

Shanklin Chimes

Church and Community News



March
2021

The monthly magazine of
St Blasius Old Parish Church

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St. Blasius Old Parish Church

Magazine

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE FOR ALL
Worshipping, Serving, Growing
TOGETHER**

— CHURCH SERVICES —

We warmly invite you to join us - See details on Page 4

For enquiries relating to Banns and Marriage services, Baptisms and Funerals
please contact: Revd. Jonathan Hall (details below)

Priest-in-Charge	Revd. Jonathan Hall rev.jonathanhall@btinternet.com	Tel: 402480
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Cost of Magazine: 80p per copy. £9.00 yearly. £17.00 by post.

St Blasius Old Parish Church, Church Road, Shanklin, PO37 6QY

website: www.st-blasius-church.org.uk



New Perspectives...



As many of you will know, I was Rector of East Cowes and Whippingham between 2003 and 2010. One of the major fundraising events at St James' Church in East Cowes, was the annual Jigsaw Puzzle Festival.

This was held annually during the second week of August. Last year was the first time in its 26 year history, that the Jigsaw Festival has not been held.

Before going to East Cowes, I had no idea how many different types of Jigsaw Puzzle there are. I knew nothing about double sided puzzles, murder mystery puzzles, crossword puzzles, photomosaic puzzles, 3D puzzles or all the puzzles claiming to be the most difficult puzzle in the world.

Perhaps the cleverest and most intriguing type of puzzle that I discovered is the Wasgij. Just in case you haven't come across them before, **Wasgij** (which is Jigsaw spelled backwards) is a range of jigsaw puzzles where you have to use your imagination and the clues provided to piece together a completely different picture to the one you see on the front of the box – however, both pictures represent the same scene or situation. For example, if I was to take a photograph with my camera from the front of the church on a Sunday morning, it would show all the faces in the congregation beaming up at me, attentive to every word. This picture would be the one on the box. The pieces inside the box, however, when put together would show the picture taken from the back of the church – instead of everyone's faces, it would show the back of their heads, with all their different hair styles, and the various features of the church looking from the back, rather than the front. Although the two pictures would be very different, the first gives lots of clues as to how the scene might look from a different perspective.

During the Jigsaw Festival one year, there was a major catastrophe. The Grand Canyon was destroyed! It took thousands of years to create, and was destroyed in a matter of seconds! Perhaps I better explain a little more fully - A beautiful puzzle picture of the Grand Canyon was knocked on the floor, and pieces went everywhere. (I hasten to add, I was not any where near the scene of the incident). The pieces were picked up and put on a table, and during the rest of the week, many people stopped and spent some time putting in the missing pieces. Each person came to it with fresh eyes, and was able to see where particular pieces fitted. Eventually the edge, and sky were complete – but the deep sandy valley sides needed a lot more work. Each piece with the sandy valley sides looked the same. Several people spent many hours trying to fit the pieces together. Sometimes, it was someone coming to the puzzle for the first time – who, standing over it, could see a different perspective, and by

simply turning one piece around managed to fit in another piece of the puzzle. Eventually, with the help of everybody's different perspective, the puzzle was completed - The Grand Canyon was created again!

During the past year, the Coronavirus pandemic has shaken our picture of the world. Many pieces of the familiar scenes of life have been turned upside down and shuffled in a way that makes it difficult for us to see the pattern. Some pieces no longer seem to fit at all. As individuals, as communities, as a church, as nations, and as a global family, we are all learning to see things from new perspectives. How can we hope to put things together again?

As you know, on 22nd February, the Prime Minister set out a roadmap for our nation to move forward from the pandemic, in the hope that by 21st June it may be possible to lift all coronavirus restrictions and return to "normal." However, as we rebuild our world in the coming months and years – the picture may look very different.

This is where returning to the image of the Wasgij may help. Just as with the Wasgij, we are used to seeing the picture on the box. Creating a new picture from the opposite perspective is a challenge, but it can be done with help of all the clues from the box, and our knowledge of the world around us. In a Wasgij the two pictures represent exactly the same people, the same environment, but they look very different because they are seen from different perspectives...

If we learn to see things from the perspective of:
the lonely and isolated;
the migrants desperately fleeing suffering in their own home;
those living with various disabilities;
those who are discriminated against or abused;
those without access to adequate housing, food, or medicine;
and from the perspective of the natural world plundered and polluted;
we can all play a part in putting together the scattered pieces of our lives in a way that enables each piece to find its right place in a world picture reflecting more fully the beauty that God intends.

May God help us to always be open to new perspectives, and enable us to grow in faith and trust in the God who loves us and calls us all to share in the building of the beautiful picture that is his kingdom.

Wishing you every blessing as we continue our journey through Lent together.

***Reverend Jonathan Hall,
Priest in Charge of St Blasius Church, Shanklin and St John's Church, Sandown***

CHURCH SERVICES IN FEBRUARY



Details of any changes
will be published on the St. Blasius website
and Facebook page



**SERVICES IN CHURCH ARE SUSPENDED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
Due to the Coronavirus**

**You are warmly invited to
Join in with our Services at home**

Every Sunday

**Worship material including
Prayers, readings, reflections and hymns is
Available on our Church website
www.st-blasius-church.org.uk**

**Sunday 14th March - Mothering Sunday
and Sunday 28th March - Palm Sunday**

10.30am

**We are all invited to come together for special Celebration Services
by ZOOM**

The services will include
music, readings, reflections, spiritual communion and prayers,
followed by a time of fellowship over tea and coffee
for those who would like to stay and chat.

The ZOOM link will be sent by email with the weekly Church Family News

AND/OR by request from rev.jonathanhall@btinternet.com



PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH
The Sunday and Special Collects for this month
(with endings omitted)



7th March - Third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace...

14th March - MOTHERING SUNDAY

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:
strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal...

21st March - 5th Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory...

28th March- PALM SUNDAY

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in your tender love towards the human race
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection...

Book Review



The Other Bennet Sister

By Janice Hadlow

ISBN: 9781509842049

Publisher: Pan Macmillan

There have been many attempts to continue the stories of the fascinating characters in Jane Austen's much-loved book *Pride and Prejudice*. In *The Other Bennet Sister*, the story of the middle sister, Mary, relates how a penniless, plain young woman manages to appreciate what true happiness is. Overlooked and largely ignored, Mary resolves to discover if there is anything she can do to improve her own situation. On learning to read Greek, Mary discovers the philosophy of Aristotle and reflects deeply upon the idea that 'Our happiness depends upon ourselves'. Mary wonders, 'Is it all a matter of chance, bestowed on some but not on others? Do our circumstances matter? Is there anything an individual can do to improve their own sense of contentment and satisfaction?'

This is simply a review of an enjoyable book that I have just finished reading. This first novel by Janice Hadlow is not a religious book but it raises many important questions about the choices open to us all in life.

Erica Hall

A Prayer for our times...

O Lord Jesus Christ
We hold before you this day
The cries of the sick and suffering
The sighs of the lonely and anxious
The tears of the bereaved
And the hopes of your people.
In your great mercy be our comfort and our light
Renewing our faith in your presence with us
That we may be beacons of your love in this dark world.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*This prayer was written by The Reverend Dr Emma Pennington,
Canon Missioner at Canterbury Cathedral*

Dear friends, Mothering Sunday is a day when we can show love, gratitude and our appreciation for all the wonderful mothers and caregivers, both past and present, at home and around the world. This year, our theme is Gifts of Togetherness, at a time when the chance to come together has been more precious than ever before.

Mothering Sunday is a special time to say thank you to all mothers and caregivers for the selflessness with which they nurture, love and help us to flourish. Your Mothering Sunday gift this year can make a powerful change in a woman's or a child's life. See <https://www.mothersunion.org/>

This year, you can celebrate or remember someone special by giving a gift of togetherness. Your donation can help to strengthen kinship in communities and empower women and girls to flourish.

You can purchase your gift to celebrate someone special, or you can dedicate a gift in memory of your mother, or someone who has been like a mother to you. You can also add the name of your loved one in our remembrance book. Just tick the box on the order form and leave her name. In return, we will send you a Mothering Sunday greetings card that you can keep or send, to let someone know you are thinking of them. For details visit: <https://makeamothersday.org/shop/>

A Reflective Prayer for Mothering Sunday

Take a moment after every section of the prayer to bring your own response to God and to remember those you know for whom it is particularly relevant.

God of celebration, who rejoices with those who rejoice,
We pray for those for whom Mothering Sunday is a time of thanksgiving and joy.

God of compassion, who weeps with those who weep,
We pray for those for whom Mothering Sunday is a time of heartache and pain.

God of community, who calls the children to come to him,
We thank you that your love abounds for families of every kind.

God of comfort, who gathers us as a hen gathers its chicks,
We thank you that your love surrounds the disappointed and hurt.

God of every circumstance,
*We bring our thanks and praise that we belong to your family
as your beloved children. Amen*

FESTIVALS IN MARCH

From the Church of England Calendar: Major Festivals in bold

- 1 David, Bishop of Menevia, Patron of Wales, c.601**
- 2 Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, Missionary, 672**
- 7 Perpetua, Felicity and their Companions, Martyrs at Carthage, 203**
- 8 Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, 1910**
- 8 Felix, Bishop, Apostle to the East Angles, 647
- 8 Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, Priest, Poet, 1929
- 17 Patrick, Bishop, Missionary, Patron of Ireland, c.460**
- 18 Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem, Teacher of the Faith, 386
- 19 Joseph of Nazareth**
- 20 Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, Missionary, 687**
- 21 Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, Reformation Martyr, 1556**
- 24 Walter Hilton of Thurgarton, Augustinian Canon, Mystic, 1396
- 24 Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, Martyr, 1980
- 25 The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- 26 Harriet Monsell, Founder of the Community of St John the Baptist, 1883
- 31 John Donne, Priest, Poet, 1631

Encouragement from two of our national Patron Saints

In March, we remember two patron Saints: St David of Wales and St. Patrick of Ireland. There are many stories and legends linked to the lives of both men. However, it is important to remember that they were real people, whose faith guided them through the many challenges they faced.

St David was born in 500 and became a renowned preacher, founding monastic settlements and churches in Wales, Brittany and southwest England. Ahead of his time, he was a teetotal vegetarian! He was a Celtic monk and became Archbishop of Wales. He died on 1 March – St David's Day - in 589. He was buried at the site of [St David's Cathedral](#), where his shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages. His last words to his followers came from a sermon he gave on the previous Sunday: "Be joyful, keep the faith, and do the little things that you have heard and seen me do." The phrase 'Gwnewch y pethau bychain mewn bywyd' - 'Do the little things in life' - is still a well-known maxim in Wales. So, on the 1st March, Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus! (Happy St. David's Day)

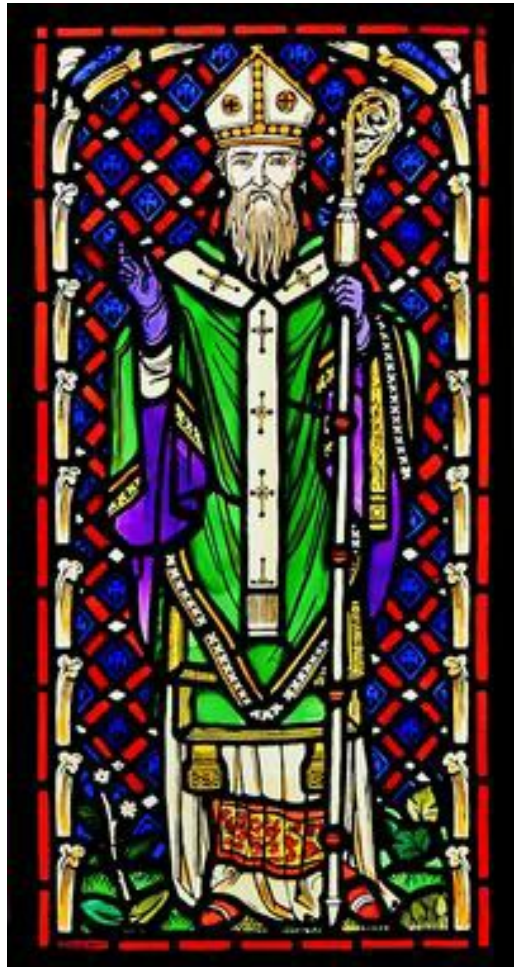
The date of St. Patrick's birth is not known but Britain had been part of the Roman Empire for over 350 years. St. Patrick was captured from his family home and taken to Ireland where he was sold as a slave. For about six years he worked herding pigs and sheep but eventually he managed to escape as a stowaway back to Britain. Later, he felt called by God to return to Ireland. There were probably already some Christians there, because of the influence of the Romans who traded with Ireland. As a priest, Patrick would have learnt Latin and his own writing indicates that he was familiar with both the Bible and many secular works. The writings of St. Patrick are some of the earliest British Christian literature and the words of the prayer below are attributed to him. It is known as *St. Patrick's Breastplate* because it asks for the protection of God's power against all dangers.

St. Patrick's Breastplate

I bind unto myself today
The power of God to hold and lead,
His eye to watch, his might to stay,
His ear to hearken to my need.
The wisdom of my God to teach,
His hand to guide, his shield to ward:
The word of God to give me speech,
His heavenly host to be my guard.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself today
The strong name of the Trinity,
By invocation of the same,
The Three in One, and One in Three,
Of whom all nature hath creation;
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word,
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.



John Donne (1572-1631)

On 31st March we celebrate and remember the life of John Donne. As both a priest and a poet he was a hugely important figure in Elizabethan and Jacobean literature. John Donne was the son of Roman Catholic parents, when being a Catholic was illegal in England. As a young man he converted to Anglicanism.

He was a modest man and his first biographer, Izaak Walton, who had known him well and often heard him preach, explained that Donne took holy orders in January 1615, once King James himself having been persuaded Donne of his fitness for a ministry “to which he was, and appeared, very unwilling, apprehending it to be too weighty for his abilities.”

John Donne was elected dean of St. Paul’s in November 1621, and he became the most celebrated cleric of his age. He preached frequently before the king at court and at St. Paul’s and other churches. 160 of his sermons have survived.

John Donne is now considered to be the preeminent metaphysical poet of his time. Some of his most well-known words are from a series of essays, Meditation 17, that he wrote in 1623 when he was seriously ill.

“No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were, as well as if a manor of thy friend’s or of thine own were; any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind, and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.”





Our Lent programme this year is focusing on the Prayers of Jesus and ways in which we can deepen our own personal prayer lives. Although prayer is an integral part of our relationship with God, it is something that many find difficult...

The clergy at Canterbury Cathedral have produced a series of videos on the theme of Prayer. These short video clips have been made to show different ways to approach our times of prayer.

Lighting a candle:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=q4ma4vHZiA0>

Praying The Rosary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FhVLUQI3Nfc>

Dance and Prayer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d1GlcQZ7aLw>

Intercession: <https://accounts.google.com/b/0/AddMailService>

Contemplative prayer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIgGIVJgspl>

National Day of Reflection

March 23rd 2021 will mark precisely one year since the start of the first Covid lockdown. The Church of England is joining Marie Curie, Hope UK, Care for the Family, Ataloss and many other charities and organisations that day to take a minute to reflect and a moment to connect. It will be a moment to



stand with our local communities and pause for a minute at 12 noon, perhaps send a simple prayer card to a grieving family, or bless your local care home with kindness.



Reflections on an Extraordinary Term...

Well who would have thought when we came back on 4th January that we would have had a term like this! One moment we had all our children and staff with us and then, that evening, we were told to close to many children

within 48 hours. We do not underestimate how tough this has been for families. Many have shown such great perseverance with getting to grips with joining the teacher and pupils here at the academy using technology, some have used paper work-packs and others have spent some time here and some at home. I know the teachers have said this many times but I want to say again that you are doing a great job and trying your best despite the challenges you have faced. I was blown away by the generosity of our local community in providing a mountain of food and other items for those connected to the academy who are in need. If you need help with food, or anything else, we are here for you and will assist in any way we can. Thank you to a local Shanklin group 'Socialising Buddies' who have been doing some amazing work in the Shanklin area with their 'Feed the Island Campaign'. Also to Alan Jones from 'Breakfast in the Bay' who is also supporting families in the local community.

Mrs Mobley

Principal St Blasius Shanklin C of E Primary Academy.

The school prayer for this term:

Dear God

Help us when we face problems and difficulties to be courageous and determined. When people we know are struggling, may we be ready to encourage them and help them in any way we can.

Amen

The deadline for the April issue is Wednesday 18th March



Eco tips for a Greener March

The Terra Carta

The Terra Carta is a recovery plan to 2030 that puts Nature, People and Planet at the heart of global value creation. Prince Charles aims to put Nature at the very heart of big business, by encouraging industry and business leaders to sign up to a ten-year charter.

Deriving its name from the historic Magna Carta, which inspired a belief in the fundamental rights and liberties of people over 800 years ago, the Terra Carta aims to reunite people and planet, by giving fundamental rights and value to Nature, ensuring a lasting impact and tangible legacy for this generation.

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales writes:

“The 'Terra Carta' offers the basis of a recovery plan that puts Nature, People and Planet at the heart of global value creation – one that will harness the precious, irreplaceable power of nature combined with the transformative innovation and resources of the private sector.”



To discover more about this inspiring project and to see which organisations have already signed up to join in, visit:

<https://www.sustainable-markets.org/terra-carta/>

Meanwhile in our gardens . . .

Never underestimate the good you can do in your own garden! Everything you do to encourage plants and animals to thrive in your garden really helps.

Did you know that our gardens cover more space than the Lake District and the Peak District combined (*The Woodland Trust, 2018*). In the last 30 years, the numbers of some of the UK's most important species like butterflies, hedgehogs and birds has been declining (*The Wildlife Trusts, 2019*). However, this trend can be reversed and various studies have shown bird numbers recovering due to garden feeders. Make this the year to plant the flowers that will encourage bees and other pollinating insects. Create a mini wildlife haven of your own.

Spring Song

New leaves are growing because it is Spring,
New buds are showing because it is Spring,
New grass needs mowing because it is Spring,
Oh why does it happen each Spring?

*Why does it happen like this every year?
Who tells them all when to grow?
It's not just by accident, that's very clear,
It's something that I would like to know.*

New flowers are peeping because it is Spring,
New lambs are leaping because it is Spring,
New birds are cheeping because it is Spring,
Oh why does it happen each Spring?

*Why does it happen like this every year?
Who tells them all when to grow?
It's not just by accident, that's very clear,
It's something that I would like to know.*

(Scunthorpe and District Teacher's Centre)





The Heralds of Spring

Every year a beautiful carpet of Primroses in the Churchyard at St Blasius heralds the arrival of Spring. But, did you know...

Primroses bursts into bloom in late winter and into spring, and their pale-yellow flowers bring delicate early colour to woodlands, hedgerows and open grasslands. The name comes from 'prima rosa', Latin for 'first rose', though they belong to the Primulas, rather than the rose family. The wild Primrose is native to the UK and can range in colour from white to pink, though modern garden cultivars can be a myriad of different hues. They are an important early source of nectar for emerging insects such as butterflies, pollen beetles and flies and it is thought that bumblebees are one of the main pollinators. As one of the earliest plants to flower, Primroses have attracted much myth and legend, particularly representing renewed growth and the promise of crops to come. There is a Primrose Day, the 19 April, a day which commemorates the death of the former Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli in 1881, as the Primrose was his favourite flower, and he would often receive bunches of these 'heralds of spring' from Queen Victoria from the Windsor or Osborne House estates.

(Article published on Facebook by Natural Links, 22nd February 2021)



Appointing a new Bishop of Portsmouth

Bishop Christopher Foster is retiring in April,
after 11 years serving as Bishop of Portsmouth.

The process for selecting a new Bishop of Portsmouth is already well underway. The Vacancy-in-See Committee is seeking the views of as many people as possible to help inform the discernment process.

You are invited to complete an online questionnaire by 10th March, using the link below:-

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbVRBKdH1HBWJXf7fBzvLcyvdhqWB4zTCuykv5iRtYlgacMA/viewform>

“Local people, helping local people in crisis”

**The Isle of Wight foodbank provides
food & support to local people in crisis.**



Could you help us by donating non- perishable food, good quality textiles for our recycling centre or set up a standing order for regular giving?

Please join us at our Pre-Loved Clothing and Textile sales, held at the Foodbank Centre, Love Lane, Cowes on the first Saturday of each month throughout the year. Our café will be open for delicious teas, coffee and cakes.

**www.isleofwight.foodbank.org.uk - Tel: 01983 292040
email: info@isleofwight.foodbank.org.uk**



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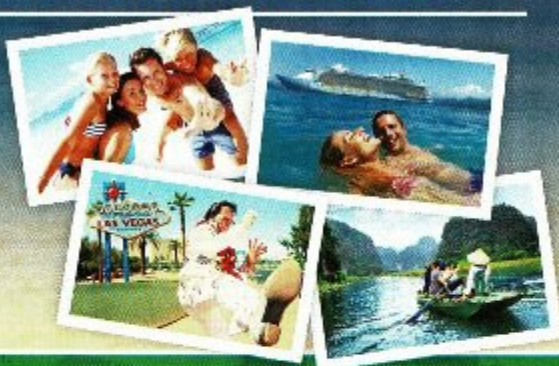
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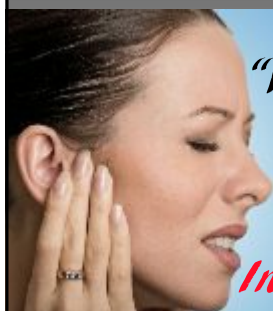
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