was able to explain what we were up to. Every adult is expected to participate in their local community. We joined with members of the Gatsata parish, moving rocks and sand to enable repairs to be made to a drain along a rather potholed road (and if you think the potholes are bad in Sawston then you should see the state of some of the roads we travelled along – four-by-fours were essential). As we worked, we were able to chat to the people and there was a real sense of community. At the end of the morning, a government official came along to see what had been happening that morning, followed by the obligatory group photos. Fostering this sense of community has been vitally important for the county in the 32 years since the genocide took place.

Community is important for us all, for we are all God's children made in the image of God, and I couldn't help but think what our own country might be like if we had a monthly community action morning helping our friends and neighbours and the environment in which we live. Of course, there are lots of opportunities to serve, especially in the church; St Mary's and St Peter's simply couldn't function without the tireless work of so many. However, as we journey through Lent, this might be a good time to prayerfully ponder what we might take on (rather than give up). What are your God-given gifts and talents and how might you be able to use them for the good of others?



Preaching on Sunday morning



The Church in Gatsata where we did community work

News from St Peter's

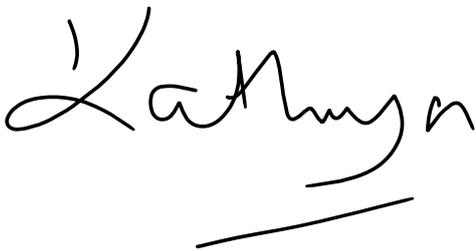
As I write this it may be cold, but signs of spring are emerging with lots of snowdrops already in flower around the church. We often associate spring with cleaning. The management team have continued to be busy, caring for the church and the churchyard. We are making progress on the project to repair the south aisle roof (with thanks to Matthew Punshon for all the work he is doing to drive this project). One of the stumbling blocks has been obtaining a bat

survey, but this will now be happening in the next month or so. We will be applying for Lottery funding for the project and this application is in preparation.

Also underway is the process to appoint a volunteer chaplain to the Babraham Research campus. Chaplains provide a listening ear for people of all faith and none and chaplaincy is a way for us to show God's love to those who work in our parish. The appointment is being supported by our deanery as well as senior staff in the diocese, including Bishop Dagmar. The diocesan team has been giving us advice and will help support any training required for the appointee.

All the regular services and events continue, with a service at 11am on the first and third Sunday of the month. There will be a service of Holy Communion at 9am on Easter Sunday, and the Easter Treasure Hunt and teas will take place on Saturday 11 April. For more information do check the details on our Facebook page or website.

Every blessing



 **St Peter's Church**
Babraham

The kettle's on You're welcome here

St Peter's Babraham is open for you – whether you're seeking a moment of quiet, a conversation over tea, or a place to think about life's big questions

We're here for everyone – including the scientific community

Every Wednesday 12–2pm



Come and visit us – our quiet location makes it an ideal stop

**GRANTA
DEANERY**

Mothering Sunday 15 March

St Mary's
10am All Age Holy Communion

St Peter's
11am Holy Communion

Easter Treasure Hunt & Afternoon Tea

Saturday 11 April
Time tbd

Easter

Egg Hunt



Holy Week & Easter Services

DRAW NEAR

Palm Sunday 29 March

10am All Age Holy Communion at St Mary's
(meet at Community Hall for 9.45am)

Mon 30 Mar, Tues 31 Mar, Wed 1 Apr

7.30pm Evening Services at St Mary's

Maundy Thursday 2 April

7.30pm Holy Communion
with optional foot washing at St Mary's

Good Friday 3 April

10am Walk of Witness
12noon Last Hour at St Peter's
2pm Last Hour at St Mary's

Easter Sunday 5 April

9am Family Holy Communion at St Peter's
10.30am Family Holy Communion at St Mary's
followed by Easter egg hunt



The poster features a vibrant, abstract background with swirling patterns in shades of yellow, orange, and green. The text is centered and presented in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font. The main title 'EASTER CREATE' is at the top, followed by the subtitle 'A MORNING OF ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES', the date and time 'Monday 30th March 9.30-11.30 am', the activities 'Crafts, LEGO, story, songs', the refreshments 'Hot cross buns and refreshments', and the closing 'ALL WELCOME' at the bottom.

EASTER CREATE

A MORNING OF ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

Monday 30th March 9.30-11.30 am

Crafts, LEGO, story, songs

Hot cross buns and refreshments

ALL WELCOME

A Reflection for Good Friday

There is a legend that says that Golgotha or Calvary is the burial place of Adam. It's a neat and rather pleasing idea that Adam's creator, the Word made flesh, should be extinguished above him who brought sin into the world, the sin for which *this* man is prepared to die. And it's important that we *do* remember that this is a man. Yes, he was God, but also fully, one hundred per cent human too. And, if you find it difficult to get your head around that, well, yes, it is a mystery and makes no sense if you try to explain it. We are left only to wonder.

But there is something about this man. Had he not died and had he not risen from the dead, he would have been just another itinerant preacher, who may or may not have retained those few lines in the Jewish historian Josephus' history of the Jews.

But there *is* something about this man. People listen to him. He has time for the people that no one else has time for. He loves the unlovable. He touches the untouchable. He mixes with saints and sinners.

But up at the temple, the religious don't see it – or maybe they do. What they do see worries them. Those worldly things they have fabricated for themselves, the positions of power and wealth, the

privileges that allow them to prey on the poor, to disinherit the marginalised, the disfigured, those unclean souls and bodies they do not want tainting their temple steps.

All this will be taken away from them if Jesus has his way. And they know. They know. They are rattled. They know that what they are doing is wrong, but self-justification comes easily to the comfortable. They do not want to be discomfited by this rabble-rouser. Their unctuous piety extends to making sacrifices to their God – the one they guard in the inner confines of the sanctuary – but they will not sacrifice their spoils, that which they can cream off – all they can take and make for themselves. No, this man must be the sacrificial lamb. It is expedient.

Petra Shakeshaft

Holy Saturday: In the sacred pause

Holy Saturday is the day the Church learns how to wait. Not the purposeful waiting of Advent, full of candles and anticipation, but a quieter, heavier waiting – the kind that has no clear horizon. Jesus is dead. The stone is rolled into place. The story appears to have ended, and nothing yet has begun.

The Gospels do not embellish this day. They tell us simply that Jesus' body is laid in the tomb, and that those who loved him watch, withdraw and keep Sabbath rest (Luke 23:50–56). There is no revelation, no reassurance, no instruction. Love does not act. Love remains.

Holy Saturday gives us permission to stay where we are when life has fractured and meaning feels thin. It acknowledges that there are seasons when faith does not move forward, when prayer falters, when hope feels less like confidence and more like endurance. Scripture does not scold us for this; instead, it makes room.

Even the Psalms know this space. Psalm 88 ends without relief – no turn toward light, no final word of praise. It is a prayer that refuses to rush past despair, and the Bible includes it without apology. The ache is allowed to stand.

This matters deeply in a world shaped by grief, loss and trauma. As I (and others) have learnt, faith after trauma cannot be hurried. Healing is not linear. Resurrection cannot be demanded on a timetable. Holy Saturday honours that truth as it tells us that God does not require positivity from the wounded, or tidy explanations from those who are exhausted. God does not stand at a distance, urging us onward. God waits.

Christian faith dares to say something even more startling: that Christ enters fully into this place. Not symbolically, not briefly, but completely. The descent into death is not a theological footnote – it is a declaration that there is no depth of human suffering God refuses to inhabit. No silence is foreign to God. No wound is beneath God's attention.

Holy Saturday teaches us what grace truly is. Grace is not reward for resilience. It is not earned by spiritual strength or clarity. Grace is God's unearned, unhurried presence – love that stays when nothing can be fixed, and nothing yet can be made new.

Easter will come. Light will break in. But Holy Saturday asks the Church to slow down, to resist triumphalism and to refuse to abandon those who are still waiting in the dark. It teaches us to be gentle with one another, and with ourselves, trusting that God is at work even when we cannot see how.

A Prayer for Holy Saturday

God of the silent day,
when nothing seems to move and hope feels distant,
teach us not to flee the ache.
Stay with us in the waiting, in the unanswered questions,
in the love that has nowhere to go.

Hold our wounds with your wounded hands.
Keep watch with us when faith feels thin and words fall short.

We trust that even here –
in the pause, in the darkness, in the not-yet –
you are faithful, present, and near. Amen.

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From the registers

Funerals

25/11/25 Michael Turner Cam Valley

3/12/25 David Adeane St Peter's and then burial in the churchyard

9/12/25 Max Ashley St Mary's and then Cam Valley

19/12/25 Mary Wilson St Mary's and then burial in the churchyard

22/12/25 Eric Dunne St Mary's and then burial in the churchyard

16/1/26 Colin Denny Cam Vally

4/2/26 John Darling St Mary's and then burial in the churchyard

First communions

14/12/25 Benjamin, Blessing, Charlotte and Desmond

4/1/26 Zachariah

Bereavement Café

Monday 9 March

3pm-4.30pm

St Mary's Community Hall



All Welcome

**Tea, cakes and an opportunity to share memories of loved ones
and experiences of loss whether that is recently or some
considerable time ago**

 **St. Mary's Church**
SAWSTON

 **St Peter's Church**
Babraham
A little church with a big heart



SAWSTON YOUTH GROUP



SYG activities

The different SYG sections have been enjoying varied activities and learning new skills.

The Explorer and Junior sections have recently enjoyed a night out bowling and have been working with clay, sculpting their under-the-sea themed creations. They are looking forward to the rest of this term's programme, which features a space night, learning how to tie dye, and being active with local walks.

The Seniors section has been working together with different challenges. One challenge was to protect an egg by not breaking it as it was dropped from a height. They are looking forward to a visit to the Cambridge City football ground and Ely Cathedral, building with Lego and doing some outdoor cooking.

Members of the Amicus section have shown their creative skills by making Christmas wreaths. They have also got messy making slime and have been active with fitness activities. They will be looking ahead to their visit to Ely Cathedral with the Seniors and to the opportunity to refine their culinary skills by cooking at Footprints cafe.

At Christmas, the whole group took part in Christmas card making for people in Sawston, with the Church sending out the cards for us. We hope you enjoyed our glittery gift and know it was made with love.

New members

We currently have spaces in our Explorers and Junior sections (school years 1–6). We also welcome anyone to our older sections too.

Band

Our band had a successful time on Sawston Remembrance Day, where we led the parade. Our planning and preparations for the band to go on tour to Ypres and the Somme in October are also

progressing well. We are expecting to have a band of about 80–90 people supported by different Boys' Brigade companies. For this we will be doing a research project, supported by the Lottery Heritage Fund, on those who died in the First World War whose names are on the Sawston War Memorial.

We will also be supporting the Sawston Fun Run this year in May and Kedington Fete in June.

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Our Gold group are prepping for their test on the River Wye, which is happening at the end of March. They will be assessed by an external assessor. They have a great challenge ahead of them and we wish them all the best.

One of our Bronze members was presented with their award a few weeks ago. Well done Robyn!

All information and photos can be found on our website at www.syg.org.uk.

Alistair Montgomery, SYG Chairman



The Amicus Wreath



Remembrance Sunday



Junior Bowling

green | weigh 60 High Street
minimal waste shop Sawston
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Please call Stephanie Hatter

07789 635 181

Email: shelfordmassage@gmail.com

Night Prayer

A quiet time to end the day

Wednesday Evenings
8.30pm – 9.00pm
on Zoom

Various styles of Prayer
Compline, Lectio Divina,
Examen, Northumbrian Prayer.



Zoom link on the weekly notices
or from church office



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CURSILLO WEEKEND 17-19 April 2026

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Chelmsford

Please speak to Kathryn or
Anand for more information
and for application/sponsor
forms

New life in the garden

Petra Shakeshaft

In a magazine that spans three months, we inevitably find ourselves looking ahead. The world stage changes rapidly. It was said that 'A week is a long time in politics'. Today, an hour can see unimaginable changes: scandals breaking, lives lost, worlds turned upside-down, political reputations destroyed. Whatever I write now, how will it still be valid in three months' time?

I remember a parishioner once saying to me, 'The Bible is a book 2000 years old. How can it have anything relevant to say to me?' A few weeks later, having been persuaded to come to a home group (yes, with coffee and cake), as she left church, she said, 'You know I used to think that the Bible was a 2000-year-old book with nothing to say to me, but the way we talk about the Bible on Tuesday mornings ...'. I promise I didn't put anything in the cake!

The Christian Bible only makes any sense because it turns on one event, that is, Easter. Everything else, including the Old Testament, has to be read *through* the lens of the Resurrection. Perhaps the most familiar account is found in John's Gospel. It's an intensely personal account. Mary reaches out to touch Jesus. 'Do not cling to me', he says to her. It suggests there is much more going on than we can immediately see *and* that the author profoundly understands the nature of human trauma and grief. Indeed, the story begins with grief.

We see Mary Magdalene making her sorrowful way back to the tomb in the still darkness of the early morning. There is no triumphant bursting from the tomb, just more confusion, more uncertainty. Jesus' body is missing, the stone rolled away and grief poured on to grief.

And while this story is intensely personal, it's also the reality, the lived experience of many across the world. The darkness of the empty tomb may be symbolic to us, but to a family who have lost a loved one it is real. To those in war zones, it is real. To the people in the confusion of the political collapse and turmoil in America, it is real. Those things that once held promise have been hollowed out like an empty tomb.

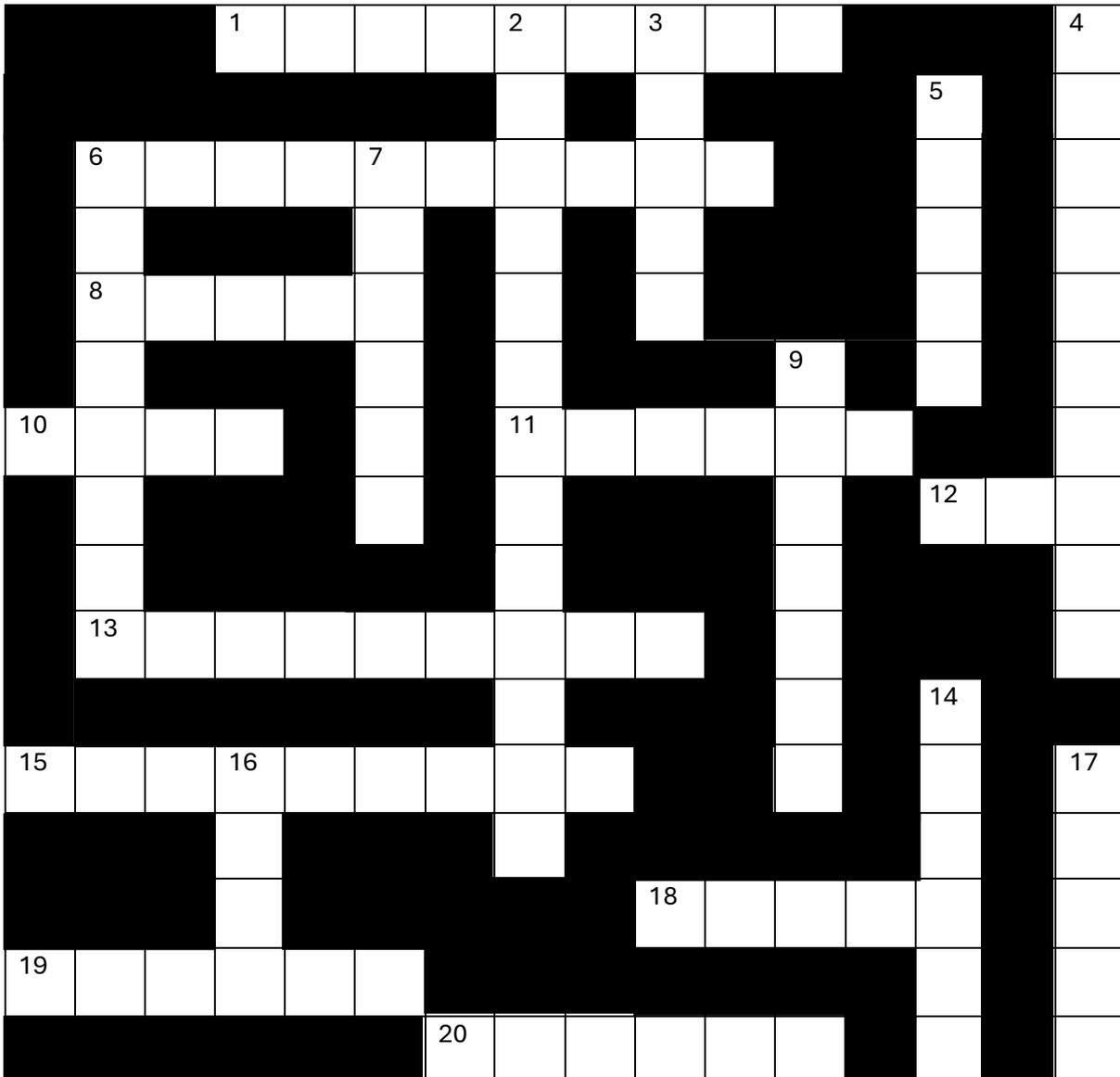
Mary's own turmoil is gut-wrenching. She is almost mad with grief. 'Where have they taken him? Where have *you* taken him?' John doesn't side-step the pain, the torture. He is brutally honest about what it means to experience the cruelty and pain of the cross. He is honest about the reality of loss. Nothing can assuage Mary's pain. She doesn't even know who she is any more – that is the extent of her grief – until, that is, she hears her name, 'Mary', spoken with love. It's not because of how Jesus looks that she recognises him, but because she *encounters* him in the relationship she already knew. Love never dies. Hope is reborn, not as a concept but as a real encounter with love. And through this encounter, she knows herself again.

Christianity doesn't ask us to pretend systems are not corrupt or that suffering is someone else's problem (until it becomes our own). Rather, it shows a God meeting us in the wreckage. The risen Christ appears to a woman *without* status, *without* reputation or power.

Resurrection is subversive. Transformation happens quietly in the early morning light as one woman witnesses something that overturns the powers of darkness, the powers that crucified. New life is quiet, relational, and it overturns expectations. It does not gloss over or erase Good Friday or Saturday. Jesus bears the wounds of the cross. Resurrection does not erase trauma, or deny injustice, but it no longer has the final word. Hope is kept alive because God keeps on speaking our names, whispering even over the noise and confusion of political chaos or moral confusion. It may look more like tears, but it is grounded in love rather than certainty, and love endures.

The risen Christ does not deny the darkness exists, rather he steps into it, alongside Mary, alongside us, whispering our name, trusting that God is already at work, breathing his new life into each one of us, even at the mouth of the empty tomb. This is the story that defies time, political change and human foibles, that gathers up our losses, our grief, our regrets and transforms them in *any* time. This is the story that will still be valid in three months' time, three years, three centuries and on and on ...

FAMILY EASTER CROSSWORD



Across

1. The city Jesus rode into on Palm Sunday. 9
6. The Garden where Jesus prayed amongst the olive trees. 10
8. "He is - - - -!" The disciples shouted on Easter morning. 5
10. The curtain that was torn in the temple when Jesus died. 4
11. The Good Day on which Jesus died. 6
12. Jesus passed this around at the Last Supper. 3
13. The Jewish council that tried Jesus. 9
15. The Mary who thought Jesus was the gardener. 9
18. The disciple who denied Jesus three times. 5
19. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on this animal. 6
20. The Roman governor who questioned Jesus. 6

Down

2. The man who helped Jesus carry the Cross. 5 2 6
3. Jesus' body was wrapped in this. 5
4. The final meal that Jesus shared with his friends. 4 6
5. The man who betrayed Jesus. 5
6. The soldiers cast lots for these. 8
7. The first Easter was on a - - - - - . 6
9. The place where Jesus was crucified. 7
14. A crown of these was placed on Jesus' head. 6
16. When Jesus died the earth became - - - -. 4
17. Judas was given this to betray Jesus. 5

Solution on Page 33

PENTECOST

When the Spirit disturbs our comfort

Pentecost is not a celebration of religious enthusiasm. It is a confrontation. The disciples are not waiting expectantly in strength or confidence. They are gathered in fear, uncertainty, and unfinished grief. The Spirit does not arrive because they are ready, faithful, or organised. The Spirit arrives because God refuses to leave the world unchanged.

Acts tells us that when the Spirit comes, the first thing that happens is not harmony but disruption (Acts 2:1–13). Languages multiply. Control is lost. The crowd is divided – some amazed, some hostile, some mocking. The Spirit does not smooth things over. It exposes fault lines.

This matters, because Pentecost challenges a Church that prefers calm to truth, and unity without cost.

At Pentecost, God does not grant one holy language that everyone must learn. Instead, the good news is heard in many tongues. Difference is not overcome; it is honoured. The Spirit refuses cultural dominance, religious uniformity and spiritual hierarchy, and instead those who had no public voice are suddenly speaking. Those who expected to interpret events find themselves confused.

This is not incidental. It is political in the deepest biblical sense.

Pentecost declares that God's life will not be contained within a single culture, theology, class or way of speaking. The Spirit is poured out on 'all flesh' – not just leaders, not just the articulate, not just the untroubled. Faith becomes public, embodied and risky.

And that should unsettle us.

Because if Pentecost is real, then the Church cannot be neutral in the face of silencing, exclusion or injustice. The Spirit does not bless systems that rely on some voices being ignored for the sake of peace. Nor does the Spirit sanctify comfort that depends on others carrying the cost.

As theologian N.T. Wright has argued, the resurrection of Jesus is not an escape from the world, but the launching of God's new creation within it. Pentecost is what happens when that new life begins to speak, and when it speaks, it names truth, even when that truth is inconvenient.

Pentecost asks hard questions of the Church: Whose voices are heard? Whose stories are treated as disruptive rather than revelatory? Whose wounds are expected to remain private so that worship can stay serene?

The Spirit does not arrive to make the Church impressive. The Spirit arrives to make it faithful.

Pentecost faith is not confidence without doubt, nor activism without humility; it is wounded people speaking truth, communities learning to listen, and a Church willing to be changed by what it hears. It is courage without domination, conviction without contempt.

If Holy Saturday teaches us how to wait with the wounded, Pentecost teaches us how to refuse silence – not with shouting, but with truth shaped by love.

The question Pentecost leaves us with is not whether we feel inspired, but whether we are willing to be disturbed.

Revd Ian Henderson

COFFEE AND CHAT

With Jeannie and Peter Green



Tell us a little about your family.

We have two daughters and two adult grandsons.

The younger daughter has lived in New Zealand for 25 years which is about as far away as you can get, though she does return for a few weeks each year. Conversely, the older one and her two boys live as close as possible: in the same house!

What work did you do before you retired?

We were teachers, having met in Oxford during our postgraduate education year. We both taught at Long Road Sixth Form College where Peter was a vice principal.

Peter: Following early retirement I shed much of the stress by taking up a part-time post teaching geology at Hill's Road Sixth Form College.

Jeannie: I continued teaching biology at Long Road until I retired.

How long have you lived in Sawston?

We moved to Sawston in 2019, so six years. We ventured all the way across the border from the Shelford part of Hinton Way where we had lived since 1977 and where our daughters grew up. They went to Stapleford Primary School, the Village College and Long Road.

Why did you make the move?

We had been half-heartedly looking to downsize when the Town House came on the market. To cut a long story short, we and our older daughter decided to pool our resources and share the house, so we actually downsized by upsizing, and we joke that we are now in our care home!

You live in the centre of the village. Does that have any advantages or disadvantages?

It is a brilliant place to live. We love the High Street vibe and being part of the High Street community. We make good use of all the amenities there. Peter is particularly happy that there is enough garden to enjoy but no grass to cut. So no disadvantages that we have yet discovered!

How might you describe your respective faith journeys?

We could both be described as ‘cradle Christians’.

Peter: My father was a parish priest in Exeter where I absorbed high church traditions. I was greatly influenced by the lovely Wilfred Westall who was the Bishop of Crediton in the 1950s and 1960s. At boarding school I became a server and sacristan, roles I took up again at St Andrew’s, Stapleford. When we lived in St Albans, where our children were born, I was a server at the cathedral.

Jeannie: There was no priest in my family but nonetheless church is in my DNA. I have memories of growing up as the youngest of three in a family where theological and religious discussions around the dinner table were frequent. My faith is not built on certainty. If it were, there would be no need for faith. For me, Christianity is a wonderful and sacred mystery which I embrace.

What do you like about worshipping at St Mary’s?

This is an interesting question because we had been very involved for over forty years with the life of St Andrew’s, Stapleford, so why would we change our allegiance? It happened gradually and was not easy but after the Covid pandemic it became increasingly obvious that it was a waste of time, effort and petrol to keep returning to Stapleford when we could walk to St Mary’s in minutes. Not only that, but we found the 9.15 service which we attend much to our liking, as well as the warm and friendly welcome we received. Sometimes there is informality in the worship but there is always reverence and dignity surrounding the Eucharist. Some might describe the service as ‘traditional’, but so be it – that suits us well.

Do you have a favourite hymn or scripture passage?

Jeannie: I love the Church’s choral music tradition and sang for many years in the choir at St Andrew’s, so yes, I have a lot of favourite and familiar hymns and anthems, but I find it difficult to specify one. I do have an un-favourite though, which I noticed was Anand’s favourite in the last edition of Coffee and Chat. Each to his own I guess! As for passages of scripture, the ones that particularly resonate for me are those set to music which I have sung, such as ‘Rejoice in the Lord Always’ by Henry Purcell, based on Philippians 4:4–9.

Peter: My favourite is a resurrection hymn: ‘Now the Green Blade

Riseth'. I also love 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross', which was one of my father's favourites too. My favourite Scripture passage is the Beatitudes.

... and cake

HOT CROSSED BUNS

Ingredients

- 625g/1lb 6oz strong white flour, plus extra for dusting
- 1 tsp salt, 2 tsp ground mixed spice
- 45g/1½ oz unsalted butter, cubed, plus extra for greasing
- 85g/3oz caster sugar
- 1 unwaxed lemon, finely grated zest only
- 1½ tsp dried fast-action yeast
- 1 free-range egg
- 275ml/9½ fl oz tepid milk (non-dairy milks are also suitable)
- 125g/4½ oz dried mixed fruit of your choice

For the topping

- 2 tbsp plain flour
- 1-2 tsp granulated sugar in 2-3 tbsp hot water or milk

Method

Sieve the flour, salt and mixed spice into a large mixing bowl, then rub in the butter using your fingertips. Make a well in the centre, then add the sugar, lemon zest and yeast. Beat the egg and add to the flour with the tepid milk. Mix together to form a soft, pliable dough. Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface. Carefully work the mixed dried fruit into the dough until well combined. Knead lightly for 5 minutes, or until smooth and elastic.

Grease a large, warm mixing bowl with butter. Shape the dough into a ball and place into the prepared bowl, then cover with a clean tea-towel and set aside in a warm place for 1 hour to prove.

Turn out the proved dough onto a lightly floured work surface and knock back the dough. Shape into a ball again and return to the bowl, then cover again with the tea-towel and set aside for a further 30 minutes to rise.

Turn out the dough onto a lightly floured work surface and divide into 12 equal pieces. Roll each piece into a ball, then flatten slightly into a bun shape using the palms of your hands. Cover the buns again with the tea-towel and set aside to rest for 5–10 minutes.

Grease a baking tray with butter and transfer the buns to the tray. Wrap the tray very loosely in baking paper, then place inside a large polythene bag (or cover loosely in lightly oiled cling film). Tie the end of the bag tightly so that no air can get in (if using) and set aside in a warm place for a further 40 minutes to rise. Preheat the oven to 240C/220C Fan/Gas 8.

Meanwhile, for the topping, mix the plain flour to a fairly thick smooth paste with 2 tablespoons cold water (you may need to use slightly less or more water to get the right consistency). When the buns have risen, remove the polythene bag and the greaseproof paper. Spoon the flour mixture into a piping bag (or a plastic food bag with a corner snipped away) and pipe a cross on each bun.



Transfer the buns to the oven and bake for 8–12 minutes, or until pale golden brown. As soon as you remove the buns from the oven, brush them with the sugar-water/milk glaze, then set aside to cool on a wire rack. Enjoy!

Recipe based on: https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/hotcrossbuns_397

Craft Group

Since last writing we have continued with our regular meetings and warmly welcomed one or two new members. One of these new members, Emma, had been at the St Peter's Arts and Crafts exhibition last year and she subsequently expressed an interest in joining the craft group. I remembered seeing her there demonstrating how 'carding' wool was done. When I learned that she was interested in joining us I got in touch, not only to invite her to join us but also to see if she would give a talk and demonstration at our December meeting. Fortunately, Emma was only too happy to say yes to both!

We had a very enjoyable and informative meeting with Emma talking about the four alpacas she has on her farm land. They are, apparently, very friendly animals and from their coats, which are sheared, she is able to produce wool for her own use and to sell. Alpaca wool is beautifully soft and makes wonderful clothes, hence alpaca wool is quite expensive to buy. Emma was wearing the first jumper that she made from her early batches of wool.

Emma was able to demonstrate how the wool, after it is sheared, is 'carded', a process to pull it into longer strands which can then be wound into balls of wool. Members were invited to try their hand at using the carding machine. It is also possible to visit the farm to see the alpacas and learn more about them.

During December we held a craft stall at the coffee morning at St Mary's in aid of The Children's Society. This is the morning when the children come in to decorate the Christmas tree and it is always a very happy occasion. Plenty of excellent cake, tea and coffee were available as well as a tombola and the craft stall. A record amount was taken on the craft stall, which was made possible by donations of items from the willing members of the craft group and others who have heard of the group and are only too pleased to donate their craft items.

Recently, as I had such a large stock of items, it was also possible to donate a large box of knitted children's clothes and carrycot covers to be taken out to Ukraine, where they are desperately needed, particularly in the cold winter season. Donations have also been made to the Besom charity for new mums in Sawston and surrounding villages who are coping on their own.

The group meets on the last Thursday of the month in the Community Hall, 2–4pm. New members are always welcome, as are occasional visitors.

Tina Casey - Craft Group leader

THE WORLD-WIDE MISSION COMMITTEE: CHARITY NEWS

The Mission Committee is currently supporting **Tearfund**, our charity for the first quarter, from 1 January–31 March 2026. Tearfund is a Christian charity that partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. It tackles poverty through sustainable development.

Our quarterly charities for the remainder of 2026 are:

- **Christian Aid** (1 April–30 June 2026, and **Christian Aid Week**)
- **Mission to Seafarers** (1 July–30 September 2026)
- **Scope** (1 October–31 December 2026).

Since the last issue of the magazine, we have made the following donations:

- **Emmaus Cambridge** (quarterly charity, 1 October–31 December 2025): £170
- **The Leprosy Mission** (house boxes): £200
- **The Children's Society** (Christingle, Coffee Morning, house boxes): £500.

We already have planned the following fundraising events for 2026:

- A coffee morning in support of **Tearfund** on **Saturday 28 February, 10–12 noon**, in St Mary's. There will be tea, coffee, refreshments, cakes, a tombola and a craft stall.
- Following the success of last year's event, we will be holding a **Mission Strawberry Tea** on **Saturday 13 June, 3–5pm**, in St Mary's Community Hall, in support of **Christian Aid**.

Please do come and join us at our fundraising events – all are very welcome.

Our Lent Charity for this year will be **Christian Aid**. **Christian Aid Week** will be from 10–16 May 2026. This year centres on themes of climate justice, combating poverty and driving lasting change.

Christian Aid focuses on building sustainable, resilient livelihoods from the ground up.

Sue Lowdell



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Monday – Friday 8-5.30
Weekends only on request

And a challenge - 20 questions for Pentecost

(Warning – they get trickier towards the end!)

1. What happened to the disciples in the upper room?
2. Who came down upon the apostles at Pentecost?
3. In which book of the Bible do we read the story of Pentecost?
4. What visible sign rested on each of the apostles?
5. What special ability did the disciples receive that amazed the crowd?
6. Pentecost is often called the “birthday” of what?
7. How many days after Easter does Pentecost take place?
8. What symbols are often used to represent the Holy Spirit?
9. In which city did Pentecost take place?
10. Who preached the first sermon at Pentecost?
11. About how many people were baptised on that day?
12. What Jewish feast was being celebrated at the time?
13. What does the word “Pentecost” literally mean?
14. Which Old Testament story is often seen as the “opposite” of Pentecost because of the confusion of languages?
15. Name the sacrament especially associated with the strengthening gifts of the Holy Spirit given at Pentecost.
16. Name three of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
17. What sound filled the house before the tongues of fire appeared?
18. Who replaced Judas among the Twelve before Pentecost?
19. Peter quoted which Old Testament prophet in his Pentecost sermon?
20. What instruction did Jesus give the apostles before His Ascension that connects directly to Pentecost? *(Answers on page 33 – no peeping!)*

Pentecost

By Fra Angelico c. 1450

*In the monastery of
San Marco, Florence*

Tempera on wood panel

Notice: The disciples are
inside and the door is shut.

It is an ‘upper room.’

Jesus’ mother, Mary is
present with them.

See the individual flames
on the disciples heads.

*You can search for this image
online using the information
above.*



Pentecost Quiz answers

1. Tongues of fire appeared above each of them
2. The Holy Spirit
3. The Acts of the Apostles
4. Tongues/flames of fire
5. They could speak in different languages
6. The Church
7. 50 days
8. Dove, fire, wind (any of these)
9. Jerusalem
10. St Peter
11. About 3,000
12. The Jewish Feast of Weeks (Shavuot)
13. "Fiftieth"
14. The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)
15. Confirmation
16. Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, Fear of the Lord (any three)
17. A sound like a mighty rushing wind
18. Matthias
19. The Prophet Joel
20. To wait in Jerusalem for the promise/gift of the Father (the Holy Spirit)

Easter crossword solution

Across	Down
1. Jerusalem	2. Simon of Cyrene
6. Gethsemane	3. linen
8. risen	4. Last Supper
10. Veil	5. Judas
11. Friday	6. garments
12. cup	7. Sunday
13. Sanhedrin	9. Calvary
15. Magdalene	14. Thorns
18. Peter	16. dark
19. Donkey	17. money
20. Pilate	

PCC Officials

Vice Chairman	Corinne Roughley
Secretary	Mary Dicken
Treasurer	Sue Chase (not PCC member)

Other Officials

Assistant Secretary	Joanna Johnson
Electoral Roll Officer	Janet Martin
Gift Aid Officer	Marian Watson
Safeguarding Officer	Barbara Hylton
Sidesmen	Sarah Bard, Andrew Beale, Joanne Beale, Peter Green, Jeannie Green, Suella Hunting, Barbara Hylton, Wendy Redgewell, Mary Richmond, Hilary Streeter, Marian Watson
Website and Social Media Co-ordinator	Joanna Johnson

Committees

Standing Committee	Vicar (chairman), churchwardens, secretary and treasurer, David Bard, Suella Hunting.
Fabric Committee	Vicar (chairman), Sebastian Aplin, David Bard, Mary Dicken (secretary), David Holloway, Suella Hunting, Corinne Roughley, Paul Shakeshaft, Marian Watson
Magazine Committee	Petra Shakeshaft (editor), Mary Dicken, Rachel Norridge,
World-wide Mission Committee	Christine Casey, Sarah Caswell, Jose John, Anne Little, Susan Lowdell (chairman), Janet Marven, Elizabeth Parker, Agnes Stamper, Marian Watson

Community Hall Management Committee

Jeanette Harvey (bookings secretary), George Haddad (treasurer), Katharine Holloway, Suella Hunting (chairman), Jane Moloney, John Poulter, Stephen Roughley, Hilary Streeter (minutes secretary), Vicar.

Ratified appointments which are made externally

Mothers' Union Leader	Janet Martin
SYG Chairman	Alistair Montgomery

Leaders of Activities

Beale's House Group	Andrew and Joanne Beale
Children's Work	Corinne Roughley
Church Office	Joanna Johnson
Craft Group	Christine Casey
Flower Arrangers	Barbara Hylton
Friday House Group	Petra Shakeshaft
Monday House Group	Rosina Whitmell
Open Door Music Group	Clare Hulme
Night Prayer	Dianne Conway
Refresh	Rebecca Herrick
Sacristan	Marian Watson and Anand Pillai (deputy)
Soup and Sandwiches and Tea and Friendship Working Parties and Burial Ground Maintenance	Mary Richmond David Holloway

ST MARY'S COMMUNITY HALL
REGULAR GROUPS

Line Dancing	Monday lunchtime	Lisa
Contento Pilates	Monday evening	Maria
Contento Pilates	Tuesday afternoon	Maria
Youth Booking	Tuesday evening	Jo
Line Dancing	Wednesday morning	Lisa
Contento Pilates	Wednesday lunchtime	Maria
Tai Chi	Wednesday afternoon	Terry
Childminder Group	Thurs morning (not 2nd)	Hayley
Sawston Beavers	Thursday early evening	Anna
Fitsteps	Friday lunchtime	Kelly
Monthly		
U3A Classic Cinema	3rd Thursday afternoon	Irene/Cheryl
Rewilding Yoga	1st Sunday morning	Deborah
<i>Also</i>		
Tea and Friendship	1st Thursday afternoon	Mary
Soup & Sandwiches	2nd Thursday lunchtime	Mary
St Mary's Craft Group	Last Thursday afternoon	Tina
Youth Group	2nd & 4th Sunday evening	Kathryn

All users are expected to sweep the floor before leaving, make sure the premises are left clean and tidy, to take bulky rubbish home with them and to report any damage as soon as possible.

For further information and bookings please contact
Hall Booking Secretary hallbookingsa@stmaryssawston.org.uk
Or leave a message via the Church Office: 01223 837298

Chairman Hall Management: Sue Hunting (sue.hunting@ntlworld.com)