

FROM THE RECTORY

Shrove Tuesday

Well it's here at last: later than ever so there will be a:

PANCAKE PARTY

on Shrove Tuesday, 8th March 2011



7.00 - 9.00 pm

in the Rectory

Tickets: £3 from the Churchwardens

Ann and I do hope you can join us for this annual occasion: we can come to arrangements for family tickets if you need us to!

Ash Wednesday

The next day brings us to the beginning of the great season of Lent and Easter, taking us with Jesus into the wilderness and then turning with him towards Jerusalem to his suffering and death and then on to his glorious Resurrection, his ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. It's our annual journey with Christ and it makes demands on us. During Lent in Year A we have the traditional readings that are associated over the centuries with those making a commitment to Christ. Come and think about them in the Tuesday night group session.

With love and prayers

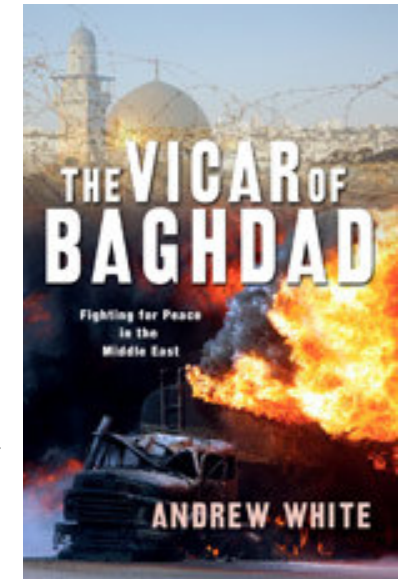
Fr John

1

FROM THE LIBRARY

The Vicar of Baghdad, by
Andrew White, Monarch Books,
reprinted 2010, ISBN 978-
85424-876-3 UK

In his book Canon White, an extraordinarily gifted man, tells us of his initial training in anaesthetics and then of his call to serve God and subsequently how he became a peace-maker. Please don't be put off by the many Arabic names: read through them the continuing theme of Andrew White's faith which shines through all the 'failures' - when peace promises which he has negotiated are broken - through all threats on his life; all the difficulties of day-to-day living and his ongoing illness. As he says, "When life is full of despair, it is only the glory of God that truly sustains".



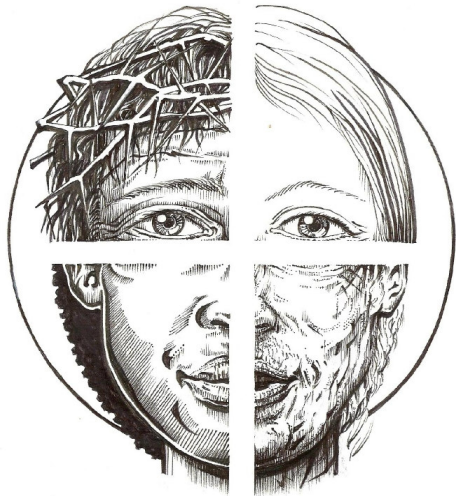
He launched the Mothers' Union of St George's Church, Baghdad at Easter 2006. It now has over one thousand members who are pointers to God in a dark and dangerous country. Pray for them and the marvellous work which they do. Often asked why St George's is so special his congregation replies; "Love. We not only talk about love, we practise it...we are surrounded by violence and the tools of violence but when we come to church we come to worship and to love".

I recommend this book to you although when I sat and thought about what I had read I felt like a very pampered Christian.

Niki Sandry

2

LENT 2011



“To Seek Christ”

Why not come and join in an Ecumenical
programme of prayer and reflection,
meeting on Tuesdays in Lent
8.00 — 9.30 pm
at Treeps House, High Street

CHURCH PLUS

On Saturday, 5th March, we are holding a Beetle Drive and Hot Dog Supper at the Scout HQ from 7.00 pm. Tickets £5 for adults, £2 for children or a family ticket for £12 from Judy Leech (833954) or the church wardens. The focus of this event is social rather than fund raising, so we aim to cover our costs and hope to appeal to young and old alike. Why not get up a party of friends to join us?

Other events planned for the coming year include a village treasure hunt and picnic, on Sunday, 15th May, a games and pizza afternoon for younger teenagers on Sunday, 12th July, a Rectory garden party on Sunday 17th July and a cabaret evening at the Village Centre on 8th October for which we need some entertaining ‘turns’.

Thanks to all who came to the meeting to help plan these events, and to Sarah Norton for hosting.

In aid of Holy Trinity Church funds
Saturday, 5th March
at 7.00 pm
The Scout Headquarters
Brown Twins Road
Hurstpierpoint



BEETLE DRIVE



and Hot Dog Supper
Adults £5, Children £2
Family Ticket (2 Adults, 2 Children) £12
from Judy Leech — 833954

SUNDAY READINGS



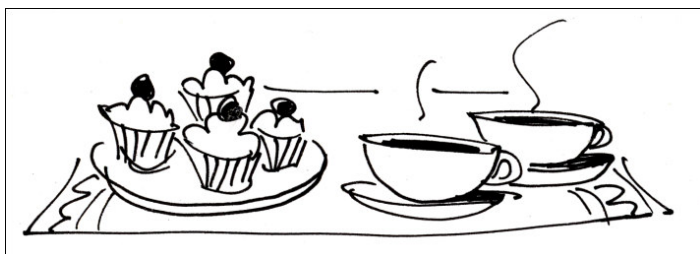
6 th	Sunday before Lent Exodus 24. ¹²⁻¹⁸	2 Peter 1. ¹⁶⁻²¹	Matthew 17. ¹⁻⁹
13 th	1st Sunday of Lent Genesis 2. ¹⁵⁻¹⁷ , 3. ¹⁻⁷	Romans 5. ¹²⁻¹⁹	Matthew 4. ¹⁻¹¹
20 th	2nd Sunday of Lent Genesis 12. ^{1-4A}	Romans 4. ¹⁻⁵	John 3. ¹⁻¹⁷
27 th	3rd Sunday of Lent Exodus 17. ¹⁻⁷	Romans 5. ^{1-2, 5-8}	John 4. ⁵⁻⁴²

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

The subscriptions for Bible Reading Fellowship notes are due on 1st May. *New Daylight* and *Guidelines* will be £11.70 for three copies issued during the year. I will collect money for these during April (cheques payable to E A Mason).



Ann Mason



FRIENDS OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S

Coffee Morning & Mini-Market

We will be holding our annual coffee morning and mini market in the Guide HQ on Saturday, March 12th, from 10.00-11.30am. We do hope you can come. If you have any items for our stalls (raffle, cakes, gifts, books, CDs, tombola, cassette tapes, plants, etc.) we would be most grateful if you would kindly bring them along by 10.00am on the day, or alternatively, telephone me on 832305 and I will endeavour to arrange for a committee member to collect.

Audrey Dunk



"I think I've finally become fully accepted here. After 25 years, the villagers have stopped calling me, The new incumbent !"



THANK YOU FOR HELPING

FSW wishes to thank everyone who supported families across the Diocese last Christmas with donations of food, toys and gifts. You will never know the true value of your support as it is the FSW worker who sees and hears the changes within a family. We receive

many cards from families expressing their thanks. The following is from a card given to a Deanery Worker:

To all involved in Family Support

I wanted to write to all who were involved in donating Christmas gifts to my children and thank you all very much for your generosity. The gifts were much appreciated by myself and my children. We have had a tough couple of years and FSW has helped us in so many ways other than the Christmas gifts. We had a lovely holiday in the caravan in Winchelsea Beach and I have personally found my worker to be a great support to me when she visits once a month. I know that one day when I am in a more stable financial position I will help the charity to carry on the much needed help and support it gives to parents and families. Thanks once again.

The generosity of a local turkey farmer at Bridgers Farm in Hurstpierpoint treated our families to a fresh turkey for Christmas dinner. Mr Harris provided 100 beautiful turkeys for our families. We cannot thank him enough for making Christmas so special for so many. Most of our families had never tasted a 'fresh bird', many had never had turkey, so a first class free range turkey was a totally new experience and enjoyed by all.



The December children's Christmas Party at Knowles Tooth was postponed into January due to the snow and ice. Father Christmas was not deterred by the weather and left gifts for the children under

the tree. A great time was had by all and unfortunately there were many sad faces at 'home time' and not just from the children! We are already organising the Easter Monday, Sponsored Walk in Alfriston on 25th April; do join us for a bit of exercise and excellent refreshments. For more details phone 425699 or see our website at www.familysupportwork.org.uk

Marilyn Hills

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday, 4th March,
at 10.30am,

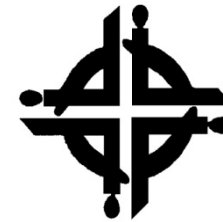
Hurstpierpoint Methodist Church
Cuckfield Road

Speaker: Kevin Carey

This year's service has been compiled
by the Christian women of Chile

Theme: *'How many loaves have you?'*

Please come along. All are welcome



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Continuing last month's theme on the MU campaign Bye Buy Childhood our branch evening meeting in January focussed on children with a look back at the parenting course run last year by Judy Leech and Alison Dewdney. Sarah Norton shared with the group a prayer she had written whilst on the course; it is a very personal, tender prayer with her daughter, Faith, in mind.

Please Lord, help me to follow your example
to be a better parent:

May my love and forgiveness be always
unconditional and freely given.

Let me be there always for her with strength enough
to support and sustain her along her way.

Dear God, I take such comfort in the knowledge
that you love me and are always with me.

But my daughter cannot possibly KNOW this about you YET

With you, God, in my life, I am happy and fulfilled and able
to face any challenge that comes my way.

That is what my heart desires for her!

To be happy and live a rich and fulfilling life too -
I KNOW she will IF she gets to KNOW YOU too!

So dear God, in addition to all the toilet training,
table manners and road safety awareness,

Help and guide me:

to teach her about you,

to bring you into our home and keep you there,

to warmly speak your name **every day** and

to openly thank you for the precious gift of **her** life
that **you** have given to **me**.

So in turn, may I, through your grace,
give her the greatest gift of all: **You**.



Children were also the theme of the afternoon meeting; with an amusing and poignant look back at their days spent teaching, anecdotes and stories provided by Peter, Elaine and Catherine.

Our AGM was held on 16th February: there were no changes to the committee but new committee members are welcome!

Mothering Sunday falls on 3rd April this year and Mothers' Union have a 'Make a Mother's Day' project aimed at raising funds for various purposes with donations starting at £3 to go towards, food, blankets, cooking utensils and mosquito nets. To donate you do need to go onto their website: <http://www.makeamothersday.org/>

Events coming up:

Wednesday 9th March: Afternoon meeting with a viewing of a recent *Panorama* programme and reading of the AGM reports at 100 College Lane at 2.30pm All welcome.

Wednesday 16th March: *Time to Talk* – introduction to this year's Diocesan MU theme. Evening meeting — 8.00pm at the Guide HQ.

Friday 18th March: Wave of Prayer – 10.00-11.00am Group session starting 9.30am at 10 Chalkers Lane but you can join in anywhere.

Friday 25th March: Lady Day Eucharist in Church at 11.00 am.

Saturday 2nd April: Women's "Healthy" breakfast in Guide HQ with a talk from Diana Mason. Tickets from committee members.

Vicki Macken



Many thanks to all box-holders who, between them this year, collected a total of £503.49. Also a big thank you to Dennis Hills for his invaluable help and support.

Jenny Rodgers

THE CALENDAR FOR MARCH

1	S David <i>Bp</i>	The Church in Wales
2	S Chad <i>Bp</i>	Home communicants
3	Thursday	March anniversaries of death
4	Friday	Women's World Day of Prayer
5	Saturday	Our Cathedral
6	THE SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	Our parish and people
7	Ss Perpetua & Felicity <i>Mrr</i>	Almshouses of the Holy Name
8	Shrove Tuesday (Edward King <i>Bp</i>)	Knowles Tooth
	<i>The Holy Season of Lent and Easter begins</i>	
9	Ash Wednesday	Our keeping of Lent
10	Thursday	Hurst Deanery
11	Friday	Christians in the theatre
12	Saturday	The College
13	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	Our parish and people
14	Monday	Artists
15	Tuesday	The Lent Course
16	Wednesday	Those preparing for ordination
17	S Patrick <i>Bp</i>	The church in Ireland
18	(S Cyril of Jerusalem <i>Bp Dr</i>)	Christians in Palestine
19	S JOSEPH <i>Husband of the BVM</i>	Fathers
20	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	Our parish and people
21	Monday	Woodard Schools
22	Tuesday	S ^t Christopher's Home
23	Wednesday	Martha, Mary & Lazarus Guild
24	(Oscar Romero <i>Bp Mr</i>)	Universities
25	ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD	The Mothers Union
26	Saturday	Maternity units
27	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	Our parish and people
28	Monday	Prisons and prisoners
29	Tuesday	Witness through the web
30	Wednesday	S ^t Lawrence' school governors
31	Thursday	The PCC

NEW DIOCESAN SECRETARY

otherwise known as the Chief Executive

Bishop John is delighted to announce the appointment from 19th January of Ms Angela Sibson OBE as the new Diocesan Secretary.



He said “Angela’s previous roles have included serving as Chief Executive of the Mothers’ Union between 1993 and 1999, and of the charity Relate between 2000 and 2006. In both roles she distinguished herself by an impressive record of strategic leadership and reform of the organisations. Most recently she served as Chief Executive Officer of the government-sponsored National Academy for Parenting Practitioners, leading its formation and work in bringing together the most recent research, training and learning resources to help those who work with parents with their parenting skills. On completion of that project Angela supervised the transfer of the residual work to the Children’s Workforce Development Council and Kings College London. Angela was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire [OBE] in June 2010 for services to children and families.

“This impressive CV demonstrates Ms Sibson’s expertise in both administrative and pastoral areas. I count the Diocese very fortunate to have recruited her and look forward very much to working closely with her.

“Angela lives within the diocese near Pulborough and has a son and a daughter.”

LENT COURSE 2011

For our Lent Course this year Fr John has chosen *To Seek Christ*, jointly prepared by the Roman Catholic diocese of Arundel and Brighton alongside the Anglican dioceses of Chichester and Guildford. Introducing the course, Bishop John reminds us of Saint Jerome's saying that "ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ". Bishop Kieran Conry adds that the Bible is such an accessible and easy way to Christ but, the Bishops agree, we should be more attentive to what we hear in church on Sundays.

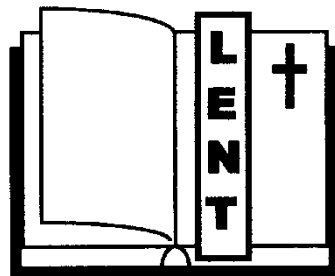
The five-week, extremely accessible, course asks us to reflect upon the readings for the Sundays of Lent which parallel the story of the Chosen People with the mission of Jesus leading to its inevitable culmination in his passion and death.

This is not a fearsome course in hermeneutics and exegesis but an invitation for us to listen to God's Word and share with each other what it is saying to us.

Not surprisingly, each pair of Old Testament and Gospel readings is then linked to an ecumenical theme so that we are asked to think and pray about the meaning of our Bible in a divided church.

The course booklet is free and we will be meeting each Tuesday in Lent at Treeps House, 2 High Street, 8.00-9.30pm.

Kevin Carey



Lorica St Patrick's

Very many thanks to all who gave towards £230.06 collected in January.

Bunty Parkinson

PINPOINTS FOR MARCH

- 2nd Wed 2.15 pm Hurst WI at the Guide HQ: *Pills and Potions* — Peter Hill
- 4th Fri 10.30 am Women's World Day of Prayer service at the Methodist Church
- 5th Sat 7.00 pm Beetle Drive & Hot Dog supper — Scout HQ
- 8th Tues 7.00-9.00 pm Pancake Party at the Rectory
- 9th Wed **Ash Wednesday** Eucharist at 8.00, 11.00 and 19.30 with imposition of ashes
- 9th Wed 2.30 pm MU at 100 College Lane: *Too much too soon* – BBC Panorama programme
- 15th Tues 7.45 pm Wolstonbury WI at Village Centre: *Trolley Dollies* – Mrs Waller
- 16th Wed 8.00 pm MU at the Guide HQ: *Time to talk* – Victorian Hall-Smith
- 26th Sat 7.30 pm Hurstpierpoint Singers Spring Concert, Holy Trinity Church. John Rutter Requiem and *The Sprig of Thyme*



FROM THE REGISTERS

Death

24th January Frank Smith

May he rest in peace and rise in glory



COMPUTER TRAINING AT THE LIBRARY

The County Library Service offers **FREE** computer training for beginners

Students from Hurst College are volunteering their time and skills to help train anyone who needs an introduction to computers or using the internet. The students can assist complete novices get started in using computers, including keyboard and mouse skills. They can also provide trouble-shooting for users with a little more experience, particularly in the areas of email and using the internet. The computer training sessions will run at Hurstpierpoint Library on Tuesdays from 1.30 - 4.30 pm. Training sessions are free and will normally be for a maximum of an hour. Do reserve a place in advance either in person or by phone to: Hurstpierpoint Library in Trinity Road. Tel: 832609.



If you have any queries about your training needs please contact Roger Myall on: Burgess Hill Library, 01444 235549.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dates for March

We meet every week in the Guide HQ (in the corner of the Trinity Road long-term car park) at 9.45am, except if this calendar says otherwise.



6 th	No Sunday School – 1st Sunday Service
13 th	Sunday School
20 th	Sunday School
27 th	Sunday School

Bridget, Maxine, Sarah, Jon & Penny



HURSTPIERPOINT SINGERS

Our Spring Concert will be on Saturday 26th March at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity Church. We shall perform *Requiem* by John Rutter and other works which will include items from his idyllic *The Sprig of Thyme*, a cycle of folk song settings. Stephen Hope, our Musical Director, will conduct.

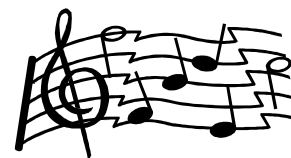
Inspired to sing this lovely Requiem yourself? Come to our Choral Workshop at S^t Peter's Church, Henfield, on Saturday, 9th April. Registration at 1.45pm with music, coffee and tea provided free of charge, but bring your own lunch and tea. Concert performance at 7.30pm. Confirmation and details will be available from 833727 and 833217.

Tickets: £10 (children £5) available from Janton News, Hurstpierpoint; Pavilion Electrics, Hassocks; and Jasmins Florist, Henfield; from choir members and on the door.

On 28th May we are off to Krakow for 7 days with orchestra, to sing with pride this lovely English music.

The 60th Anniversary of Hurst Singers was celebrated in style with a buffet supper and entertainment in November.

In July we shall form part of the Sussex Festival Chorus to perform Bach's *Mass in B Minor* for the Hospices, in Arundel Cathedral.



Enjoy singing? Then please do come and join us. Rehearsals on Mondays at 7.30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Cuckfield Road. All voices needed – no test!

Janice Chumley

THE FABULOUS DESPERATE HURSTWIVES

Come along to a great evening of entertainment in aid of the RNLI in the Village Centre on Saturday, 26th March 2011 - doors open at 7.15pm. Tickets at £12.50 each include a Ploughman's supper. There will be a licensed bar and a raffle with some lovely prizes. Tickets will be available from the Mint House, 94 High Street Hurstpierpoint (834443), Shafers, Keymer Road, Hassocks or any Committee Member – look out for posters nearer the time for full details. Please come along and support this worthy cause – and have a fun night out at the same time!



*Jo Kaddish
(Chairman Hurstpierpoint and District Branch RNLI - 843857)*

HURSTPIERPOINT OVER 60s CLUB

Considering the miserable weather, our February meeting was encouragingly well-attended. However, the beautiful pictures of Guernsey soon transported us around that lovely island with the sparkling commentary of our speaker Peter Hill.



We have been reminded that our next meeting will be a week later than usual, *i e* on Tuesday, 8th March, when St Lawrence' School Junior Choir will be serenading us.

Visitors always welcome.

Geoff Farmer



IS FOR...

Missionary

Where can you find a 'missionary' these days?



First of all, they are not called 'missionaries' any more – but 'mission workers' or 'mission partners'. It covers anyone who is sent out by a local church and/or Christian agency to work and witness - usually in another country. Where do they all go? Almost a third go to the continent of Africa (29%), but these days a sixth (18%) work in the United Kingdom, either among our many immigrants or at the headquarters of mission agencies.

Some mission workers go for a short-term spell, usually for under two years and mostly not requiring the learning of a new language. Others opt for 'long-term' which averages about eight years, and will require learning the local language and cross-cultural adaptation. Three-fifths (58%) of the long-term workers are in their 30s or 40s. A few have served much longer than eight years, and 1% are in their 70s or older, the oldest known being a gentleman of 91 serving in Italy! The majority (68%) of the short-term workers are in their 20s, although some are in their late teens, and a few (11%) are in their 60s spending time in mission activity after their retirement.

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1, Prosperity. 7, Raisins. 8, Admit. 10, View. 11, Confetti. 13, Distil. 15, Groyne. 17, Navigate. 18, Whit. 21, Enoch. 22, Trodden. 23, Prophetess.

DOWN: 1, Pride. 2, Ovid. 3, Pastor. 4, Reaffirm. 5, Timothy. 6, Providence. 9, Tridentine. 12, Kingship. 14, Saviour. 16, Statue. 19, Hades. 20, Rome

LADY DAY - THE ANNUNCIATION

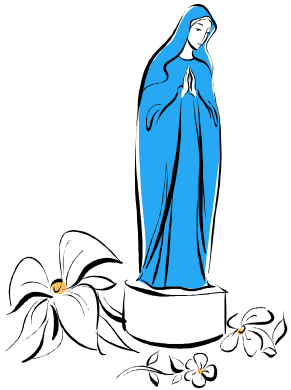
25th March

This beautiful event (Luke 1.26-38) took place in Nazareth, when Mary is already betrothed to Joseph. The Archangel Gabriel comes to Mary, greets her as highly favoured, tells her not to be afraid, that she will bear a son Jesus, and that her elderly cousin Elizabeth is already pregnant (with John the Baptist).

The church calendar is never quite as neat as some would like it. To celebrate the Annunciation on 25th March does indeed place the conception of Jesus exactly nine months from his birth on 25th December, but the latter part of March almost inevitably falls during Lent. But the birth and death of Jesus are intrinsically linked

- he was born to die, and thus fulfil God's purposes.

The Annunciation is a significant date in the Christian calendar - it is one of the most frequently depicted in Christian art. Gabriel's gracious strength and Mary's humble dignity have inspired many artists. Certainly Mary's response to the angel has for centuries been an example of good faith in practice - humility, enquiry of God, and trusting acceptance in his will for her life.



THINK ON THIS

Humility is to the Christian what ballast is to the ship; it keeps him in his proper position and regulates all his thoughts and feelings.

Archibald Alexander

COPY DEADLINE

Articles, notices, information, letters or indeed anything you would like included in the next edition of Meeting Point should be delivered to Sue Coxhill at Russell's Cottage, St George's Lane or e-mailed to sue.coxhill@btopenworld.com by midday on Monday, 21st March.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

March 1889

"Our schools have been duly examined, and are found to have advanced in proficiency as well as numbers. We hope that our excellent and diligent teachers and our varied scholars have earned for us a satisfactory Grant. Alas! We have outgrown our Boys' School! over 130 in attendance: built for 120."



The Boys' and Girls' Schools moved from what is now the Players' Theatre to the present site on Cuckfield Road/Trinity Road on 22nd March 1869, and were kept separate but in the same building. There is a photo of what it looked like facing page 150 of Ian Nelson's book To be larned, not washed. Then, as now, the school was short of space, even in the buildings which were, in 1889, only 20 years old.

HEAD FOR THE WILDERNESS

It's somewhere we all go at some point in our lives...


“And he said, ‘Which way shall we go up?’ And he answered, ‘The way through the wilderness...’ 2 Kings 3.8.

The only way into the Promised Land is through the wilderness. One Bible scholar has called it “God’s killing field”. He says: “That’s where the things that cause us to stumble in our walk with God are permitted to die; where God ‘weeds out’ those who want only a momentary, superficial relationship with him, from those who want their lives really to count.”

If your life is a wilderness at present, take heart: God is there with you the whole time. It’s where you learn to stand and to cast all your cares on him (1 Peter 5.7). Sometimes God will lead you there abruptly, especially if he’s been trying to get your attention. He may want to talk to you about the call he’s placed on your life, but you haven’t had time to listen. Now you find yourself in the wilderness, and you realise that God is the only one who can get you through this.

Here, he permits you to be stripped of pride, so that you can be clothed with humility; stripped of self-sufficiency, so that you can be brought to the place of total dependence on him. If you’re there today, don’t think that God’s punishing you or that he’s forsaken you. No, he’s simply allowing some things in your life to die, so that other things can be born and grow into life and fruitfulness. You’ll get through this and by God’s grace you’ll reach your destiny. The truth is – there is no other way to the Promised Land other than through the wilderness.





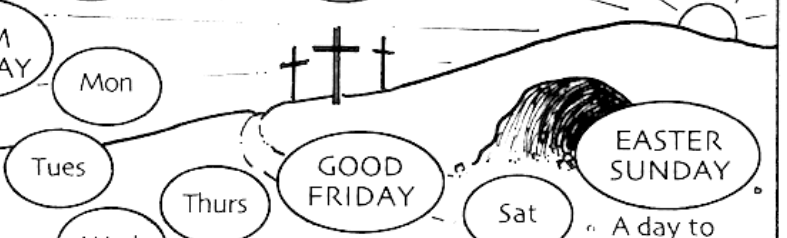
Mouse Makes

ASH WEDNESDAY is the first day of LENT. It is a day for saying 'sorry' to God for any wrong things you have said or thought or done.

THE 40 DAYS OF LENT
 When Jesus was 30 years old he was baptised by John in the River Jordan. Before Jesus began to preach and teach he went out into the desert alone. For 40 days he spent time praying and talking to God, preparing himself for what God had sent him to do.
 Remembering those days Jesus spent in the desert, the Christian Church set aside 40 days before Easter as a time to think, pray and learn more about God. This time is called LENT.

	1 Ash Wednesday	2	3	4	5
	10	9	8	7	6
13	12	11	10	9	8
14	15	16	17	18	19
25	24	23	22	21	20
26 Mothering Sunday	27	28	29	30	31
32	31	30	29	28	27
39	38	37	36	35	34
40 PALM SUNDAY	39	38	37	36	35
Mon	31	30	29	28	27
Tues	24	23	22	21	20
Thurs	17	16	15	14	13
GOOD FRIDAY	10	9	8	7	6
Sat	3	2	1	0	-1
EASTER SUNDAY	27-28	26	25	24	23

Colour in one step each day



The day Jesus was put to death

READ Matthew chapters 3 - 4

READ Matthew chapters 27-28

A day to celebrate.
JESUS IS RISEN!

READ Matthew chapters 3 - 4

Mar11

NEW CHORAL EXPERIENCE

*Come and join the Ripe Chorus; conducted by
Ignacio Jarquin of Hurstpierpoint*

Ignacio originally comes from Mexico. He has conducted the Orchestra and Choir of Radio Netherlands, Paris Symphonic Orchestra, Spanish National Symphony Orchestra, Cairo Opera Orchestra and Choir, and the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra. In Paris he was the musical director of an independent Opera Company, choir



and orchestra before he moved to the UK. Under his leadership the Brighton Gay Men's Chorus reached the final stages of the 2008 BBC choral competition *Last Choir Standing*. He is a member of Brighton's Prodigal Theatre Company and is currently touring through England and Ireland *Caruso and the Quake* a one man show based on Enrico Caruso and his escape from the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. He is also a talented vocal coach and teacher and is a delight to work with. See the website at: www.carusoandthequake.com/

The rehearsals will include some in-depth vocal work which will help you to 'find' your voice and make a better sound. No audition is necessary, just the ability to read music and sing in tune. This is the start of a new venture. If the chorus gathers momentum it will lead on to other things. It will be friendly and fun, though it will involve some work on the music at home to achieve a reasonable standard. We will include some trips to the pub for lunch after rehearsals.

The two works we have chosen are of moderate difficulty and in contrasting styles: **Misa Criolla by Ariel Ramírez**: a folk mass based on the rhythms and traditions of Hispanic America, sung in Spanish, with tenor soloist(s) and accompanied by percussion, piano and guitar. **Magnificat by John Rutter**: One of his best loved works, for chorus and soprano soloist, sung in Latin.

Copies of the scores will be available to purchase at rehearsals (total £10) or get your own from www.sheetmusicplus.com.

Rehearsals will take place in the church at Ripe, near Lewes, on Saturdays:- 12th & 19th March, 2nd & 9th April from 10.00 to 12.45 and 16th & 30th April from 14.30 to 17.00. The performance will be on Saturday 30th April at 19.30.

Coffee and tea will be available at rehearsals. If anyone is coming by train the nearest station is Berwick and a pickup can be arranged. If you would like to participate, please contact Dr Joan Hester on 01825 872279 or at hester.joan@btinternet.com.

AND FINALLY...

Somebody or other

A somewhat 'humour impaired' preacher attended a conference to help to better equip clergy in the ministry. One speaker boldly approached the pulpit and grabbed his audience's attention by declaring: "The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman who wasn't my wife!" The crowd was shocked. But when he followed it up with: "and that woman was my mother!" they roared with laughter and he got their full attention for the rest of the talk.



The next week, the preacher decided he'd give this humour thing a try, and use that joke in his sermon. As he climbed into his pulpit that Sunday morning, he rehearsed the joke in his head. It suddenly seemed a bit foggy to him. However, getting to the microphone he let rip with gusto: "I want to tell you something personal this morning. The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman who was not my wife!" The congregation inhaled half the air in the room. A stunned silence fell. After standing there for almost 10 seconds, trying to recall the second half of the joke, he finally blurted out, "...but I can't remember who she was!"