

The Bishop's letter for April

At this time of year, we are beckoned outside after a long, cold and often wet winter. Spring has sprung and all creation calls us to go outside, to tend to our gardens and to admire the new life around us.

The benefits to our health from time outside are well known. Growing something from a small seed to a flourishing plant or flower requires care, skill and patience which not only brings us satisfaction but also slows us down. Unlike life in the modern world, nothing in nature is instant or immediate – it will not be rushed.

In this Easter Season, our scriptures also draw us outside. On Easter morning, Mary Magdalene finds herself in a garden, outside of Jesus's tomb, so much so that she mistakes the resurrected Christ for the gardener. There is a vast passage of time between Adam and Eve's banishment from the Garden of Eden to that moment when, in a garden, Mary realises that it is the risen Christ who calls her by name. Yet now in that garden, Mary and all who throughout the ages proclaim, 'I have seen the Lord' are restored to God's eternal presence.

Maybe then there is something in the Easter Season when the resurrected Christ is 'made known' to us that can help us as we – as the Church of today – seek to make him known. Firstly, we need to go outside: to be active in our communities, in our schools and in reaching out to all as we show them the love of God; the God who – through Jesus – calls us by name. And secondly, all of this takes time. There can be an understandable anxiety about the often low numbers of people who come to church. Yet let us never forget that it took time for the good news of Jesus Christ to spread through active discipleship – like growth in a garden, nothing of this was immediate or instant – we need to persevere. As the Declaration of Assent made by all who are being ordained or licenced to a new appointment states, our faith is one that the church is called upon to 'proclaim afresh to each generation.'

I pray that we can do this; go outside, take time to build relationships with all around us, show to all the love, compassion and forgiveness of God and in doing so Make Jesus Known afresh, to all generations.

From Bishop Stephen, Bishop of Salisbury



Ste Marguerite de la foret



April 2024

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Church flowers in April

April 7th Liz Chamberlain

April 14th Debbie Dorey

April 21st Debbie Dorey

April 28th Fatima Freitas

May 5th Liberation

Fatima and all decorators

Greeting

April 7th Brenda

April 14th Dorothy

April 21st Debbie

April 28th Rose

Forth in your name, O Lord, I go,
my daily labor to pursue,
Thee only thee resolved to know
in all I think or speak or do.

A well known hymn written by Charles Wesley especially useful to sing to yourself as you set off for work. Can you remember the tune? Why not sing-a-long.

Charles Wesley (18 December 1707 – 29 March 1788) was an English leader of the Methodist movement. Wesley was a prolific hymnwriter who wrote over 6,500 hymns during his lifetime.

His works include "And Can It Be", "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today", "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling", the carol "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", and "Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending".

What an amazing achievement to write six and a half thousand hymns and in Forest church we sing many of them on Sunday mornings. Singing is very good for you and lifts the spirits and mood. Our thanks to our wonderful choir who lead us every week so well that no-one notices if we miss a note!



Dashing away with the smoothing iron

These days very little ironing of clothes is needed mostly due to modern crease resistant fabrics and the fact that working mothers haven't got the time or the inclination! This jingle, meant for children to sing and learn the days of the week, speaks of a smoothing iron. This was not an iron as we presently know it or even the old heavy black cast iron ones which were heated on the fire. Any smooth flat stone could be used and one of the earliest smoothing irons was made of glass, spun in the shape of a mushroom with a stem for a handle. The cloth would have been laid on a flat surface while still damp, and the creases smoothed away with the flat part of the glass

Twas on a [**M**onday | **T**uesday | **W**ednesday | **T**hursday | **F**riday | **S**aturday | **S**unday] morning

When I beheld my darling:

She looked so neat and charming. In every high degree;

She looked so neat and nimble, O,

[A-washing | A-hanging | A-starching | A-ironing | A-folding | A-airing | A-wearing] of her linen, O,

Refrainwhy not sing-a-long!

Dashing away with the smoothing iron,

Dashing away with the smoothing iron,

She stole my heart away.



Did you know....?

At the back of church under the last pew is a big blue container for the collection of goods for ***Guernsey Welfare***.

Guernsey Welfare is an independent Christian charity started in 1896 and the management team, chaired by the Rev Jon Honour, has representatives from a number of churches.

It is supported by many denominations of church on the Island including Baptist, Church of England, Methodist, New Frontiers, Catholics and Salvation Army in both practical and prayerful ways.

It is a registered charity number 020 with the Association of Guernsey Charities.

Guernsey Welfare helps with:

Vouchers
Food bank satellites
Life skills
Money coaching
Tree of Joy
Pre-school
Practical assistance



Every month Jenny Richmond collects the contents from the Forest Church and delivers them to the charity where they are distributed to many people needing help with a little extra food supply. Any contributions are very welcome and should be of mostly dried or tinned goods which are not out of date. They are very pleased to know that Forest joins in their aims to help those in need.

See [Guernsey Welfare .com](http://GuernseyWelfare.com)

April Dates and News

Knit & Natter

Wednesday April 3rd 2pm-4pm in church.

Come and enjoy the company even if you only want to natter!

Coffee Morning

Wednesday April 10th 10.30am-12noon. Coffee and company in church.

Solace a support group for bereaved friends

Meetings on April 4th and 18th at St Martins Community

Warmest congratulations to Grace Ozanne, a long time member of Forest Church who sang in the choir for many years and recently celebrated her 95th birthday. And of course after the service there is often a birthday cake!



Welcome to Forest Parish Church April 2024

Sunday April 7th 11am. Family service

Reader: Jennelle Hunnisett

Acts 4 v 32-35

1 John 1v1-10, ch2 v1-2

Prayers. Katie Blampied

Sunday April 14th 11am Parish Communion

Reader: Peter Gallienne

Acts 3 v 12-19

1 John 3 v1-7

Prayers: Vivienne Rees

Sunday April 21st 11am Parish Communion

Reader: Keith Wallace

Acts 4 v 5-12

1 John 3 v16-24

Prayers: Nancy Smith

Sunday April 28th 11am Parish Communion

Reader: Linda Archard

Acts 8 v26-40

1 John 4 v7-21

Prayers: Peter Gallienne

Important notice:

The AGM for the Forest Parish church will be held in church after the service on Sunday 14th April. Please stay to hear the reports of the last year's progress and any news of future church work. You are welcome to raise any questions or concerns at this meeting.