

April 2025

**Christ is Risen!
Hallelujah**



St Thomas' Church

**High Lane
Parish Magazine**

50p

St Thomas is a living church in the community of High Lane where everyone is welcome and our mission is to share the love of Christ with all.

Worship with us

Join us for worship in the Anglican tradition.

We are worshipping together in church but you can still be a part of our services by phone. Please see the calendar in the centre pages for details.

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals

Whilst we are without a Vicar, any enquiries about Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals can be answered by Robert Taylor on 01663 763478

Pastoral Care Team

Life can be challenging and we all need support. If you would like to talk or receive a visit, please contact Robert Taylor above who can put you in touch with someone from the Pastoral Care Team.

We are Silver Award Eco Church



Digital Donations

To make a donation to support our ongoing ministry and mission here please scan this QR code and you will be directed to the 'Give A Little' donation page. In these tough financial times, we are especially grateful for your support.



Bishop's Pastoral Chaplain's LETTER

We are very grateful to Rev'd Lynn for stepping in to take services while we look for our next vicar. Here she tells us a little about herself...



I have always put my trust in God and His plans for me but even I was surprised when I suddenly found myself at St Thomas, High Lane! The move was sudden and unexpected and I can only thank everyone who has helped to make it as smooth as it possibly could be!

It also dawned on me that you must wonder where I've come from and what my background might be, well, wonder no more: My background is Education. I began teaching in Stockport in 1979 and became a Primary School Headteacher in 1998 – retiring from education in 2015.

I am a cradle Anglican who was Baptised, Confirmed and Married at St Mark's Bredbury to Mick. We have two children – Peter and Joanne. I felt the calling to ministry in 2001 and after a rigorous period of discernment and three years Degree and ministry training through The Northern Ordination Course and Leeds University, was ordained at Chester Cathedral in 2007.

I served my curacy at St Saviour's Great Moor, before being installed as Vicar of St Paul's Compstall in early 2011. I retired as Vicar of St Paul's in December 2021. I am currently commissioned as a Bishop's Pastoral Chaplain and it was in this role that I found myself at St Michael and All Angels Mottram for the past two years.

I am a classically trained singer and play the piano. I am also a bit of a fitness fanatic: having joined a gym just seven years ago at the age of 60. I now take part in Spin (exercise on a static bike to rock music with a fast and heavy beat) classes three or four times a week. I lift weights, run and regularly take part in High Intensity Interval Training.

For the past three years, I have lived with Mick, at Whitebottom Farm, in Compstall and enjoy my role as Chaplain to their music festivals.

And a little bit about my husband, Mick. He is a retired Secondary Assistant Headteacher with a background in Drama education. He continues to use his skills with schools and colleges in several different countries through the Erasmus and Turing programmes. This takes Mick out of the country several weeks of the year. Mick has proved himself extremely successful in acquiring grants for schools, colleges and voluntary organisations. Mick is a keen golfer. He has previously enjoyed playing rugby and was a Peak Park Ranger for many years before his knees began to crumble! Mick is a Licensed Reader in the Diocese of Chester and really enjoys preaching.

We never know what is in store for us, what God's plan is, but as I stated earlier, above all else we have to trust in his purpose for us – after all it brought me to you and I have a sneaky feeling that Mick won't be that far behind!

I look forward to many happy months with you, according to God's will.

God Bless
Lynn

Parish ACTIVITIES

**Come join us at St Thomas' Church Tree Tots Group
Mondays during term time, 9.30-11.30am**

A group of bumps, babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their parents or carers. Tea, coffee, play, a chance to chat and make new friends
Suggested donation £2 per family



St. Thomas' Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

**Sunday 6th April
at 11.30am,
in the Church**

The Meeting of Parishioners is called to appoint two Churchwardens and can be attended by all parishioners.

It will be followed by the APCM which can be attended only by those on the Electoral Roll at the time of the meeting.

If you are not on the Electoral Roll, please contact Les Coop or Robert Taylor as soon as possible.



Messy Church

**Saturday 12th April at 3.30pm
in the Church Hall**

Lots of crafts, a story, and a lovely meal together at the end.

If you are planning to come along, please confirm your attendance by contacting
Carole Clulow 0798 436 2662

Advance Notice!

Just want to let everyone know we have it on good authority that a large number of bunnies (a colony!) are making their way to the hedge in front of St Thomas' Church and will arrive on Easter Saturday (19th April 2025) after 10am. They are also bringing treats with them. Hope to see you there!
Donations gratefully accepted





Holy Week

Services at St Thomas during Holy Week

Palm Sunday (13th)	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
Monday (14th)	2.00pm	Wives Holy Communion
Wednesday (16th)	9.30am	Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday (17th)	7.00pm	Eucharist/ Foot Washing with Hymns
Good Friday (18th)	10.00am	Stations of the Cross
	3.00pm	Good Friday Liturgy
Easter Eve (19th)	7.00pm	Vigil
Easter Sunday (20th)	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion



Parish NEWS

Baptism

22nd March Arthur Malcolm
Christopher Ruston

Funerals

28th February Stuart Scoffins

Easter Flowers

Donations are welcome towards the cost of flowers to decorate our Church this Easter. There will be a pot for collections on the shelf as you enter or leave the Church.

There will also be a board in the porch for you to put the name of a loved one on, which will be included on the scroll by the Book of Remembrance at Easter

Thank you, Joan Green



The Real Easter

In CS Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the lion Aslan is put to death by the White Witch. The stone table on which He is killed cracks in two, but Aslan meets with Lucy and Susan alive again. He explains the Witch's failure:

'her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, she would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack, and Death itself would start working backwards.'

This is a great picture of what Jesus' cross and His resurrection has achieved. As Paul writes, *'I want to know Christ, to know the power of His resurrection'* (Philippians 3:10). To understand the real Easter, we should experience the same power that raised Jesus from the dead!

New Hope: Like the girls in the story, Easter highlights the sadness and confusion that loss brings. Yet the resurrection of Jesus brings new hope, as it demonstrates the victory secured by the cross over sin, Satan and death. We can face life's difficulties knowing that Jesus walks beside us.

New Love: Our relationships are often characterised by a lack of forgiveness, hurt and betrayal. Yet Jesus' resurrection opens the possibility of new love, as His power enables us to accept others and forgive them.

New Life: When we are trying to make sense of life, like the girls in the story, Jesus offers us a living relationship with Himself. It's a friendship with God through Jesus that can begin today and continue for eternity.

When Lucy met Aslan again, she cried: *'Oh, you're real, you're real!'* We too can find the real Easter through a life changing encounter with the living Christ.

Holy Week

Holy Week is the name given to the week beginning on Palm Sunday and ending on Easter Sunday. This *Pascha* (a word derived indirectly from *pesach*, Hebrew 'Passover') was at first a night-long vigil, followed by the celebration of the Eucharist at cock-crow, and all the great themes of redemption were included within it : incarnation, suffering, death, resurrection, glorification. Over time, the *Pascha* developed into the articulated structure of Holy Week and Easter.

Through participation in the whole sequence of services, the Christian shares in Christ's own journey, from the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the empty tomb on Easter morning.

On Palm Sunday Jesus arrived in Jerusalem to crowds and cheers. His triumphant entry into Jerusalem has been celebrated on the Sunday before Easter since the first centuries of Christianity.



Maundy Thursday is the day when Jesus shared his last supper with his disciples. It gets its name from the Latin word *mandare* meaning to command. We remember Jesus' command: 'Love one another as I have loved you'.

At the Last Supper Jesus washed the disciples' feet. This is not only an important reminder of the nature of Jesus, who we serve, but also the kind of service we are meant to demonstrate in our love for one another.



Jesus then went into the Garden of Gethsemane where he was betrayed, arrested, taken prisoner and tortured over night.

Good Friday is the day when Christians remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. It is the most sombre day of the Christian Calendar when we meet, pray and reflect on the sacrifice Jesus willingly paid for all our sins.

Easter Eve's service of The Easter Vigil is the first service of Easter and begins at St Thomas' at 7pm on the evening of Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Day). It begins with a symbolic expectant waiting (usually outdoors around a fire) for the resurrection of Jesus on Easter morning, and this is represented visually by a large Easter candle, which is lit from the fire and brought into a darkened church. This depiction of new life and light represents Jesus' resurrection on the first Easter morning. The congregation then light their own candles from the Easter candle, representing their own new life as followers of Jesus. The service will contain a number of readings from the Bible, and also an opportunity for all the participants to renew the promises made at their baptism. The Easter Vigil is usually a quiet and thoughtful service, but one full of joy.



Easter Sunday, Christians across the world will celebrate because Jesus died for our sins and then rose again.

On the third day after being crucified, Jesus' tomb was found to be empty. He had risen from the dead. Life triumphs over death! The joy of resurrection is possible only because Christ endured death and conquered it.



EASTER morning, the ‘Other’ Mary

As the traditional Easter story is retold again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the ‘other’ Mary – not the mother of Jesus, but Mary Magdalene, who stood by her at the cross and became the first person actually to meet the risen Christ.

That’s quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from ‘seven devils’ – New Testament language for some dark and horrible affliction of body, mind or spirit. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the ‘fallen woman’ a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus but there is no evidence to prove she was a ‘fallen woman’ but the contrast is sublime, Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity. Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between those two extremes. The dark cloud from which she was delivered may have been sexual, we are not told. What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair.

The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen – and the others drifted off. But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to him that the body of ‘her Lord’ had been taken away and she didn’t know where to find Him.

The man simply said her name ‘Mary’ and she instantly realised it *was* Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because His resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did – but they wouldn’t believe her.

Her words – ‘I have seen the Lord’ – echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.

Why does the date of Easter vary?

In the early Christian world, there were varying dates to celebrate Easter based on the Jewish dates for Passover. Eventually, the Church moved to settle on a single date for Easter.

The First Council of Nicea, held in 325, decided that Easter would be celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon following the spring equinox, making the earliest possible date for Easter, 22nd March and the latest possible 25th April. Most of the time Easter falls during the first week or two of April.

Today, Orthodox Christians use the Julian calendar to calculate the Easter date instead of the Gregorian calendar, which was introduced in 1582 and is used by most of the world. Because the Julian calendar calculates a slightly longer year, it is currently 13 days behind the Gregorian calendar.

Stories of Faith from WWII: Beryl's Story

Beryl Yorke was eleven when World War II broke out. During a bombing raid, she lost her most precious possession – a Bible. She prayed to be reunited with it, and eighteen months later, a workman found it and returned it to her. Now 91, Beryl reflects on the lifelong impact of this answered prayer.

“I grew up in London in a large family with few material belongings, but there was one item I treasured above all else: a Bible I received in primary school. At bedtime, my mother would occasionally read from it to us. We attended church regularly, and I spent a lot of time at the Girls' Brigade, which I loved.


When World War II was declared, I happened to be staying with my sisters at a Christian convalescence home in Bournemouth, recovering from a significant illness. What was meant to be a two-week stay turned into a four-and-a-half-year residence. The war prompted the mass evacuation of children from London to protect us from the bombings, and we remained in Bournemouth. The only possessions I had brought with me were a few clothes and my treasured black, soft-leather Bible.

Then, one weekend, there was a bombing raid on the south coast, and the school I was attending was hit. Fortunately, no one in the school was hurt, but everything was destroyed and my Bible was lost in the ruins. I remembered a story I had heard from a missionary about a young girl who lost her mother's ring in a hayfield. After praying, the ring was miraculously found. This story encouraged me to believe that Jesus could help me, too. And so I prayed, asking for my Bible to be returned. Sometime later, I was asked to memorise forty Bible verses for a test. I passed with flying colours, and the matron rewarded me with a new Bible. It was almost exactly like the one I had lost, and I was overjoyed. I thought that God had answered my prayer through the matron's generosity and her gift to me. How wonderful, I thought, that God could work through other people to answer our prayers.


However, my story didn't end there. Imagine my amazement when, eighteen months later, while attending a different school in a different town, I returned to school one day to find my original Bible sitting on my desk. It had been found in the wreckage of the bombed school by a workman. He had discovered the Bible intact amongst the ruins and came to my new school to track me down. He asked a girl in my class if she knew anyone by my name – which she did! I was so thrilled to think that God was able to care for me in this way. I learnt at this young age that God always hears our prayers and thoughts. That answer to prayer has always remained with me. In my 91 years, I have continued to reflect on how God has always spoken to me – especially through reading His living words in the Bible and through talking with Him in prayer.”

During WW II, millions of special wartime editions of the Bible and John's Gospel were distributed to British troops. Many featured a special message by King George VI encouraging soldiers to turn to God in times of hardship. They offered comfort and hope for soldiers, many of whom carried them into battle. Hope Together, in partnership with Biblica, has produced a commemorative edition of John's Gospel, with real life stories like this one, to remember those who sacrificed their lives in the war, to celebrate and be thankful for the end of WWII, and to pray for peace for all those around the world whose lives are destroyed by conflict today.



www.hopetogether.org.uk



Mouse Makes

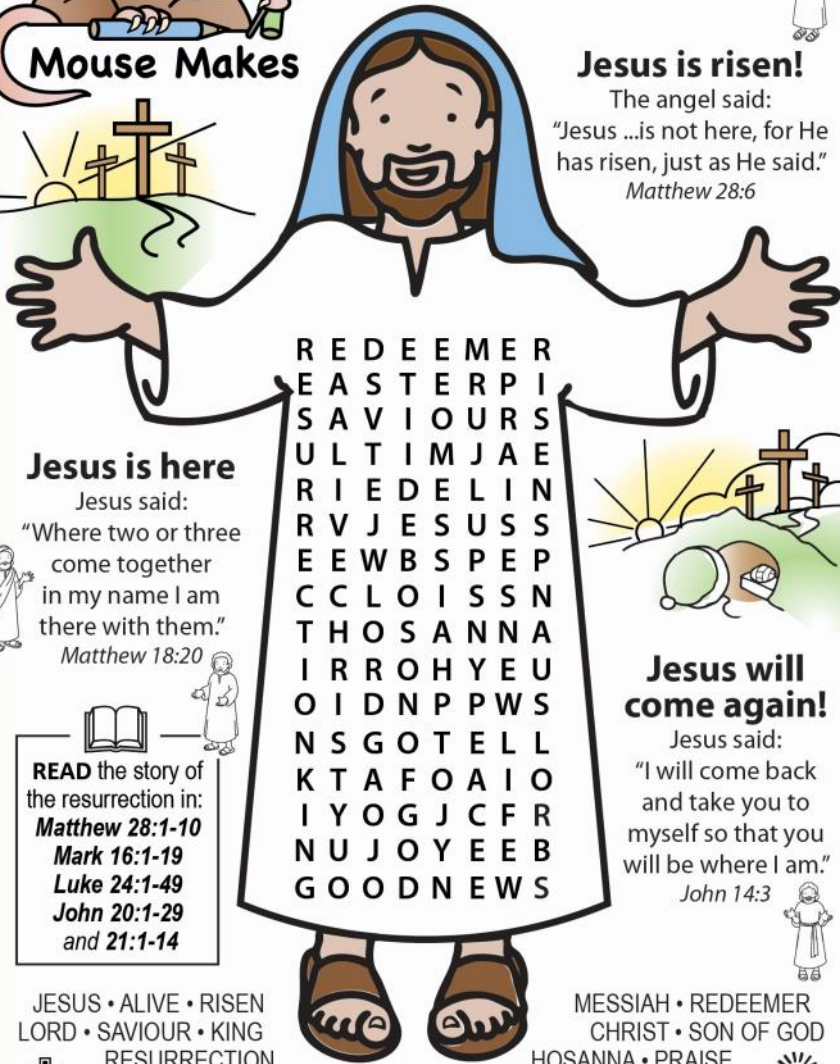


On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
and showed us the resurrection to
come by His raising to new life!



Jesus is risen!




The angel said:
“Jesus ...is not here, for He
has risen, just as He said.”
Matthew 28:6



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Jesus is here


Jesus said:
“Where two or three
come together
in my name I am
there with them.”
Matthew 18:20




READ the story of
the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and **21:1-14**

Jesus will come again!


Jesus said:
“I will come back
and take you to
myself so that you
will be where I am.”
John 14:3



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LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
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PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS • GO TELL • EASTER



MESSIAH • REDEEMER
CHRIST • SON OF GOD
HOSANNA • PRAISE



Eco NEWS

Repair Shop Café

Thanks to everyone who supported our Repair Shop Café last month. Some attendees had travelled from Altrincham after seeing the event publicised on the Recycling Week webpage, part of Recycling for Greater Manchester recycleforgreatermanchester.com

Our next Repair Shop will be held in **21st June** so hunt out all your broken items and see if we can fix them for you. Don't forget that you are warmly welcomed to the café even if you don't have things for repair.

Recycling your clothes: everything you need to know

Almost all of your clothes can be recycled. Even if they're stained, ripped or past their best, they aren't rubbish. Cotton on to recycling your clothes and shoes so you never need to bin them again.

Why recycle old clothes? Because there's a better place for them than the bin! Just because your old clothes don't fit, doesn't mean they can't serve a purpose. Old clothes, whatever their condition, contain valuable fibres that can be turned into other things. When you recycle them, we can keep them in use for longer, meaning we don't need to make new materials.

How do I recycle old clothes? It's really simple. There are clothing banks on all of the 20 recycling centres across Greater Manchester, as well as in supermarket car parks and in some clothing shops. All you need to do is make sure they're dry and pop them in a bag.

What happens to clothes I recycle? They're collected from clothing banks and hand sorted right here in Greater Manchester. Any clothes that aren't in good enough condition to be reworn will be made into something new. This might be horse bedding, carpet underlay or even car seats. Nothing goes to waste.

Shut your curtains



If you live on the fringes of High Lane, next to the canal, fields, woods and farms, here's a way to help keep local wildlife alive: draw your curtains at night and turn off your outside lights.

Apparently, the darker we can keep it outside, the better. Animals and insects who live in rural areas are especially susceptible to bright lights, which can confuse and disorientate them.

As one evolutionary biologist at Harvard explains, many of the insects drawn to lights at night suffer terrible consequences. "One estimate is that 33 per cent of them die before morning. And even if they don't die, they're spending all their time at the light instead of doing all the things they're supposed to be doing."

Light pollution, which disrupts natural rhythms and ecosystems, is contributing to what some scientists have called "insect Armageddon", with a 75 per cent decline in insect populations in 30 years.

Who are the most generous Christians?

Those who attend church and read their Bible at least once a week. So says *Stewardship*, in its 2025 Generosity Report. *Stewardship*, which manages charitable donations from church, charities and individuals, has found that, in donating an average of £314 a month, not only do ‘committed Christians’ give away almost five times the UK monthly average, but they experience “the most joy” from doing so.

Stewardshop’s recent survey found that ‘Committed Christians’ give an average of 11.6 per cent of monthly income, ‘Practising Christians’ give 7.99 per cent, ‘Churchgoing Christians’ give 5.30 percent, and ‘Cultural Christians’ give 0.84 per cent. The C of E’s National Adviser on Giving and Income Generation, Jonathan de Bernhardt Wood, points out: “The more we realise that everything we have is a gift from God, the more we are able to give it away,” he said.

Medium Soduku

Answer towards back of magazine.

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“All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.”



Wives Group

Our Pancake Coffee morning was a great success and raised £518 for St Ann's Hospice. A huge thank you to everyone who helped out on the day, donated items for the raffle/stall and everyone who came to support us.

- 7th April

Project Linus with Helen Heyes
- 14th April

Holy Week Service
- 21st April

Easter Monday - NO MEETING
- 28th April

Plant Sale

Our meetings start at 2pm in the Church Hall. Come and join our friendly group.

With best wishes
Karen & Lesley

▪ TALKS ▪ QUIZZES ▪ MEALS OUT ▪ ANNUAL DAY OUT ▪



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Saint of the Month

10th April – William Law, spiritual writer extraordinary

William Law is the saint for anyone forced to choose between losing their job or losing their integrity.

It had all begun so straightforwardly. Born in King's Cliffe, Northamptonshire in 1686, William had studied at Emmanuel College Cambridge, been ordained a deacon, and been made a Fellow of the college in 1711.

But soon politics interfered. At his ordination, William had made his Oath of Allegiance to the House of Stuart. But with the accession of the first Hanoverian monarch, King George I in 1714, William found he was now expected to make his Oath of Allegiance to King George I. This he felt he could not do, with any integrity. But without the Oath, William lost his Fellowship, and was unable to be priested.

It would have been a bitter blow to anyone wanting a career in the Church, but William did not change his mind. He wanted more than a career in the Church, he wanted to live a holy life before God, and to keep his conscience clear. So he spent many years as a simple curate (he was not priested until 1728), living by tutoring, but also writing extensively.

It was through his writings that William Law went on to make a lasting impact on the spirituality of the nation. One of his numerous books, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, is recognised as having had more influence on the English people than any other English post-Reformation spiritual work, except Pilgrim's Progress.

William Law's writing greatly influenced the leaders of the evangelical movement of his day, including John and Charles Wesley, and George Whitefield. Law was also praised by Enlightenment thinkers such as the writer Dr Samuel Johnson and the historian Edward Gibbon.

Twenty years after his death in 1761, William Wilberforce, the politician, philanthropist, and leader of the movement to stop the slave trade, also paid tribute to the effect Law's writing had had on him. Law's spiritual writings remain in print even today – nearly 300 years later.

Easter one-liners

What kind of jewellery does the Easter Bunny wear? *14-carrot gold*

What is the Easter Bunny's favourite kind of music? *Hip hop*

What do you call an Easter Bunny wearing a kilt? *Hopscotch*

What do you call a bunny with fleas? *Bugs Bunny*

What do you call a line of rabbits jumping backwards? *A receding hare-line*

Why do people paint eggs for Easter? It's easier than trying to wallpaper them!



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Calendar for April 2025

Services will be held in St Thomas' Church unless otherwise indicated.
Please do not attend if you have any Covid-19 symptoms.

St Thomas' Church is trying hard to reach all our parishioners using a variety of methods. Do join in our worship in person or by telephone
Church is open each day for Private Prayer.



Sunday 6th April

Fifth Sunday of Lent

8.30am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Parish Communion
11.00am	APCM followed by Faith Lunch
Wednesday 9th	9.30am Holy Communion
Thursday 10th	9.00pm Telephone Compline
Saturday 12th	3.30pm Messy Church

Sunday 13th April

Palm Sunday

	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
Monday 14th	2.00pm	Wives Holy Communion (all welcome)
Wednesday 16th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday 17th	7.00pm	Eucharist with Footwashing
Good Friday 18th	10.00am	Stations of the Cross
Easter Eve 19th	7.00pm	Vigil and Service of Light

Sunday 20th April

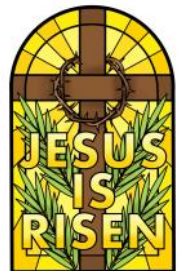
Easter Day

	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
Wednesday 23rd	9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 24th	9.00pm	Telephone Compline

Sunday 27th April

Second Sunday of Easter

	8.30am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Parish Communion
	6.00pm	Choral Evensong
Wednesday 30th	9.30am	Holy Communion
Thursday 1st May	9.00pm	Telephone Compline



Prayer for April 2025

Living Lord Jesus, We, your Easter People of today, thank You for the Easter People of the Gospel accounts.

For the women, who loved You so much that they went to the tomb, early in the morning, while it was still dark. Thank you especially for Mary, who wept, then rejoiced, then ran to tell the others, "I have seen the Lord!"

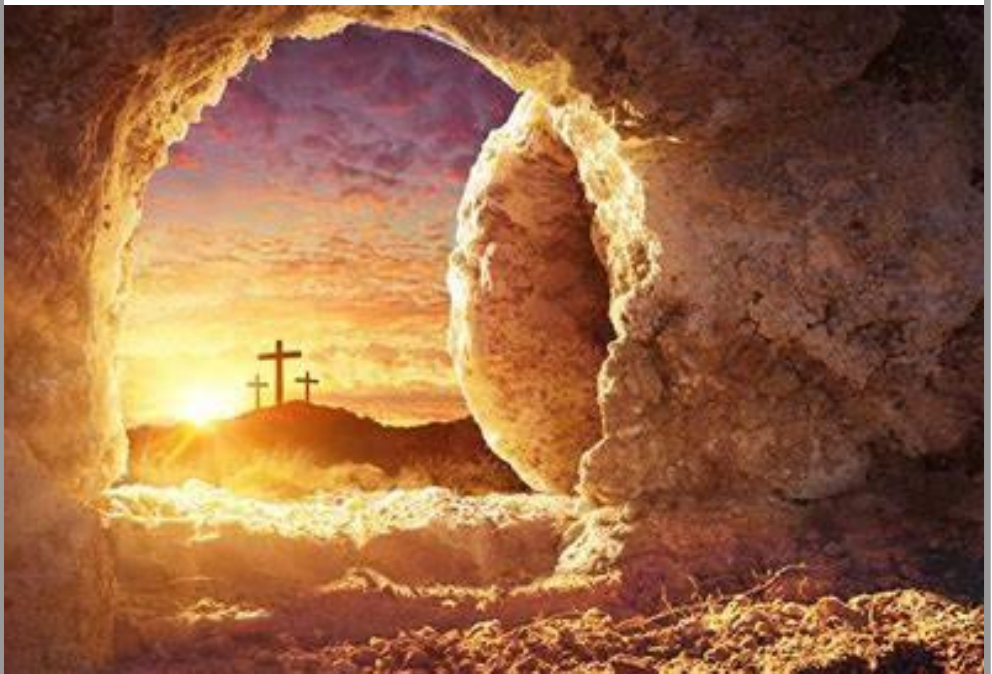
Thank you for Thomas, who doubted, then devoted his life to You, his Lord and his God; for the disciples who ate breakfast on the beach with You; for Peter, who was forgiven and re-commissioned by You.

Thank You for them and Your witnesses through all generations. Thank you for Your true and living written Word, proclaiming You, our true and living Lord, who lived and died and rose again to offer us forgiveness and life.

Thank you, Lord that because You live, we have hope and assurance, whatever challenges the world might bring.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Hallelujah!

By Daphne Kitching



Community NEWS

High Lane Residents Association

Spring has arrived and the village looks amazing with all the spring plants.

At our February meeting we had Lisa Smart our Member of Parliament in attendance. We had almost a 100 residents at the meeting. Lisa Smart answered a lot of questions that residents put to her and she has taken away some concerns to look into and others she has suggested ways we can move forward. We have passed these onto the councillors or appropriate authorities. Please see minutes on our website for further information. <https://hlra.org.uk>



By the time you read this the litter picking team will have had their spring litter pick around the village. Anyone who would like to help with this or any other volunteering in the village please use the contact below. We are still looking for new members for the committee and a new Chair.

There is still a small amount of remedial work to do in Hartley Wood, but the new trees are in. The council have also planted about 40 other trees around the village. Why not have a walk around to look at them.

Our next meeting is Thursday 3rd April 2025 at 8pm in the Village Hall and open to all residents of High Lane. Email: contact@hlra.org.uk

Caroline Smith, Vice chair – High Lane Residents Association



HIGH LANE VILLAGE WI

Our Women's Institute group meets at High Lane Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm.

Wednesday 2nd April: A talk about soap making by Matthew Lepp, from Tiger Muffin Soaps

Wednesday 7th May: A flower demonstration by Judith Matthews, from Loose Leaf Flowers

We are a friendly and informal WI and are always happy to welcome any ladies who may wish to join us, so come along and give us a try without any obligation. Your first visit is free. We have a special speaker at most of our meetings or some in-house entertainment, followed by tea/coffee and cake.

You can follow us on our Facebook page: **High Lane Village WI**, where you will find a month by month list of our future activities!

If you should require any further details please contact Jean Pye on: (01663) 635595 or contact us at hlvwi1@gmail.com

Disley & Lyme Horticultural Society

Disley and Lyme Horticultural Society are pleased to announce that this year's Summer Show will be held on Saturday 16th August, at Disley Amalgamated Sports Club. As we build on last year's success and look to the future, we plan to make this year even bigger and better, and as such are searching for stall holders, whether that be small businesses, societies or craftspeople. Please see the enclosed poster and contact disleylhs@gmail.com for information.

The Tomato Extravaganza plant sale will take place at our next coffee morning on Saturday 26th April, Disley Community Centre, 10am - 12pm. There will be a wide range of tomato plants for sale, and as always home baked goods, a raffle, garden plant sale, and the continuation of the 'seed swap', where attendees can bring along their unused seed packets and swap them for a pack in the pot.

We have an exciting talk coming up on Thursday 1st May, where keen forager Dr Ibrahim Ahmed will be informing us on seasonal pickings, how to stay safe, and the wonderful world of mushrooms. It is sure to be an interesting talk and one not to be missed. Disley Community Centre, doors 7pm for 7:15pm start. Members £3, non-members £5, Includes tea and biscuits.

Monday Coffee Morning

Don't forget the lovely weekly coffee mornings held each Monday in the Village Hall, next to High Lane Park.

There is always someone to chat to, tea and coffee and biscuits and friendly team behind the event.

Come along between 10am and noon.
You will be made most welcome!



CAMEOS

Come and Meet Each Other and Sing

Wednesday 2nd April

At Windlehurst Church. Doors open at 1.45pm for prompt start at 2pm.

A warm welcome to all, a good sing and homemade refreshments.
Always the first Wednesday of the month.

Almost half of all children have been scammed online

Has your child been scammed online? If so, they are not alone!

A recent poll for the UK Safer Internet Centre (UKSIC) has found that a staggering 46 per cent of children have been taken in by an online scam. A study by Vodafone has found that nearly one million 11-to-16-year-olds in the UK have been scammed within the last 12 months.

A third of young people are now worried that new technology, such as AI, will make scams even harder for them to identify.

Most scams seem to take place on social media platforms, where they involve ads or quizzes which appear to be from well-known brands. The children are lured into giving out personal information or buying fake products. Other scams include fake giveaways, phishing and fake websites, fake ticket sales and 'trust trades' in gaming.

Anyone scammed online should report it to Action Fraud or call 0300 1232040 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland). In Scotland, report to Police Scotland

Green Recycling Bins

Stockport Council will continue to collect food waste from your green bin but you'll need to buy a permit if you'd like to use your green bin to recycle garden waste. You'll need to sign up to Stockport Council's garden waste recycling scheme if you'd like us to collect your garden waste from April 2025. This is an annual service running from April to March.

Why we need to charge to collect garden waste

Councils are not required to provide a kerbside collection of garden waste. We know that this service is valued by residents with gardens and we're keen to continue to provide it. However, with pressure on council budgets, we're unable to continue to provide this service free of charge.

The cost of a garden waste permit

If you want to use your green bin to recycle garden waste, you'll need to buy a garden waste permit. The yearly permit costs £59 per green bin. The cost is based on a full year, from 31 March 2025 to 31 March 2026. You can buy a permit at any time during the year but it's best to buy it before 1 April so that you get the benefit of a full year. The price does not reduce throughout the year. All permits will expire on 31 March 2026, and you'll need to buy a new permit to cover the next year. There's no limit on the number of garden waste permits and bins a property can have.

If you receive Council Tax Support

If you receive Council Tax Support, the cost for the yearly permit is £39. This discount applies for one bin. If you need an additional permit for another bin, it will be at the full cost of £59.



Road closure and rail disruption reminder

The Greek Street roundabout will be closed to traffic for one year starting from 31 March 2025. Road users and pedestrians are being informed of diversionary routes during the closure. Network Rail has worked carefully with Stockport Council and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to establish safe and convenient diversionary routes during the major closure.

Over Easter 2025, work will take place to prepare the railway for the bridge's replacement this summer. There will be changes to train services between 19-22 April 2025. Passengers are advised to check National Rail Enquiries before they travel. Some services will be diverted around Stockport, whilst others will be replaced with a bus.

On the first day of the week, in the evening

(John 20: 19-23)

Locked in, afraid,
Uncertain, even after Mary's story,
even after that
behind closed doors seemed safest,
on the first day of the week,
in the evening.

And then, the world changed.
He was with us!
Suddenly and wonderfully with us.

Jesus, our Lord,
alive and with us
in a new and completing way,

to bless us with His Peace,
to send us out to witness
in the power of His own Spirit
breathed into us.
What a day!

The day of our risen Lord.
The first day of the week,
In the evening,
Hallelujah!

By Daphne Kitching



Social Prescribing

Did you know that you have access to a Social Prescriber at your GP practice?

A Social Prescriber is a healthcare professional with extensive knowledge of the support available in your local community. They work alongside you to identify and connect you with activities, community groups, and services that support your practical, social, and emotional needs.

A Social Prescriber can support you with:

Mental Wellbeing; Social Isolation
Financial Support; Housing Advice
Physical Inactivity; Weight Reduction
Low Self-Esteem/Confidence
Caring Responsibilities
Personal Development
Managing Long-Term Conditions
...and so much more!

Whether you want to improve your wellbeing or need help finding the right resources, your Social Prescriber is here to help.

Speak to your GP practice today or self-refer here: <https://viaductcare.org.uk/referrals/social-prescribing-referral/>

Where did your Easter egg come from?

Your Easter egg can be traced back to the early Church in Mesopotamia. Since ancient times, people had been giving each other eggs at pagan Spring festivals, as eggs were a symbol of the new life and rebirth in nature all around them. Then came Jesus and His death and resurrection, which made Easter the ultimate time for Christians to celebrate new life and rebirth. After that, it was only a matter of time before eggs found their way into commemorating Easter.

This seems to have first happened with the very early church in Mesopotamia, where those early Christians began dyeing their eggs after Easter, to celebrate the new birth that Jesus had given to them. The practise of using eggs in Easter celebrations then spread to the Orthodox Churches, and from there to the Western Churches across Europe.

Many of us will have memories of breakfast on Easter morning, eating boiled eggs that we had wrapped in onion skins, red cabbage leaves, spinach leaves, etc that were then secured with thread or elastic bands before boiling the eggs. Do people still do this?

This year, why not buy an extra Easter egg or two, and donate them to our local food bank? You will make some local children very happy!

Even better....why not buy a Real Easter Egg to spread the Good News of Easter?

There are 80 million Easter eggs being sold in the UK this year, but The Real Easter Egg is unique.

It is the *only one* which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects.

There are six types of eggs to choose from. Each Real Easter Egg comes with an Easter story in the box, the stories range from simple guides to 24 page activity book versions. So, buy a 2025 edition Real Easter Egg this Spring, and encourage others to give one to their loved ones, a school or sponsor a food bank donation.

The Real Easter Egg is made by The Meaningful Chocolate Company which was 'crowd funded' in 2010 by thousands of churches and church schools which pre-paid for the manufacture of The Real Easter Egg. Since then more than two million eggs have been sold, and £420,000 raised for charitable causes.

The 2025 Real Easter Egg is not available in any supermarket, but the full range can be ordered at www.realeasteregg.co.uk, or by calling 01925 877004.





Japan and the Cherry Blossom



This year, April is likely to be Cherry Blossom time not only in in High Lane but especially in most of Japan. The blooming of these trees can be breathtaking and, as they bloom at different times the length of the country, it is possible for the leisurely traveller to spend a month admiring the show. The cherry blossom, or sakura, is the flower of trees in *Prunus* subgenus *Cerasus*. Sakura usually refers to flowers of ornamental cherry trees, such as cultivars of *Prunus serrulata*, not trees grown for their fruit. The trees are loved for their delicate blossoms, which the Japanese celebrate each spring with parties and picnics among the trees.

The oldest cherry blossom tree in Japan can be found at the Jissou Temple in Yamanashi Prefecture. It is around 2000 years old and in 1922 was named the first National Monument by the government. Then it had a root circumference of 13.5 metres (44ft). It is called *Jindai-zakura* or 'The Cherry Blossom from the Age of the Gods'.

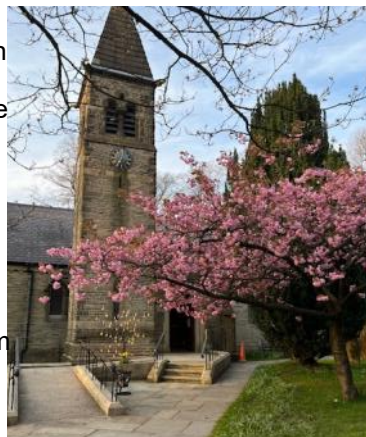
The legend of *Jindai-zakura* starts around 2000 years ago. The story goes that it was planted by *Yamato Takeru*, a Yamato dynasty prince, toward the end of the first century AD. He performed a number of heroic deeds in addition to planting this tree, all of which are chronicled in the two oldest books of Japanese history, *Kojiki* (from 712 AD) and *Nihon Shoki* (720 AD). Although most of this is likely nothing more than folklore, the tree was later involved with an incredibly important, real character. After growing for an already impressive 12 centuries, the tree fell ill. Fortunately for the tree, a Buddhist priest, Nichiren, was able to save it with a blessing. Nichiren went on to be a hugely influential figure in Japanese Buddhism. Nichiren Buddhism remains one of the largest religions in Japan.

With more than 600 different species of sakura flower, including a number of hybrids, the number of petals, the size of the flower, their colour, and their yields of fruit can differ. Once the cherry blossom trees have flowered, their delicate beauty usually only lasts one or two weeks, with the petals constantly falling to the ground and creating a beautiful carpet of pink.

Although toxic, the petals and leaves of the tree can be eaten if they undergo a process called *shiozuke* in which they are cured in a salt solution. Once dried, the resultant product is called *sakurazuke* and can be used to make and flavour ice cream and sweets.

The trees do produce cherries, but their sourness makes them unfit for human consumption. The birds have no such problem.

When you stand beneath our Cherry Tree at Easter, or walk down Andrew Lane when the Cherry Blossom is in full bloom, you might think of *Jindai-zakura* and wonder if these trees will still be there in 2000 years time! CW



London Marathon 2025 – Sunday 27th April

Last year's London Marathon attracted more than 53,000 runners, which made it the world's biggest annual one-day fund-raising event EVER. It also raised a world record-breaking amount of £73.5 million for charities.

The route is 26.2 miles long. Greenwich and Blackheath is the starting point, and then the route takes in Woolwich, Greenwich, Rotherhithe, Bermondsey, Tower Bridge, Limehouse, Canary Wharf, Isle of Dogs, Shadwell, Tower Gateway, Westminster Bridge, Great George Street, Birdcage Walk, Buckingham Palace and finally to the iconic finish line on The Mall.

It is all a far cry from the first London Marathon back in March 1981, when 6,747 people ran, and which did not raise any money specifically for charities.

If you feel inspired, why not do a run or cycle event for St Thomas' Church?

We can help you set up a just giving account and give your efforts publicity.

Contact Christine by emailing st.thomas03@btinternet.com

Scarlet Elf Cups

If you go for a walk along the canal you may see, if you look closely in the banking, the wonderfully named Scarlet Elf Cup. It is a fungi, not edible, mystical and cheery.

Small and growing close to the ground, it's favoured habitat is decaying sticks and branches in damp spots and beneath leaf litter on the woodland floor. The caps of the scarlet elf cup are cup-shaped and scarlet, though they can also be orange in colour. They have almost un-noticeable stems which attach to the leaf litter, giving them the appearance of hollow bowls lying on the woodland floor or on decaying branches. They are approximately 4cm across and have a smooth, bright red inner surface and then a paler, downy outer surface.

There is a superficially identical species, *Sarcoscypha coccinea*, the Ruby Elf Cup, which is very similar in appearance to the Scarlet Elf Cup (*Sarcoscypha austriaca*). You can only tell them apart by microscopy (tiny fine hairs are the difference). So in honesty, my photos might be of the Ruby Elf Cup!

In olden times, people used to believe that elves used them as drinking vessels—who is to say they don't?

The photos are poor in the black and white printed magazine, but have a look at the magazine on line and you will see them in colour. CW



What's the Big Idea?

An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Proverbs

The Book of Proverbs is an anthology of sayings (*'mishle'*) that are generally attributed to Solomon (Proverbs 1:1), who uttered 3000 proverbs (1Kings 4:32).

The purpose of these oracles is *'for attaining wisdom and discipline'* (1:2). Solomon was concerned that people, especially the young, would understand *'the sayings and riddles of the wise.'* (1:3-6). His guiding principle is that *'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.'* (1:7).

To give an idea of the recurring themes in the book, here are a few examples: Knowing God: *'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding'* (9:10).

Guarding Our Speech: *'A word aptly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver'* (25:11).

Marital faithfulness: *'May your fountain be blessed and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth'* (5:15-20).

Our Work: *'Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!'* (6:6-11).

Dangers of Strong Drink: *'Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise'* (20:1).

Justice and Honesty: *'The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are His delight'* (11:1).

Underlying these sayings is a conviction about God's omniscience, *'For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and He examines all his paths'* (5:21); providence, *'Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails'* (19:21) and goodness, *'The LORD is far from the wicked but He hears the prayer of the righteous'* (15:29).

Proverbs reminds us that God is concerned with the way we live today. *'Wisdom is the art of living skilfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves'* (Eugene Peterson).

Found on the internet...

"Life is strange. We come with nothing and fight for everything, and in the end, we leave everything and go with nothing."

Life is a fleeting journey, a cycle of gaining and letting go. We arrive with empty hands, yet we spend our days chasing, building, and holding on, as if we can outrun time itself.

We grasp at love, success, meaning—desperate to make something of the brief moments we are given.

And yet, no matter how much we gather, there comes a day when we must release it all. But perhaps the beauty of life is not in what we keep, but in what we give, in the love we share, the kindness we leave behind, the lives we touch along the way.

Spring Harvest – more than 10,000 expected this year

April brings us Spring Harvest – the annual cross-denominational conference which attracts thousands of people every year to two Butlin's resorts. It is held over the Easter period in Skegness (7th to 11th) and Minehead (14th to 18th). It is also live-streamed from Minehead.

For details of this year's gathering, including speakers and worship leaders, go to: www.springharvest.org/events/news/spring-harvest-home-2025



Mother nature - a potent healer

Ever felt overcome by a feeling of calm when spending time in nature? It turns out that that healing power extends to pain management, too.

Researchers from the University of Exeter teamed up with colleagues in Vienna on a neuroimaging study of pain perception. They discovered that study participants felt less pain from minor electric shocks when they viewed natural scenes on video, compared with images of office and city life.

Scans also revealed changes in specific brain responses that are linked with processing pain.

University of Vienna PhD student Max Steininger, lead author of the study, cautioned that the effect was significantly less than painkillers, and advised anyone taking medication to continue. "But we hope in future alternative ways of relieving pain, such as experiencing nature, may be used to help improve pain management," he said.

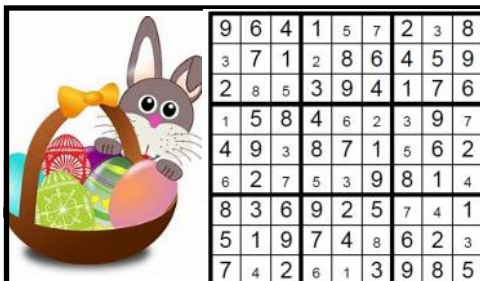
"Our study is the first to provide evidence from brain scans that this isn't just a 'placebo' effect – driven by people's beliefs and expectations that nature is good for them. Instead, the brain is reacting less to information about where the pain is coming from and how intense it feels."

New padel venue in town

Stockport Exchange is getting ready to welcome a brand new padel court, opening in late April. This milestone marks a significant moment, bringing one of the world's fastest growing sports to the heart of the town centre.

The new venue will be managed by Life Leisure. With their experience and expertise in delivering high-quality sports and leisure facilities, Life Leisure is committed to making padel accessible to all. The opening promises to deliver an exceptional experience for players of all abilities, providing a state-of-the-art facility where people can get fit, stay active, meet new people and, most importantly, have fun!

Combining elements of tennis and squash, padel is played in doubles on enclosed courts and is easy to learn, highly social, and accessible to players of all skill levels. Its nature makes it the perfect sport for families, friends, and competitive athletes alike.



9	6	4	1	5	7	2	3	8
3	7	1	2	8	6	4	5	9
2	8	5	3	9	4	1	7	6
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6	2	7	5	3	9	8	1	4
8	3	6	9	2	5	7	4	1
5	1	9	7	4	8	6	2	3
7	4	2	6	1	3	9	8	5

All in the month of April



It was

250 years ago, on 23rd April 1775 that J M W Turner, the British artist was born.

175 years ago, on 23rd April 1850 that William Wordsworth died. A Romantic poet, he was Poet Laureate from 1843-50.

150 years ago, on 1st April 1875 that Edgar Wallace was born. This British writer, playwright and journalist was best known for creating King Kong.

Also 150 years ago, on 17th April 1875 that the game of snooker was invented by Neville Chamberlain, a British army officer stationed in India.

125 years ago, from 14th April – 12th November, that the 1900 Paris Exposition, a World's Fair, was held. Nearly 50 million people visited Paris that year.

100 years ago, on 10th April 1925 that F Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*, was published.

80 years ago, from 1st April to 22nd June 1945 that the Battle of Okinawa, Japan took place. The largest amphibious assault in the Pacific War (Allied victory.)

Also 80 years ago, on 30th April 1945 that Adolf Hitler, Austrian-born German Nazi Party Leader, Chancellor of Germany (1933-45) and dictator (1934-45) committed suicide along with his wife, Eva Braun.

70 years ago, on 10th April 1955 that British nightclub hostess Ruth Ellis shot and killed her lover, David Blakely. On 13th July she was hanged at Holloway Prison, the last woman to be executed in the UK.

65 years ago, on 1st April 1960 that Dr Martens boots went on sale in the UK.

50 years ago, on 4th April 1975 that Microsoft, the computer software/hardware company, was founded by Bill Gates and Paul Allen in Albuquerque New Mexico.

Also 50 years ago, on 23rd April 1975 that US President Gerald Ford gave a televised address in which he announced that the USA's involvement in the Vietnam war was over, and all US aid to South Vietnam had ended. The war itself ended on 30th April, when North Vietnamese forces captured the South Vietnamese capital Saigon.

40 years ago, on 23rd April 1985 that the Coca-Cola Company changed the formula of Coca-Cola and launched it on the market as New Coke. The public were outraged, and the original formula was restored within three months.

25 years ago, on 22nd April 2000 that the 'The Big Number' change took place on the UK's telephone system. Many area codes were updated or replaced, and new ones created for mobile, freephone, local rate, national rate, and premium rate services.

20 years ago, on 2nd April 2005 that Pope John Paul II died. Succeeded by Pope Benedict XVI on 19th April.

Also 20 years ago, on 9th April 2005 that Charles, Prince of Wales, married Camilla Parker Bowles, who gained the title the Duchess of Cornwall.

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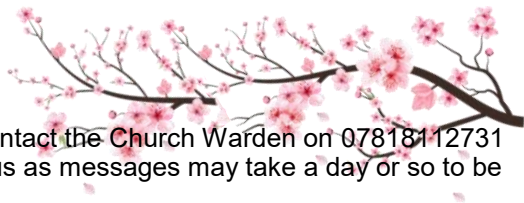
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