

THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, HANGER HILL WITH ST MARY'S, WEST TWYFORD

PARISH NEWS

April 2024

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!



He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

www.ascensionealing.org

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We know the pace and pressures of life today.

What is on offer here is unconditional.

There may be times when you don't come due to circumstances in your life or maybe our style doesn't suit you – but don't be estranged from us. You will be welcome when we meet again. If you want to come home for Christmas or Easter, that's all right too.

We are here.

We are pleased to share your happy times – we love your weddings and baptisms – we hope you tell us when you are in trouble.

What is on offer here is always available.



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April letter:

In 2009 we had a family holiday in Greece and I visited the ancient city of Corinth, where St Paul started a church to whom he wrote two New Testament letters. In one of them he describes the way he brought the Christian message to them. It was, as he says, utter madness.

They were pagans, but Paul told them about someone who was Jewish. This person ended up being crucified, which as everyone knew, was something which only happened to rebels and slaves – and good riddance. Then three days later he came back to life again – and all of this was God's way of bringing new life into the world!

It is on the face of it absolute nonsense and the only thing that can make it worth a second look is if the seemingly impossible really did happen, and Jesus really was raised from the dead.

It's a fairly indisputable fact of history that Jesus was a real person and that he was crucified by the Roman governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate. It's also overwhelmingly likely that his tomb was found to be empty – stories of resurrection, which means nothing less than a return to life in physical body, would be impossible otherwise. So could this really have happened?

Science deals in rules rather than exceptions. The first Christians were convinced something totally exceptional had happened. Why should we think they were right?

Firstly there are reasons why all the alternative explanations don't stand up. There is no reason to suppose Jesus was not dead, no reason to suppose that his body was removed by others, and no sound support for the idea that the disciples were either liars or deluded.

Secondly, and most strikingly, they did not describe what happened to Jesus in the way that we might expect. They called it resurrection. This described something only Jews believed. There were all kinds of ideas about life after death but no-one believed the dead would come back, and if they appeared to there were various rituals to send them back to the world beyond. Jews however believed that one day God would put the world to rights and when that happened there would be life forever and the dead would be given renewed bodies to live in this renewed world. This was the resurrection and it was for everyone in the future.

The Christians said that this was what happened to Jesus three days after his death. No Jew had ever believed this was possible for just one individual – resurrection was for everyone. So why would they say this unless something so

utterly extraordinary had happened that the only way to describe it was with an entirely new concept.

What the witnesses of Jesus's resurrection also came to realise was that if this had happened, everything Jesus said had the full authority of God behind it. Evil had been struck a fatal blow, sins were forgiven, God was at work in the world in a new way, and the power of the Holy Spirit was with them. The proof of it was that when Paul stood up in Corinth to bring this unlikely good news, people believed what he said and found that they were meeting with God in an entirely new way.

The world is far from what it should be and the fullness of God's reign on earth is still in the future, but as a result of Easter, it is an entirely different place. Through Jesus we can know God at work in our lives, changing us for the better and enabling us to make a difference to the world around us. All of that is because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, and what happened at Easter is one of the things which helps us to take the step of faith of living on the basis that this true. It's why the word Gospel means Good News.

Best wishes



Remembering Jean Anderson



Jean, also known to her many friends as Georgie (from her professional acting name Georgine Anderson) was a much loved member of the Ascension for over 40 years. She died in February at the age of 96, and her funeral took place at the Ascension last month.



Jean was born on 8th February 1928 in Highgate, North London. In 1944, at the age of 16, she began her studies at RADA (the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art) which saw the beginning of a career in theatre and television which lasted 72 years. Her final performance was in "Lost Without Words" at the National Theatre in 2017, a show which was entirely improvised by a veteran cast of which she was the oldest.



She appeared on stage with many of the great actors of the 20th century and was highly regarded by her fellow professionals. She also made many television appearances including a 2007 episode of Doctor Who alongside David Tennant – which made her a legend with the children at church!

Jean moved to Boileau Road in 1977 and joined the Ascension shortly afterwards. Her faith was tremendously important to her. In 1998 she inspired the first of our annual neighbourhood Spring Festival events by writing a performance called Zest. In the last few years of her life she was looked after well by The Meadows Care Home in Greenford.

Her funeral was a warm hearted tribute to a long life full of friends, full of fun, and, above all, full of life. It was a fitting reflection of the breadth of her imagination that she chose for the service both a classic 19th century hymn (Just As I Am) and a bright 21st century worship song (Bless The Lord, O My Soul). A personal tribute from fellow actor Charlotte Emerson illustrated her ability to form deep friendships across the generations.

It was always a pleasure to visit Jean. I got to know her well over 25 years. It was a huge and unforgettable privilege.

- *Simon Reed*

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – April 21st

Our Parish Annual Meeting takes place at 11.30am on Sunday 21st April after an earlier Morning Service at 10am. This is a joint service at the Ascension and there is no service at St Mary's that morning.

The Annual meeting is an important occasion. We vote for the members of our church councils and it is also an opportunity to say thank you both to them and to many other people who have

worked so hard in our churches and beyond throughout the year. There is an overview of what is going on in the Parish and an explanation of what it costs to do everything and how the money is spent. If you ever have questions about what we do and why, there is also an opportunity to ask them.

The meeting tends not to last more than about an hour. Please do come!

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please contact

Roger Dishley

020 8567 0275

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Observations On Daily Life

Still water and still religion freeze the quickest. – *Anon*

Some Christians are not only like salt that has lost its savour, but like pepper that has lost its pep. – *Albert George Butzer*

ASCENSION NEWS

The Ascension Friends

Exactly a year ago, at our March 2023 meeting Spencer gave us a very interesting talk on 'Three Pictures'. Exactly a year on he visited us again to give another talk entitled 'Three More Pictures'. This time he talked about three women artists all of whom have works of art in Tate Modern. We learnt about Lee Krasner, Bridget Riley and Louise Borgeois. They are three very different artists but equally fascinating. Now we are hoping that Spencer will bring us another talk in the summer. His talks are so popular and we had a record number of people at our meeting.



Sadly one of our oldest members has died. Betty Barker was a loyal member and you will remember her sitting at the register table and being greeted by her friendly smile as she welcomed you all. We send our love and deepest sympathy to her family.

We meet again on 2nd April, just after Easter. The clocks will have gone forward and the evenings will be getting longer – and who knows – it might even have stopped raining! Our meeting will have a Springtime theme but you can rest assured that there will still be the traditional Simnel cake for tea. There will also be a cause for celebration but you'll have to come to find out what it is!

A happy Easter to you all. I'm looking forward to seeing you on 2nd April at 2pm. As always, everyone is welcome.

- Liz Williams (020 8997 5578 williams13qr@gmail.com)

Spring Festival 2024



Our annual Spring Festival will be held again this year in Audley Road on Saturday 18th May, from midday till 3pm. We will once more hope to welcome all our neighbours and friends.

As usual, there will be a plant stall, lovely food and drinks, a cake stall, raffle and lots more - and, of course, much fun and friendship.

This is where our church gets an opportunity to show its warmth and hospitality to the local community. Do please put this date in your diary now.

Happy Birthday Dixie



Congratulations to Dixie Sookoo who last month celebrated his 90th birthday at the Fox and Goose Hotel, with his family and members of St Mary's and the local community. One of the highlights of the day was a letter from the King speaking of the contribution made by the members of the Windrush generation.

Jazz at St Mary's



Did you know that St Mary's has its own Jazz Club? It takes place once a month on the third Tuesday evening from 7.30pm.

It has its own house band, featuring St Mary's keyboard player Ben Croft (<https://www.benjaminCroftmusic.com/>) and local saxophonist Andrew McKay (<https://andrew-mckay.co.uk>) but there is always an opportunity for other musicians and singers to take part.

To find out more contact Pete Harris (details inside back cover) and come along to what Pete will tell you is "the best jazz in West Twyford!"

The Open Door



The Open Door

Coffee and chat for all
Food and clothes if you
need them

Fridays in term time 10am-midday.

**Bags of shopping available for those
who need them.**

**Clothing available for those who
need them.**

Coffee and conversation for all.

You are welcome! The Door is open!

**St Mary's Church Hall
Brentmead Gardens, West Twyford
NW10 7ED**

Contact Rae on 07414 990645

Stay And Play

In partnership with West Twyford Children's Centre (<https://www.west-twyford.ealing.sch.uk/services->



[timetable/](#)) we run a parent and toddler group every Monday morning of term time from 9.15am to 11am.

Not only is it great fun for children with lots of space and large toys like slides and pedal cars, but it also allows access to the range of support and services offered by the Children's Centre.

Do come along if you have young children, and do tell local families about it.

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CALENDAR, DIARY & REGISTERS

Calendar

April

Intercessions

Our regular service times can be found on the back cover. On Sundays the intercessions (which are being used in an alphabetical sequence) are for the people who live or work in the various roads and schools of our Parish.

Daily Prayer can be accessed via the website.

Week beginning March 31st (Easter)

Tuesday 2pm - Ascension Friends at the Welcome Area

Wed. 11am - Coffee Morning at St Mary's

Week beginning April 7th (2nd Sunday of Easter)

Hanger Lane & Hanger Vale Lane

Sunday 10.30am - All Age Service at the Ascension

10.30am - All Age Service at St Mary's

6pm - The Sunday Word (Evening Worship) online

Thursday 8pm - Parish Prayer Evening online

Week beginning April 14th (3rd Sunday of Easter)

Hanger View Way & Haymills Court

Sunday 10.30am - Morning Service at the Ascension

10.30am - Morning Service at St Mary's

4.30pm - Youth Group at the Ascension

Monday 9.15am – Stay and Play Toddler Group at St Mary's

Tuesday 7pm - Jazz at St Mary's

Friday 10am - The Open Door at St Mary's

CALENDAR, DIARY & REGISTERS

Week beginning April 21st (4th Sunday of Easter)

Huxley Gardens & Hill Court

Sunday	10.00am – Joint Morning Service at the Ascension <i>followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting</i>
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Monday 9.15am – Stay and Play Toddler Group at St Mary's

Friday 10am - The Open Door at St Mary's

Week beginning April 28th (5th Sunday of Easter)

Iveagh Avenue & Iveagh Close

Sunday 10.30am – Morning Service at Ascension

10.30am – Morning Service at St Mary's

4.30pm - Youth Group at the Ascension

Monday 9.15am – Stay and Play Toddler Group at St Mary's

Friday 10am – The Open Door at St Mary's

All Ascension Sunday services are livestreamed on Zoom, recorded, and posted as videos on the Parish website where they can be accessed for the next week.

PARISH REGISTERS

Funerals

5th March 2024

Simon John Henbrey

Aged 64 of Tring Avenue W5

19th March 2024

Jean Margaret Angus Anderson

Aged 96 of The Meadows, Greenford

Our prayers and sympathy are with their families and friends

CALENDAR, DIARY & REGISTERS

Important Dates

- 9th May - Ascension Day
- 12th May - Ascension Patronal Festival
- 18th May - Ascension Spring event
- 5th June – Hanger Hill East Residents' Association AGM

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SUDOKU CHALLENGE

How to play : place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell so that each row, each column & each 3x3 block contains all the numbers from 1-9.

(N.B. No number can appear twice in any row, column or 3 x 3 box)

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

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ARTICLES



Beaufort Players Drama Group www.beaufortplayers.org.uk



*It says here that details of the Beaufort Players
July production will be announced next month*

Meanwhile for further information on how to join this
highly successful and award-winning group go to
<https://www.beaufortplayers.org.uk/join-us/>

Room To Rent

Large single room available in 3 bedroom flat in Hanger Hill Ealing

Asking price : £800 excluding bills.

Withing walking distance to shops.

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walking distance to 3 tube stations.

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Contact Con Georgiles - cgeorgiles@hotmail.com

St George Wasn't English So Who Was He?



Celebrated on 23rd April, the English have a patron saint who isn't English, about whom next to nothing is known for sure, and who, just possibly, may not have existed at all. But that didn't stop St George being patriotically invoked in many battles, notably at Agincourt and in the Crusades, and of course it is his cross that adorns the flags of English football fans to this day.

It's most likely that St George was a soldier, a Christian who was martyred for his faith somewhere in Palestine, possibly at Lydda, in the early fourth century. At some point in the early centuries of the Church he became associated with wider military concerns, being regarded as the patron saint of the Byzantine armies. There is no doubt that St George was held as an example of the 'godly soldier', one who served Christ as bravely and truly as he served his king and country.

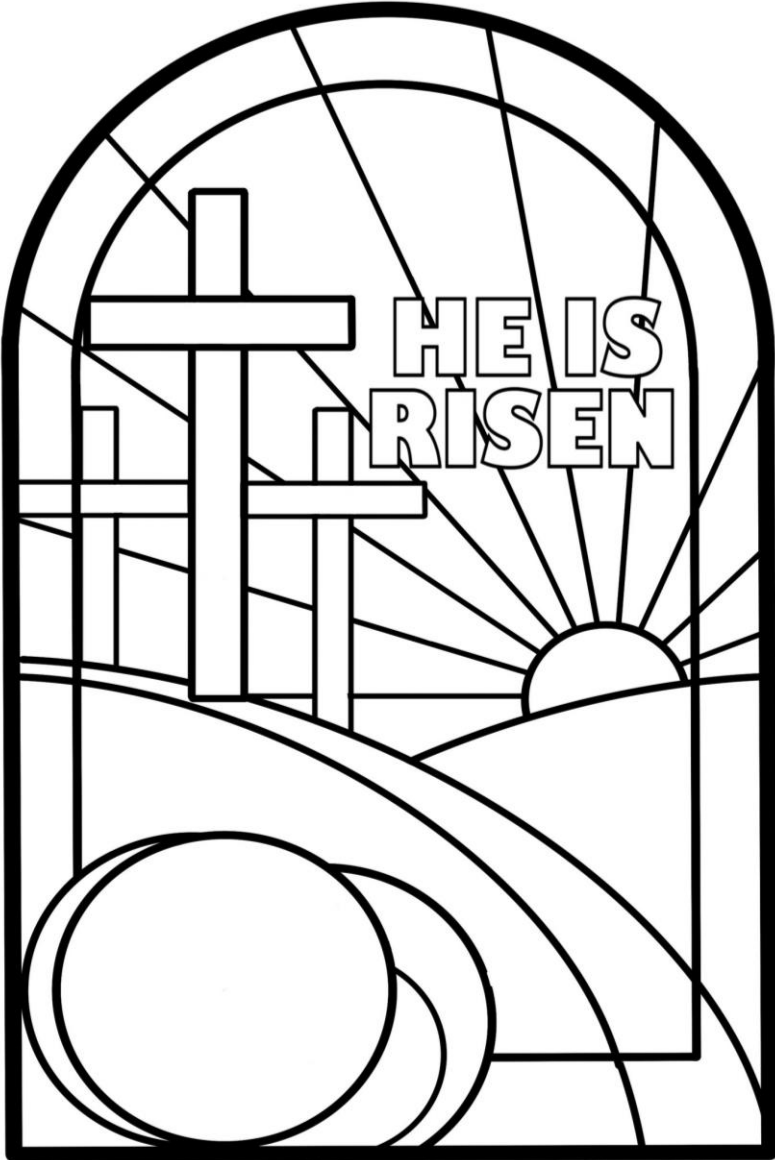
The story of George and the dragon is of much later date and no one seems to know where it comes from. By the Middle Ages, when George was being honoured in stained glass, the dragon had become an invaluable and invariable visual element, so that for most people the two are inseparable. Pub signs like 'The George and Dragon' have a lot to answer for here!

However, it's probably more profitable to concentrate on his role as a man who witnessed to his faith in the difficult setting of military service, and in the end was martyred for his faithfulness to Christ.

- www.parishpump.co.uk

ARTICLES

Colouring Page



SUDOKU SOLUTION

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

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PRAYER SECTION

We'd love to hear from you about prayer. Have you got a story about answered prayer? An insight which has helped you to pray better? An inspiring quotation about prayer? A prayer someone has written which you find useful? A question about prayer you'd like answered?



We all pray in different ways. With the Lectio 365 app (available for both Android and Apple) you pray the Bible by meditating on the scriptures and asking God to speak through them. The app has short devotionals for morning and evening so you can open and close each day with God. When you pause in His presence, you create space for peace in a busy and complicated world.

Our next prayer Parish Prayer Gathering will be online on Thursday April 11th, 8pm-9pm. Keep in touch with the WhatsApp group, website, and Facebook page for prayer information.



Supporting Mission: Console Mission, Nepal

Every month we profile one of the agencies the Parish supports through its external giving.



In 2012 we met Rajin Maharjan and his wife Sarmila during a period of study in London. On their return to Nepal they began working with Console Mission, an outreach from the church in Kathmandu led by Rajin's father.

The majority of Nepal's population are Hindus with some Buddhists and an unpopular Muslim minority. Hindu hostility to Muslims means that all other religions are regarded with suspicion and Christians in Nepal are often threatened or even attacked. Despite this, the church refuses to be discouraged and Console Mission seeks to demonstrate the love of God in Jesus by acts of compassion towards the poor and marginalised. They care for the elderly, orphaned children, and others in need. The organisation also offers basic healthcare training and trains carers to look after people in their own homes, and are constantly seeking to expand their work.

They were significantly involved in the aftermath of the Nepal earthquake and after Covid-19 the importance of their hygiene training programmes greatly increased. Last year we allocated £865 of our external mission budget to support Console Mission.



PARISH PERSONNEL

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THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, HANGER HILL

Beaufort Road, London W5 3EB

Wheel chair access at front entrance

- Sundays** 1030 MORNING WORSHIP (with Holy Communion)
including Children's activities
All Age Service - 1st Sunday of the month
The 10.30am service is also streamed live on Zoom.
- 1800 THE SUNDAY WORD – Evening Service on Zoom only
1st Sunday of the month.

The Church is normally open for DAILY PRAYER 9.00-9.30am and 5.30-6pm weekdays

Other Activities

- Ascension Friends retired people's club
 - Youth Group
-

ST MARY'S, WEST TWYFORD

Brentmead Gardens, London NW10 7ED

- Sundays** 1030 MORNING SERVICE (with Holy Communion)
including Children's activities
All Age Service - 1st Sunday of the month

Other Activities

- Stay and Play Toddler Group (term time)
 - Coffee Morning
 - Jazz Club
 - Youth Group
 - The Open Door Café and Help
-

HOME GROUPS, COURSES, AND YOUTH GROUP (Yr 7 upwards – enquire for details)

Please check the website www.ascensionealing.org to gain access to Zoom events.

Copy for next issue must be received by **Simon**
by end of **Monday 22nd April 2024..**

