



St Anne's,
Sale with
St Francis,
Sale Moor

e-Spire

April 2024

The Easter Glow

For three years Jesus had held the tiny band together, through journeyings, storms and opposition. And now – following a public trial and execution – He was gone.

Take away the dominant figure, and an organisation can quickly crumble. Take Theudas, an earlier messianic claimant. Once killed, his 400 devotees melted away. Then there was Judas the Galilean. When he, too, was removed, the movement scattered.

Now, it was Easter Day. Here were two disciples walking to Emmaus. As far as they were concerned, their leader was dead. The 'scattering' process had already begun. It had started on that fateful Thursday evening of Christ's arrest, when Jesus had quoted to His disciples from the prophet Zechariah: "It is written 'I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered'" (Matthew 26:31).

The dream was over. "Let's go home - back to Emmaus." Yet Luke 24 is the glowing account of the entire re-building of a worldview. As the apparent Stranger joins the two, it was like the uncorking of a bottle; the story pours out. Surely

crucifixion and the future Redeemer of Israel had nothing to do with each other!

Then began a fascinating Bible study on the road. Evidently in their studies, the two had skipped the passages that spoke of a suffering Messiah. The Stranger says, "Let me fill in those bits for you." Now the figures of a Conquering King and a Suffering Servant begin to coalesce into a single photo fit. Then, at supper with the two, comes the familiar action of the breaking of bread, and – Why.... it's Jesus.

The disciples rush the seven miles back to Jerusalem. They can't keep the glowing news of the risen Christ to themselves!

If Jesus had not been bodily raised from the grave, the demoralised movement – like those of Theudas and Judas the Galilean - would have folded within days. And you and I would never have heard of Him!

Parish Pump

Some children were asked: "What do you think of Jesus?"

"Jesus," said one little boy, "is the best photograph God ever had taken."

Up and coming

BIG BEER FESTIVAL

SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL CHARITIES

MAY 2024 Fri 3rd Sat 4th
17:00-23:00 12:00-23:00

ST ANNE'S CHURCH HALL, TRINITY ROAD, SALE, M33 3GD



Tickets available soon on www.bigbeerfest.co.uk

It's the Marathon again.

This year's Manchester Marathon will take place on Sunday 14 April. St Anne's and Sale Moor remain fully open but an area bounded by Woodlands Road, Derbyshire Road and Marsland Road will be cut off – that's Hope Road, Wardle Road etc, as well as the middle of Sale and much of Brooklands. Full details are online [here](#).



Christian Aid Week:
12 - 18 May

...is coming round again.

Though we no longer collect house to house we still call on your generosity this week. Find out more [here](#).



JOIN US FOR AN ENTERTAINING AND INNOVATIVE EXPERIENCE IN A
CONCERT FOR ST ANNE'S CHURCH
POP. SWING IN UNACCOMPANIED A CAPPELLA BY

THE MONDAY MONDAYS
BRILLIANT & BONKERS!

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!
NOT YOUR AVERAGE CHOIR!

YOU WON'T HEAR ANYTHING LIKE THEM ANYWHERE ELSE!

ST ANNE'S CHURCH, CHURCH ROAD, SALE
SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2024 2:30PM

TICKETS £10.00 U18s FREE

Tickets available from the Church website salestanne.org

mondaymondays.org.uk

Anniversaries

300 years ago:

7 April marks the first performance of Bach's St John Passion in Leipzig.

200 year ago:

on 22 April 1824 Lord Byron died of sepsis at the age of 36 while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire.

175 years ago:

on 10 April 1849 the American mechanic Walter Hunt was granted a US patent for his invention of the safety pin.

100 years ago:

on 17 April 1924 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM) studios was founded.

90 years ago:

on 3 April 1934 British inventor Percy Shaw patented the Cat's Eye reflective road stud, later setting up a

company to manufacture them .

75 years ago:

NATO was founded and South Pacific opened on Broadway.

70 years ago:

on 26 April 1954 the Soviet Union

transferred Crimea from Russia to Ukraine.

50 years ago:

on 6 April 1974 the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song Waterloo. Does that make you feel old?

Cat's eyes

When you drive on a road late at night
And the dark is affecting your sight;
At that time of day
It's easy to stray
Too far with your car to the right!

But we've been protected from tears
For most of the past ninety years,
Since a man who was wise
Invented cat's eyes
So the edge of your lane now appears!

Now drivers, protected from frights
By mirrors reflecting our lights,
May shout 'hip-hooray!'
At all times of day,
And drive with no fear of the nights!

Nigel Beeton, Parish Pump

"Looking out of the window"

What a difference a day makes!

Yesterday the pieris was green but by tea time today it had wonderfully pink leaves adding a cheerful glow to one side of the garden. The forsythia is in full flower on the other side, and in between, poking round the side of the garage, the pear blossom is in bud.

Daffodils are in full bloom all over the garden, and the tulips are catching up fast. The first yellow tulip leapt into life on 29 February - the Leap Year celebratory day. The plentiful rich blue grape hyacinths are a marvellous contrast to the yellow daffodils.

On one occasion, when gazing out of the kitchen window, there was a sight which will remain with me for a long time. It involved parakeets once again - five of them. They were doing their acrobatics and "shouting" at each other as usual whilst fighting for access to the peanut feeders, but underneath them were two very large black crows, two portly pigeons, and two very active squirrels - all milling about on the grass picking up

the crumbs - seeming to tolerate each other quite amicably. The result of all the feet padding around on the ground under the seeds is that due to the wet conditions the newly growing grass is becoming somewhat flat and a muddy brown in places.

One other noticeable addition to the garden in March has been the arrival of some hefty looking bumble bees cruising around.

The hydrangeas and dogwoods have been pruned and the azaleas are full of potential as we approach the triumph of Easter and the glory of the summer colours.

Bridget



Fair trade and Fashion's unseen Homeworkers

The talk for Fair Trade Sunday in church this year was all about the conditions and issues for garment factory workers and the need for a fashion watchdog. But there are also millions of 'homeworkers' working at home stitching, trimming and finishing clothes that end up in UK shops too.

Homeworkers are fashion's unseen workers. We know that the working conditions and pay they receive are, all too often, scandalous.

But it's hard to know what exactly the biggest clothing brands are doing to tackle fashion's informal working problems. Who's leading the way and who's falling behind?

Key to improving the working conditions of homeworkers is ensuring their work is recognised. This starts with brands setting inclusive, publicly available policies which make it clear to suppliers that the use of homeworkers is valued.

Policies are worthless if they are not implemented. Brands should work with their suppliers to disclose homeworking, map supply chains and improve transparency and conditions for any homeworkers they find.

We thought that you might like to see this summary of how brands are responding to the hidden issues for home workers. It has been compiled by Transform Trade (formerly Traidcraft Exchange). Brands mean that the brand has some coverage of homeworking but not enough to earn a tick.

Naturally the list is not comprehensive and Pentland and TFG Brands cover a number of brand names. As regards Primark, the authors of the report were unable to find any publicly available homeworking policy or any work supporting homeworkers. See more on the subject at www.transform-trade.org/fashion



Brand	An inclusive policy?	Publicly available?	Evidence of implementation
All Saints	x	x	x
ASDA	x	x	x
ASOS	✓	✓	
Barbour	✓	✓	x
Boden	✓	✓	
Boohoo		✓	x
Burberry	✓	✓	x
Clarks		✓	x
Dr Martens		✓	x
F&F (Tesco)	x	x	x
Gymshark	x	x	x
JD Sports	x	x	x
John Lewis		✓	x
M&S		✓	x
Matches	x	x	x
Monsoon	✓	✓	✓
New Look	✓	✓	
Next	✓	✓	
Office			x
Pentland	✓	✓	
River Island	✓	✓	
Sainsbury's		✓	x
Schuh	x	x	x
Sports Direct	x	x	x
Superdry	✓	✓	x
TFG Brands	✓	✓	✓
The White	✓	✓	
Very	✓	✓	x

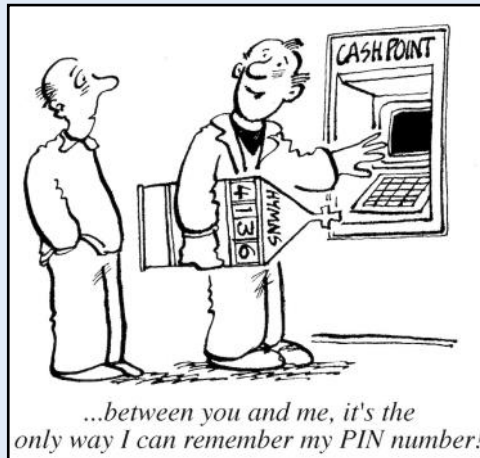
Do you remember your own PIN?

Nearly one in five of us can't. We are so used to paying by contactless that when we have to withdraw cash or type our PIN into a card reader, our minds go blank.

'Contactless' payments hit a record high last year. A staggering 93.4 per cent of all in-store card transactions up to £100 was made using contactless, rather than cash or PIN and card reader.

According to Barclays, we now depend on contactless payments and smartphone technology so much that more than a fifth of young people now leave their wallets at home when they go shopping.

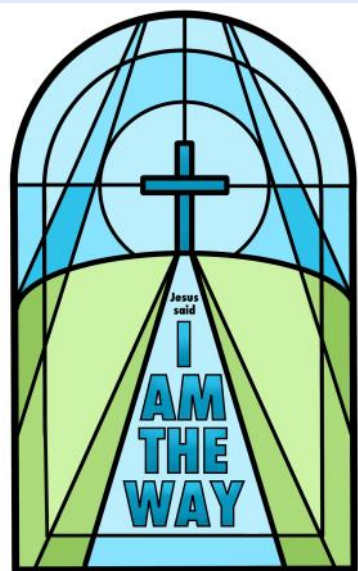
Contactless technology was first introduced by Barclaycard 17 years ago, with a spending limit of £10. The limit was increased during the pandemic, to reduce physical contact in shops, rising to £100 now.



The continuing effects of Covid

"Covid really has changed me as a person and the ministry that is my vocation. The focus is now on softening the church walls and engaging in missional acts of compassion, believing that people won't care much about what we know until they know how much we care."

Revd Tim Sumpter
Vicar of Ockbrook with Borrowash



Called to be Fools!

April Fool's Day is the traditional way to begin this month. In medieval times the fool (or jester) was not just there for amusement. He had an influential role in the court, because he could speak the truth in ways others couldn't. As Christians we are also called to be fools; Paul described himself as a 'fool for Christ' (1 Corinthians 4:10). In what ways is this an appropriate description of a Christian? In his letter Paul expands on this theme.

A foolish message:

'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.' (1 Cor 1:18). The heart of the Gospel does not focus on clever ideas, but on the Cross of Jesus Christ. This message of foolishness and weakness is both God's wisdom and power for our lives.

A foolish community:

'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.' (1:27). The church in Corinth consisted of

slaves, rather than the rich and successful. God calls the weak and vulnerable to follow Him, in order to shame those who think they don't need God.

A foolish ministry:

'My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.' (2:4,5). Paul's ministry didn't rest on human wisdom, but on the power of the Holy Spirit. For us, this power is often displayed when we are at our weakest.

'A fool thinks himself to be wise, but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.' (William Shakespeare).

Parish Pump

Noah had problems, too

When Noah sailed the waters blue, he had his troubles same as you. For 40 days he drove the Ark before he found a place to park.

Mothers Union

April already! I hope you're all well and not getting webbed feet with all the rain we've had lately! I actually started to deal with my garden the other day, perhaps by the time you read this I might even have made some headway! What's that phrase "a weed is only a flower in the wrong place".... I seem to have a lot of budding flowers in the "wrong place" in my front garden at the moment, I'm thinking it may take me some time to clear them.

So what have the MU been up to, sadly I couldn't make it to our meeting in March but I understand that those who came enjoyed a talk by one of our MU speakers, Helen West entitled "I only asked... children in distress in Romania". Helen spoke to us about her time in Romania when she spent time working in children's homes helping with children with disabilities

or with HIV. From all accounts a most interesting evening.

Earlier in March the children from Year 5 came into church to present their work for the Moira Garnett Award. Their posters are well worth a look when you're next in church. I always like to see what they've written. My Mum (yes, Moira was my Mum) would have been so proud that children were enjoying taking part in this scheme. She may have been a little embarrassed that she was being written about but at the same time loving that children's self-confidence to speak in public is being supported and encouraged.

In April (Monday 8th at 8pm in the Hall) we're looking forward to welcoming back Linda Goodchild, another MU speaker, who will be talking to us about "Women in the Bible", knowing Linda this will be another interesting

evening. If you would like to come to listen to her you will be made most welcome, our meetings are open to everyone. It would be lovely to see you.

As I write this Easter is fast approaching, I hope you're all prepared with your egg buying, the number I buy has decreased over the years but I always make sure I get myself one, there's something special about Easter egg chocolate.

Taking the commercial things out of Easter is a special time, a time my Mum I think felt was more important than Christmas, I can see where she was coming from. Holy Week is a time to take stock, think, reflect and remember what Christ gave for us.

Both Jackie and I hope you all had a peaceful, happy and joyful Easter, and that you got lots of chocolate!

Love

Carol & Jackie 😊

Moira Garnett Prize 2024

The children from Year 5 at St Anne's School created posters highlighting the work of the Mothers' Union in this country and overseas. These were on display in church.

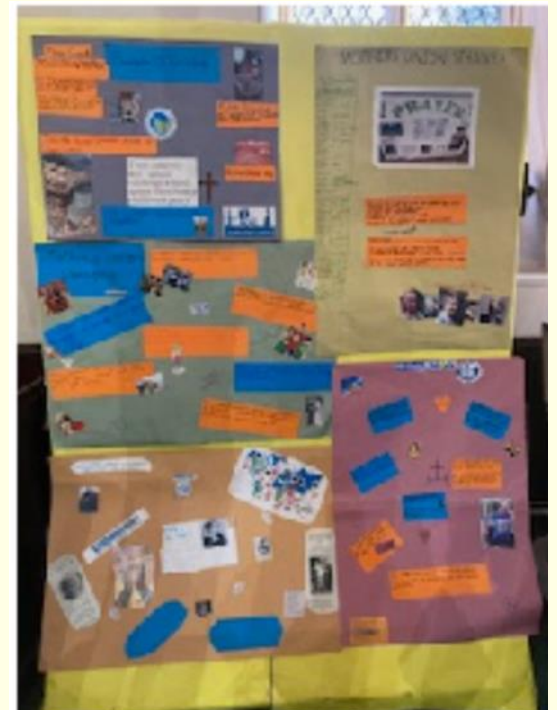
Through the eyes of a child what did they see?

- o Membership in this country and Europe was less than individual countries in Africa
- o Branch members are actively involved in other groups at St Anne's
- o One child spotted a photo of her grandma but not many younger women.
- o Subs paid each year support hundreds of projects in this country and overseas.
- o After doing the maths it worked out at less than 90p per week—value for money
- o Women and men can be members of the Mothers' Union- by being a member, a friend or supporter and they don't need to be married.

Actions that can be made

- o Visit the Mothers' Union website for pages upon pages of information!
- o Speak to Rev Alison who will pass on your details to the Branch Secretary if you would like to get involved in the Branch at St Anne's.

Elizabeth Mills



Church Closures

The church I grew up in (a Baptist church in Coventry) is holding its last service on Easter Sunday. Its large site – a 1960s church and a large 1928 building with many rooms and a hall, surrounding a carpark, are on the market. The congregation (one I'd thought was still flourishing) is transferring to share premises with a nearby URC church. It's a source of shock and sadness, to the fellowship, the local community and to me. They hope that a buyer can be found who will make religious and/or community use of the site.

Church decline is remarkable. In my younger days, that Coventry church had a Sunday School with six departments (creche, beginners, infants, juniors, seniors and young people). When I was a Sunday School teacher

the Juniors had six "classes" or groups, each of half a dozen children or more, that was the scale of it. And one Christmas, the church even put out a full men's Rugby side for a game against another church. Feelings about the days when everyone went to church, when services were packed don't stand up to scrutiny but churches were thriving then in ways that seem another world to us

It's a story that is all too familiar. We understand that Trinity Methodist is to close its buildings and merge with Sale Moor Methodist Church later this year at the Northenden Road site. And of course, Montague Road URC and our own St Francis' have already closed down.

Change can be difficult, particularly if it is in a context of decline rather than progress and growth. Reduced

congregations have inherited expensive and often outdated buildings. The costs of maintenance and upgrading have soared, exacerbated by increasing regulatory requirements and problems with supplies of materials. These costs have been pushed up by supply chain issues resulting from Covid, the invasion of Ukraine and perhaps now also attacks on Red Sea shipping.

So we need to be sensitive to and supportive of the feelings of our Christian neighbours - their discouragement, sadness, even anguish or despair (though there may also be some sense that some intolerable burdens have been lifted) and face up bravely to our own challenges and those of our neighbouring churches who can still continue.

Howard Mason

'Thine be the glory'

This hymn is so well known and loved that it has simply burst the bounds of Easter, and gets sung regularly at other times of the year. Its origins are not as simple as a song from a single author and composer.

The rousing music did not start out as a hymn, but was written by Handel for his opera 'Judas Maccabeus', first performed in 1746. Originally the words ran 'See the conquering hero comes', for the opera tells the story from the Apocrypha of the leader of the Jews, Judas Maccabeus, who led an army against the Syrians and restored worship at the Temple.

The words were not written until 1884 - 138 years after the music. We owe them to the Rev Raymond Budry, a Swiss pastor from Lausanne. Ordained in the Free Evangelical Church in Vaud, he spent 35 years as the pastor of Vevey on Lake Geneva. Budry wrote the hymn in French ('A Toi La Gloire!') to console himself after the death of his first wife, and a year later (1885) it was published in Chants Evangeliques. Soon it found its

way into English – translated by a Baptist minister from Kingston-upon-Thames, Richard Hoyle. By 1904 it had made the YMCA Hymn Book, and was being translated into other languages.

It is not clear who first had the happy idea of teaming words and music, but when they did, the hymn really took off with its theme of victory transferred from to victory over sin and death.

What would Handel make of it, if he could know that his battle music had become one of the world's most popular and well-known Easter hymns? He was a devout man, working for the poor, praying twice each day, and attending St Pauls' Cathedral. So it seems pretty certain that he would be delighted.

Sale CAP Centre – We did it!

A small number of generous donors got us to the target of £1,000 through the Aviva Community Fund which doubled this giving to £2,000. Thank you to those who gave.

The In-Between Time

EASTER TO PENTECOST

Easter
LUKE 24.1-12

PENTECOST
50 DAYS

Road to Emmaus
LUKE 24.13-35

Jesus appears to
the disciples
LUKE 24.36-49

Great Commission
MATTHEW 28.16-20

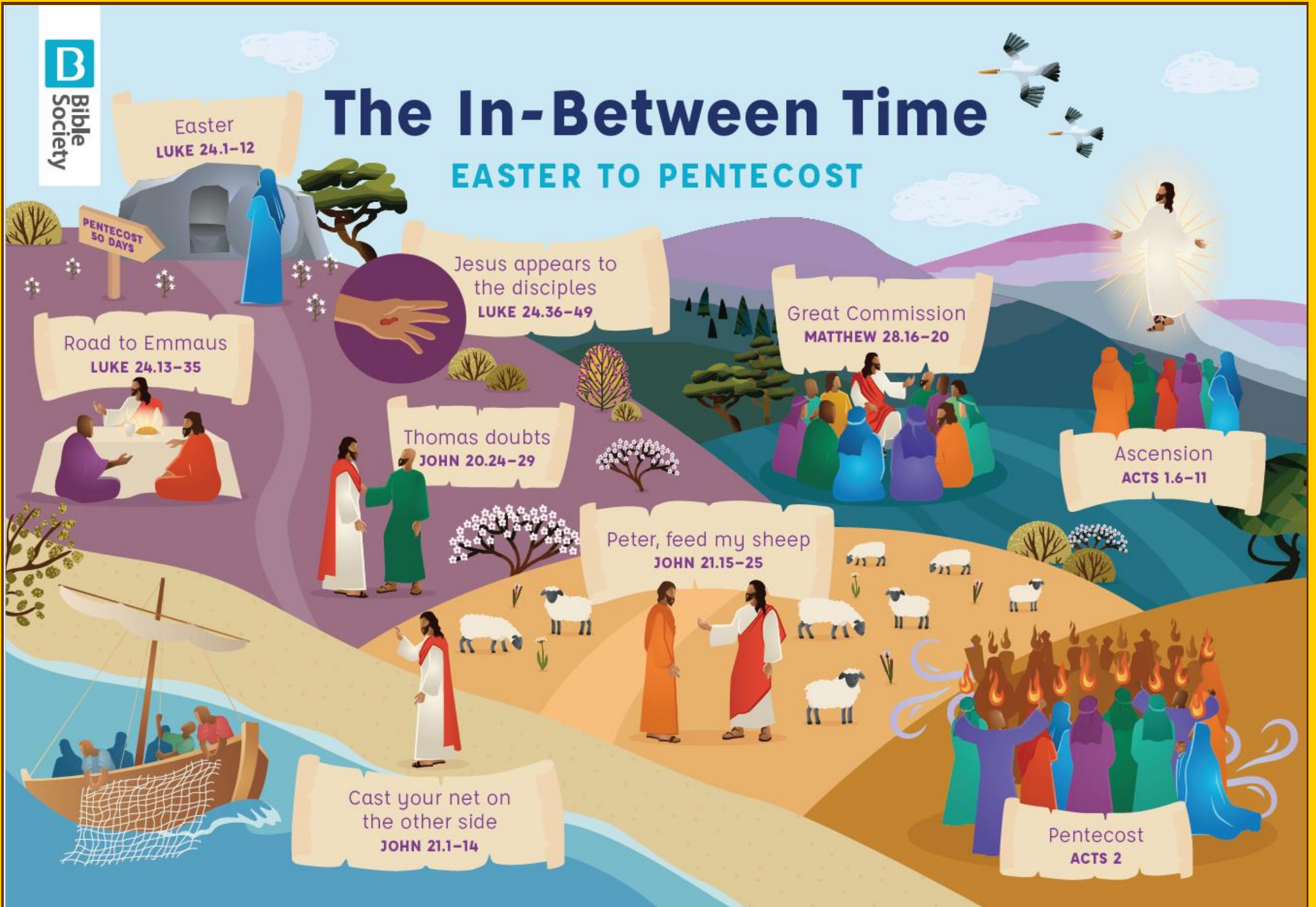
Thomas doubts
JOHN 20.24-29

Ascension
ACTS 1.6-11

Peter, feed my sheep
JOHN 21.15-25

Cast your net on
the other side
JOHN 21.1-14

Pentecost
ACTS 2



Fairer Future event at Rochdale



A number of us ventured up to Rochdale Parish Church in March for this fair trade event with stalls, speakers, school choirs, activities and, pictured here, the Bishop of Middleton trying out a smoothie bike, egged on by the mayor and mayoress of the borough. Our picture on the left shows children taking part in an activity about cocoa beans from Ghana and the picture below gives a general impression of the day. And there was cake, lots of it, healthy cake made with fair trade ingredients.

We'll keep you posted of any future fair trade events organised by the Greater Manchester and Lancashire networks.



Local Hero

A pair of meerkats is the latest - and welcome - addition to Worthington Park's wooden menagerie. But why this growing range of exotic animals – unlike the native wildlife featured for example in Walkden Gardens and Didsbury Park. The exotic theme is to celebrate George Mottershead. He was the founder of Chester Zoo but the local connection is that he was born in Sale Moor (in 1894) living with his family on Old Hall Road.



Our Annual Meeting

takes place in the church hall on **Sunday 28 April** at 11.45 am after the 10 am service and refreshments . Please get any reports to Ann Hunt by Easter Week and be thinking about nominations for churchwarden and PCC members.

* * * * *

With Annual General Meetings at church in mind...

It was not an accident that 17 of the 36 parables of our Lord had to do with property and stewardship.

William James Dawson

The **e-Spire** is our replacement for a hard-copy parish magazine. It is to supplement what appears on our website and in the weekly pastoral letter and newsheets from our clergy. If you don't receive these by email, please send your email address to Alison: alisoncox19@hotmail.com

For comments on e-Spire and to contribute to a future issue, mail the **editors**, Howard & Janice Mason at howard.mason1@btopenworld.com

Parish Directory

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	E-mail: alisoncox19@hotmail.com	
Hon Assistant Priest:	Rev Olwyn Marlow, 28 Arcadia Avenue	0161 962 9292
Families & Children's Worker:	Shauna Hancock - shauna.stannefamchild@gmail.com	
Reader:	Paul Edwards, 25 Abington Road	0161 969 2345
Churchwardens:	Andrew Egarr e-mail: andrew.egarrcw@gmail.com	07808 466 371
PCC Secretary:	Ann Hunt: hunt289@icloud.com	
PCC Treasurer:	Chris Jones - chrisjonessat@gmail.com	07484 834 513
Hall Bookings:	Please contact the vicar at alisoncox19@hotmail.com	
Sacristan/Head Server:	Sue Heath, 7 The Cloisters	0161 969 3167
Organist & Choir Leader:	Vacant	
Choir:	Tuesdays 6.45pm. Contact: matt.roughley.uk@gmail.com	
St Anne's School:	Headteacher - Polly Knight	0161 973 7181
Overseas Group:	Chair - Janice Mason	0161 969 8570
Church Fellowship:	Monthly coffee mornings, Church Hall	0161 962 8946
Mothers' Union:	2nd Monday, 8pm, St Anne's Church Hall	0161 283 0563
Mums & Tots:	Fridays 9.15 - 11am, contact Janet Plumb	0161 905 3895

Guiding

Rainbows

- 1st Sale Moor : Mondays 5 - 6 pm in the Church Hall
email 1stsalemoorrainbows@gmail.com
- 2nd Sale Moor : Mondays 6.15 - 7.15 pm in the Church Hall
email 2ndsalemoorrainbows@gmail.com

Brownies

- 1st Sale Moor: Weds 6.30 - 8 pm, Clarendon Rd Scout Hut 973 3894
- 2nd Sale Moor: Weds 6.30 - 8 pm in the Church Hall 0161 976 5972
- 3rd Sale Moor: Tues 6 pm at Moorlands School
- 7th Sale Moor: Tues 6 pm in the Church Hall 0161 973 2108

Guides

- 2nd Sale Moor: Mondays 7.30 - 9pm in the Church Hall 0161 286 1623
- 7th Sale Moor: Tuesdays 7 pm at Sale Moor Methodist Church

Rangers

- Sale Moor Unit: Thursday evenings at Trinity Methodist Church