

News and Views from St Peter's Church and The Parish of Redcar



April 2021

PARISH CONTACTS

THE VICAR

In Vacancy (For all parish enquiries please contact the Churchwardens)

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To discuss baptisms or weddings, please call 07818883641 between 6.00pm and 7.00pm on a Thursday evening.

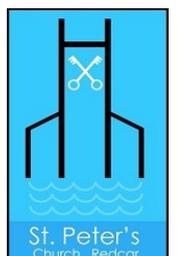
For funerals please contact your funeral director.

Keep up to date with our activities by visiting our Facebook page -



<https://www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchredcar>

or our Website—www.stpeterschurchredcar.co.uk



HOLY WEEK SERVICES AT ST PETER'S REDCAR

Join us this Holy Week and Easter and follow the journey of events which create the basis on which our Christian faith is founded.

Wednesday 31st March 9.30am—11.00am

Church Open for private Prayer

Thursday 1st April

Enjoy a Reflective Walk in our church garden

Good Friday 2nd April 2.00pm—3.00pm

Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Sunday 4th April 9.30am

Lighting of the Easter Fire in our church garden (unless raining)

10.00am Holy Communion for Easter Day

Wednesday 7th April 9.30am—11.00am

Church open for private prayer

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

14 short videos are available throughout the week on our Facebook page to watch and use for personal devotion and prayer

<https://www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchredcar>



From the Churchwardens

Who would have thought it?

This time last year the magazines were printed for Easter and like the rest of us they were locked down and inaccessible. They were literally behind prison doors! We started to look for other ways to stay connected with each other and with our church, and church family.

An effort was made to 'speak' to everyone we had details for by telephone, mobile, through our facebook page and groups, messenger and WhatsApp, a card or letter or simply by asking known friends how everyone was faring; and when we were able, we put together this digital magazine to send out via email and put on our website page; let everyone know we were not alone and to offer reassurance where needed and that St Peter's (along with every Christian community across the land) was praying.

It was a different Easter from anything we had known before and, in some ways, it still is! We have had Zoom gatherings online (especially for Lent) but this Easter we are BACK in church.



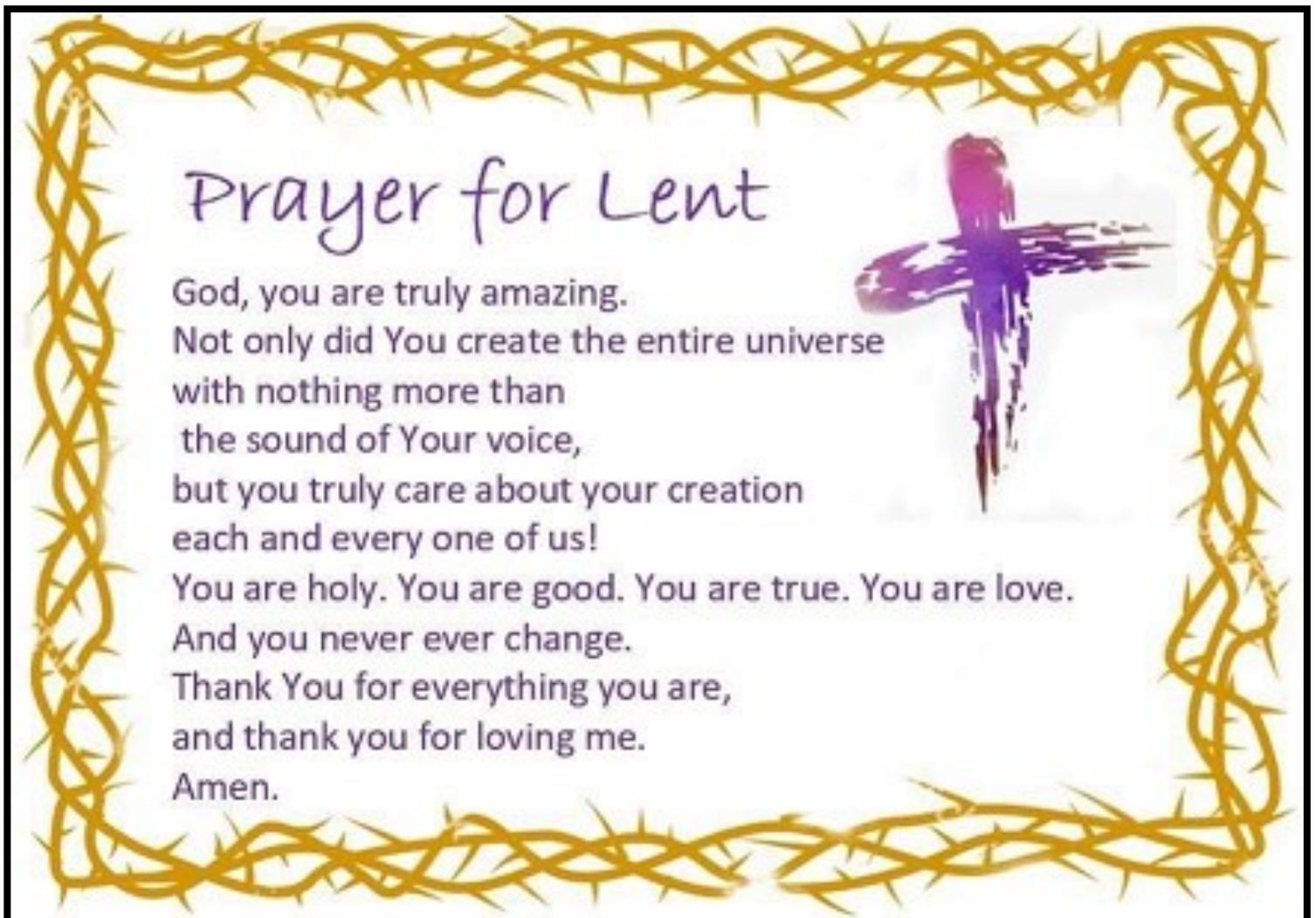
Many will still be celebrating in their own home but (as last year) we ARE TOGETHER in spirit and in prayer and worship in our hearts for we are an Easter people who believe and rejoice in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the hope that it brings!

May we all find Joy and Peace and know the strength of our Saviours love this Easter.

Jesus Christ is Risen, He is Risen indeed Alleluia!

Please continue to take care and stay safe but enjoy the extra freedom to see family and friends as LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS ARE EASED!

Michael and Anne (Church Wardens)



Stations of the Cross for Holy Week 2021

Members of the congregation have been recording the fourteen reflections known as the Stations of the Cross. The recordings are now available on Facebook, so that we can use them for our personal Holy Week devotions. There are fourteen videos, ranging between about three and five minutes in length, and we have produced it this way so that you can dip in and out of viewing them as fits your timetable. It is not necessary to have a Facebook account to view them.

The link is:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/stpeterschurchredcar/200770351436413/>

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to record a reflection.

Louisa





Reader's Ramblings—A Reflection for April

Well, what a year we have all just had! Who would have thought that we would be talking about a full year of lockdowns and restrictions on our once almost carefree lives? It's been a struggle for all of us but out of adversity, there is always hope.

Over a year ago now, just before the first lockdown started, my son got married. It was a lovely celebration spread over a weekend, starting with an informal get together on the Friday evening, a chance for us to meet the couple's friends and work colleagues, a chance for the two families to get to know each other better. The big day was on the Saturday and the celebrations finished with a breakfast on the Sunday. I am sure that the breakfast was really only a way of keeping the newly married couple's parents and siblings there to help tidy up afterwards, take decorations down, transport presents, that sort of thing—hey ho!. It was a great time where we all celebrated their marriage and shared in their hopes for the future.

The big news topic at the time was "Brexit", and my son announced on the Friday evening that there would be no talk of Brexit this weekend. If anyone mentioned the B word there was a swear jar available to put money in and that money would go to a charity. If only he knew what was round the corner.

When things are not good, the Bible can be a constant reminder of comfort, hope and how much God loves us and that things will get better for us; and now more than ever, we need to stand strong in our faith.

There are plenty of references to hope in the Bible:

Jeremiah 29 verse 11, “For surely I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope”.

Romans 15 verse 13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”.

Psalms 33 verse 22, “Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you”.

From our trials and tribulations of the last year, there is hope for the future; we now have a vaccine which will reduce the terrible effects of the virus and we now have a better understanding of how the virus works. We are able to open our churches and all the restrictions, we are promised, will be reduced to allow us to live a new normal life.

As we travel through Lent and Easter, traditionally a time for hope and renewal, let hope be at the forefront of our minds, driving us on to a better future, to a future in which we continue to worship our Lord in the best way we can and continue to spread the good news of his son, in the hope that we will reach someone who does not yet know the love of God, and may be just tempted to investigate this a little further.

Thanks for putting up with my ramblings.

God Bless

Steve

WORSHIP AT ST. PETER'S

Sundays 10.00am—Holy Communion

Wednesdays 9.30am—11.00am

Church open for private prayer (subject to change)

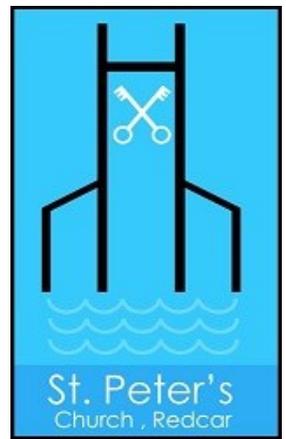
Please be assured of a warm welcome and assistance if needed.

Please sanitise your hands, wear a face covering, and observe social distancing.

EVERY SUNDAY at 8.00pm NIGHT PRAYER (Compline) via Zoom

Zoom meeting ID: 930 2516 0828

Password: 1234



Prayers and links to online services are posted on St Peter's

Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/stpeterschurchredcar>



LECTIONARY FOR APRIL



Sunday 4th April

Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43

Psalm 118: 14-24

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

Mark 16: 1-8

Sunday 11th April

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4: 32-35

Psalm 133

1 John 1:1-22

John 20: 19-31

Sunday 18th April

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3: 12-19

Psalm 4

1 John 3: 1-7

Luke 24: 36b – 48

Sunday 25th April

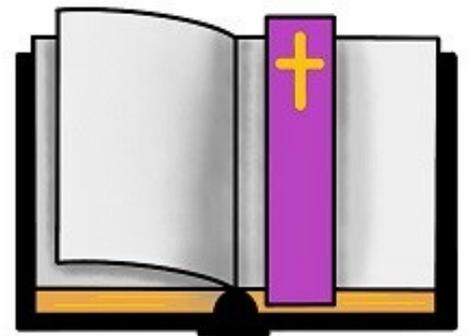
4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4: 5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3: 16-24

John 10: 11-18

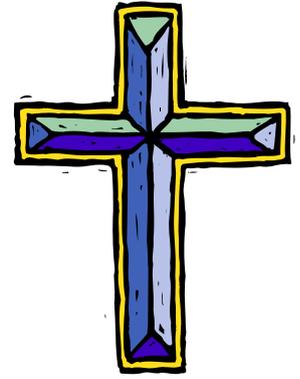


In Loving Memory

We pray for the family and friends of

11th March Gordon Chamberlain

29th March Thora Kraus



Easter Prayer

Dear generous, loving Father,

How can we thank you for the precious gift of your Son Jesus, for His life of obedience and servanthood, for His choosing to die that agonising death on a cruel cross, so that we can be forgiven, and most of all for His death-defeating resurrection on the first Easter morning and the gift of His Spirit to those who put their trust in Him?

We can't possibly thank you adequately Lord, but we want to try! Thank you, thank you Father, that Jesus, our Servant-King is alive, Lord of heaven and earth - and yet still serving us, so that we too can live and serve.

Help us to be your Easter people and live lives of faithful witness to the living Lord, empowered by your Holy Spirit, building in all that we think, say or do for your kingdom to come. Hallelujah!

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching, taken from The Parish Pump

Hi Everyone

As the first Tuesday of the month of April falls in Holy Week, there will be no MU meeting on Zoom this month.

EMUs - Wednesday 21st April 7.30pm on Zoom, contact Anne for details.

We are hoping to hold Corporate Holy Communion in church on the last Wednesday of the month, 28th April—details to follow.

With love, Anne x

News from the MU website:

The last year has been a year like no other – and tough almost beyond endurance for many, writes MU CEO Bev Jullien

Our National Day of Reflection on 23rd March was part of coming to terms, as a nation, with the way our life has been turned upside down due to COVID-19 – and to start to reflect on how we can learn from this to truly “build back better”, and address some of the deep divides in our society, which the pandemic has made so starkly visible.

Mothers' Union members have helped throughout – often, the seemingly small things that really add up, such as making scrubs and scrub bags for hospital workers; making pairs of knitted hearts for those alone on coronavirus wards and their loved ones, so that they feel less alone; phone calls to the isolated; a Book of Comfort and doorstep gifts for people who needed them.

Worldwide, MU members helped with practical support, spreading messages about the need for social distancing, teaching hand hygiene and countering fake news about COVID-19. To keep in touch, even those wary and inexperienced in using technology embraced Zoom and Facetime with aplomb, helping to support one another and stay connected around the world.

Now, as in Britain and Ireland, we begin to see light and hope for a new beginning, we are at a crossroads, and have the opportunity to reflect – to acknowledge the grief of those who have lost loved ones through COVID or others causes, and to walk alongside them – as well as to recognize those who have suffered most, financially or spiritually, and to reflect on how we, called by our faith and together with others, can work to address inequality, and truly “build back better” for all.

COVID has shown that, as a nation, we are deeply divided into haves and have nots, and the latter have suffered deeply, too many reduced to queuing round the block to access foodbanks. Some groups have been disproportionately affected, the elderly, the poor and BAME communities, and gender-based violence has escalated and been brought into sharp focus by the death of Sarah Everard. As members of Mothers’ Union, let us prayerfully reflect on what we can continue to do, or start to do differently, to create a “new normal” – sustaining the new togetherness across boundaries, and speaking out and taking action to end violence, poverty and injustice.

Rebuilding hope and confidence

“Some of you will rebuild the deserted ruins of your cities.

Then you will be known as a builder of walls and a restorer of homes.”

Isaiah 58:12 (NLT)



Christian Aid Appeal

As more of our family, friends, and neighbours receive their Covid vaccinations, we rejoice and are glad that our loved ones are protected. We give thanks for all the NHS staff and key workers who continue to save lives across the UK.

To find out more about the Appeal and/or to make a donation, go to:
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/give/ways-donate/give-thanks-your-coronavirus-vaccine>

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of Hope, Sustainer of all life,

We give You thanks for the coronavirus vaccines,
for the skill and wisdom of scientists, NHS staff and key workers.

By the power of Your Spirit, may we overflow with hope
and joy as we see our friends, families and neighbours protected.

God of Justice, Protector of the vulnerable,
may we be your well-washed hands and willing feet.

Move us to give and act,
to challenge the injustices that anger You.

May we seek to protect all Your children,
particularly those for whom the vaccine is out of reach.

With hope and trust we pray,

Amen

The Wondrous Cross

I have been particularly struck this Lent by the powerful, challenging words of the well-known hymn 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.'

Since moving to train for ministry, I have been living within the shadow of Durham Cathedral. The bells ring out every day, calling me to this holy site of prayer and pilgrimage over centuries. I am thankful to be able to walk into the vast space and add my prayers to the countless prayers that have been offered here. I often sit on a pew where my view enables me to see the silver cross on the high altar behind the St

Cuthbert's cross which appears to be nestling in the centre of the Rose Window. In our own St Peter's Church, wherever you sit, the cross is visible, a symbol, an icon of resurrection, of Christ defeating death.

I don't know about you, but this is what I think of most when I think of the cross... resurrection not crucifixion. But in Lent, the altar cloth in the cathedral has been changed.

Now, a large crown of thorns forms the centrepiece so my attention has been drawn to the manner of Jesus' death more than his resurrection. I have been reflecting more on those lines...'the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of Glory died.'

Jesus, who we proclaim as Saviour, who we know by faith, will hang on a cross, with a crown of thorns pressing into his head. He will suffer and will die an agonising, humiliating death. The crowds who witnessed the raising of Lazarus, who shouted Hosanna! will soon be the ones who shout Crucify.

Whether we are life-long followers or newer to faith, I wonder whether this may be something that we continue to reflect on year after year. I haven't any answers but I have been pondering on 2 thoughts.

Firstly, Jesus is for ALL people. His sacrifice enables us today to witness to the power of him in our lives, and to invite others to come and see for themselves. By his death, resurrection and glorious ascension, the message of the cross, the richest gain of knowing Jesus as Lord is revealed.



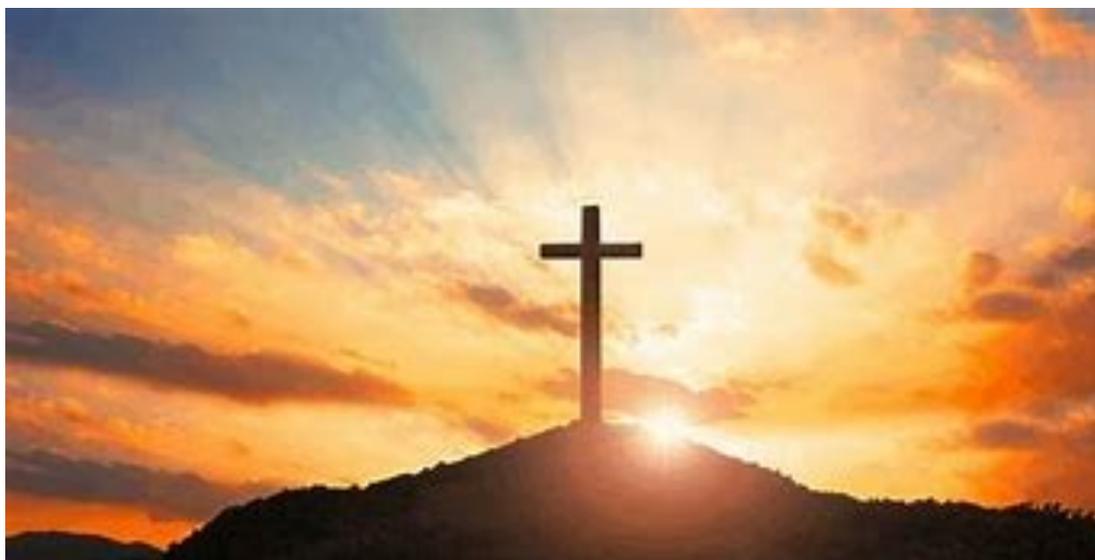
Secondly, Jesus is lifted up. Literally, as the cross is raised, he will be hoisted up as a signal, lifted up as signpost, a perfect icon of God's love for the world. But he is not only lifted up on the wooden cross, he is lifted up in exultation. Through his surrender, comes triumph over death. Through the agony and shame of the cross, we see his glory. This is wondrous, this is how he is glorified.



We cannot fully grasp what God has done. We may weep still in the presence of death and struggle against the forces of darkness in our lives and in the world today but we can trust that as Christ was lifted up on a wooden cross, so too, by the life-giving power of God's spirit, he came through death and out the other side into resurrection life. To believe that only through Christ's blood shed on the cross can we discover the meaning of life in all its fullness, is foolishness to many but all who come and see this Jesus, find that when we are at our most burdened, we can turn to the one who bears our burdens for us. When we are broken, God makes us whole.

As we journey through Holy Week to Easter, whether in our houses or in the church building, in prayer and in praise, let us survey this wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, let us count our richest gains as loss, and let us pour contempt on all our pride, for, as the hymn ends, 'Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.'

Claire Soderman



I am a Christian

When I say..."I am a Christian."
I'm not shouting, "I'm clean living."
I'm whispering, "I was lost,
Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say..."I am a Christian."
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
And need Christ to be my guide.

When I say..."I am a Christian."
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need his strength to carry on.

When I say..."I am a Christian."
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say..."I am a Christian."
I'm not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are far too visible
But, God believes I am worth it.

When I say..."I am a Christian."
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

When I say..."I am a Christian."
I'm not holier than thou.
I'm just a simple sinner
Who received God's grace somehow.

By Maya Angelou

This poem was submitted by Marjorie Crosby, who says she loves it, it is so true.



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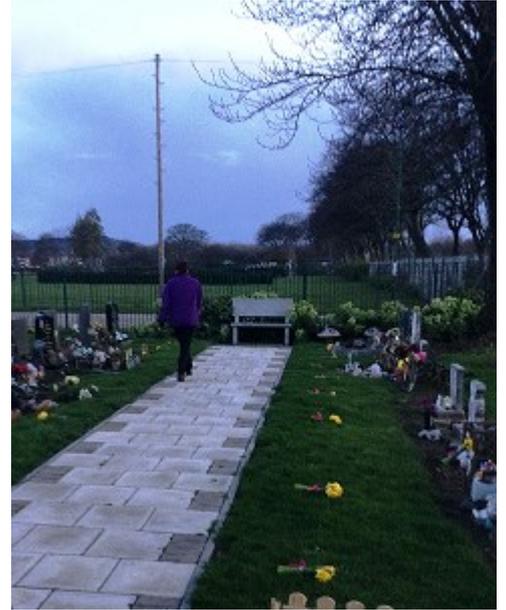
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NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF REDCAR CEMETERY

On Mothering Sunday we usually have a stall, giving visitors a flower remembrance made by the Craft Group for their mother's grave side, but because of the Covid restrictions we were not able to do that.

This year we had a kind offer from the Ladies of Steel to come to the cemetery with bunches of daffodils to lay at the children's graves in the Precious Garden. Meeting them was a small group of our Friends, including Wendy and Theresa who look after the children's graves every week, and Mary, who is looking after the baby memorial in the old section. The Ladies had made a spring wreath including a teddy to lay here.



The baby memorial was established in 2007 where 150 babies are buried in unmarked graves from 1930-70. We chose the stone from a local quarry; with the help of the council who transported it and positioned it has made a place where people who have lost a little one can pay their respects.

It is a pleasure to work in the cemetery now that spring is on the way. We have many spring flowers and bulbs flowering thanks to the gardening members planting thousands of them in the past.

This image shows the bird bath gifted to us by Rev. Nicky Penn-Allison when she was a curate at St Peters. The bird bath was left to her by her Aunt and because she was always moving about in different parts of the country, she felt it would be safer with us. It is surrounded by daffodils and is in a corner of the old section of the cemetery. Thanks to Nicky who liked to help with fundraising and served on our market stalls.



Dot Ahmed



Ian Weber

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ST PETER'S 100 CLUB DRAW FOR MARCH 2021

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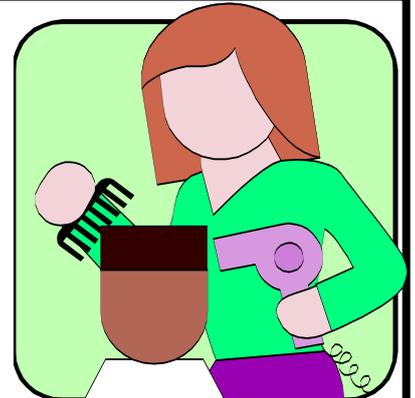
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Dear Lord, please keep your arm around my shoulder -- and your hand over my mouth.

The nice thing about becoming forgetful is that you can hide your own Easter eggs

A woman was found guilty in traffic court and when asked for her occupation she said she was a schoolteacher. The judge rose from the bench. 'Madam, I have waited years for a schoolteacher to appear before this court.' He then smiled with delight. 'Now sit down at that table and write "I will not run a red light" one hundred times.'

Miscellaneous observations on daily life...

- Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.
- If you think nobody cares whether you're alive or dead, try missing a couple of mortgage payments
- In order to keep a true perspective of one's importance, everyone should have a dog to worship them and a cat to ignore them
- The trouble with doing something right the first time is that nobody appreciates how difficult it was
- The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once
- I ate a kid's meal at McDonald's today. His mum got really angry

Taken from The Parish Pump

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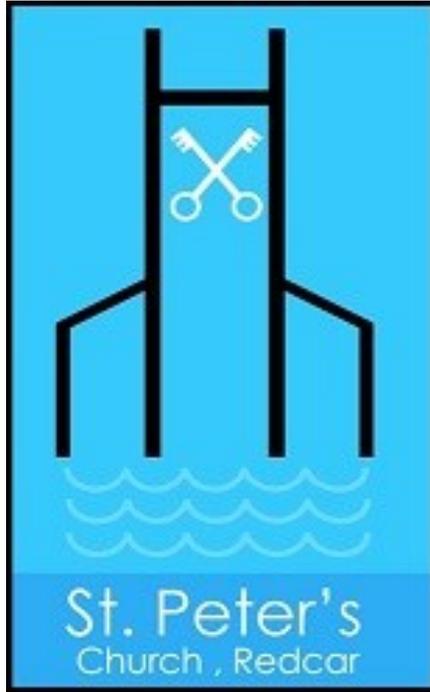
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