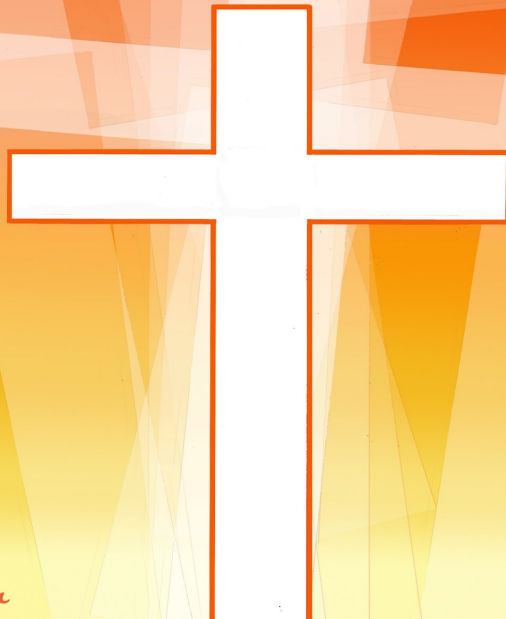




April  
2025

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with  
boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim  
your risen life and fill us  
with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father



*Paul Judson*



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**PARISH WEBSITE: [www.newburnparish.org](http://www.newburnparish.org)**



**FACEBOOK: @NewburnParish**

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### **HELP NEEDED.**

**Two volunteers are needed to write/  
compile/collate prayers for the  
September and December magazine.  
Please get in touch with Helen to  
volunteer.**

**Prayers can be sourced from books and  
websites (as long as sources are provided)  
and do not have to be written from scratch.**

## Letter from Rev Allison:

### **Farewell “Go and make disciples”**

As many of you will know, this is my last magazine article as your vicar. Jamie, Bailey and I will soon be moving to Ashington where I have a new role as a pioneer minister. This is a very exciting opportunity, which I feel strongly that God has called me to, but we are very sad to be leaving after an extremely happy eight and a half years here.



The beauty of the area is something that we had not experienced anywhere that we have lived before. Whether it is encounters with deer while we are out for a walk, spotting foxes in the garden or seeing beautiful birds around the bird table, it has been a joy to be part of a place where so much wildlife can move around so freely. It all makes the long journey into town – much longer if you are going by the 22 bus, of course - seem very worthwhile.



It's not just the area that is beautiful of course, but also the people: it's obvious that the many beauty parlours do a fabulous job. All right, maybe I'm talking mainly about inner beauty: we have met some fabulous people who have been so supportive of us, particularly in the last couple of years when things have been tough on a number of counts. One of the tough things has been Bailey's separation anxiety: we are very grateful for all the offers of dog

sitting and of the tolerance of Bailey's presence at all sorts of events which we wouldn't otherwise have dreamed of taking him to. We have some great pictures of him sitting on several people's knees in Bible studies and receiving attention from fascinated children in the churches.

I say the churches but one of the wonderful things that has happened in the last few years is that St Michael's and St Mary's have begun to work together as one parish, which is a huge tribute to both congregations. We have also increased the number of ways that we have contact with the community, whether this be through Messy Church, the community choir, Burns Night events or the Lego club. Looking outwards is essential if our churches are to grow; we must carry out the Great Commission Jesus gave us at the end of Matthews Gospel: "therefore go and make disciples of all nations..." It has been wonderful to see people joining the church and finding faith in Jesus. A recent Bible study where there were five fairly new Christians present spoke of the power of Jesus to transform and heal lives.

It's also been a privilege to meet with people for baptisms, weddings and funerals. Being part of the celebrations has been wonderful, but it has also been incredibly moving to be involved with people at the most difficult times of their lives. Our annual bereavement service is always a very sombre occasion but also a special one (and people seem to appreciate Bailey's impression of a therapy dog afterwards).

At the time of writing, we are expecting our last Sunday to be 27<sup>th</sup> April. There will be a 10 a.m. service at St Michael's, followed by a celebration at the Parish Hall. It would be great if as many of you as possible could be there, because we would love to say farewell in person to the people who have made our time here so special.

When I arrived in Newburn Parish the word that God gave me

was from John's Gospel; **John 10:10 ...I come that they may have life, and have it to the full.** Whatever life throws at you in the coming months remember that this is why Jesus came to die for us, so that we may have life that is not just full but eternal: we celebrate at Easter that He has overcome death.

My prayer is that we can support and love and encourage one another and in doing this we can live up to the calling on our lives to go and make disciples. This must be the aim for us in Ashington and for you who continue the journey in Newburn. So with sadness I say goodbye but I know with God all things are possible.

*Rev Allison*

## **Sunday Service Information**

**9.30am St Michael's**

**11am St Mary's**

**6pm (4th Sunday) St Mary's**

**Thursday 10am The Vicarage**

Morning Prayer Service

*The following information can be applied every month:*

1st Sunday: Communion

2nd Sunday: All Age Family Communion

3rd Sunday: Communion

4th Sunday: Morning Praise (am) & Contemporary  
Worship (pm)

5th Sunday: JOINT SERVICE 10am



## CELEBRATE



# EASTER WITH US

- Palm Sunday – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April (All age family communion)

St Michael's church 9.30am

St Mary's church 11am

- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April – Blessings course @ the Vicarage  
7pm

- Tues 15<sup>th</sup> & Wed 16<sup>th</sup> April 'Women of Holy week' St Mary's 6.30-7.30pm

- Maundy Thursday – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April (Taize communion)

St Michael's church 7pm

- Good Friday – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April (Hour at the cross)

St Michael's church 2pm



- Easter Sunday – Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April (Communion)

St Michael's church 9.30am

St Mary's church 11am



# ECO CHURCH FOCUS

## Eco Top Tips!

### April – In the bathroom

- Spend less time in the shower. Spending one minute less in the shower each day will save up to £7 off your energy bills each year, per person. Heating water uses a lot of energy.
- Turn off the tap while cleaning your teeth. The clean water that flows out of your tap needs energy in many stages of processing and transport before it gets to the tap.
- Don't waste it! If your toilet cistern holds more than 6 litres of water (likely if it was installed before 2001) put a Hippo Water Saving device (or a brick) in it to save water each time you flush.
- Fit a water efficient shower head (if you've got a shower that takes hot water straight from your boiler or hot water tank). This will reduce your hot water usage while retaining the sensation of a powerful shower.
- Switch to eco cleaning products which biodegrade in the sewerage system and don't damage aquatic life in our rivers and seas. They also contain less harmful chemical for us too.



April	
4	National Walk to Work Day
7 - 13	Community Garden Week
22	Earth Day
30	Stop Food Waste Day



## What do children worry about?

Sadly – a problem that is far too heavy for their young shoulders, but which can cripple them with anxiety: climate change.

‘Eco-anxiety’ now affects nearly four out of five children, according to a recent YouGov survey. And, increasingly, teachers are struggling to cope with the rising numbers of pupils who confess they are really worried about climate change.

One expert advises against sheltering the children, pointing out that “homes torched by wildfires, flooded villages, people fleeing hurricanes – pictures of climate impacts are coming in thick and fast, and our kids are watching,” she said.

Instead, she says: “Our children will come of age during a climate crisis so building their emotional resilience is one way to prepare them. But we understand that this can be a challenge for parents and teachers, who already have a lot on their plate.”

“The reality is that the climate crisis will be one of the major forces shaping the world they’ll grow up in, and it’s good to give them the tools they need to make sense of it.”

## **Maundy Thursday, time to wash feet**

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is '*mandatum novum do vobis*'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy (regular worship) of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

## **Good Friday, the day the Son of God died for you**

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9 a.m. in the morning, and died six

hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year, and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the ‘passions’ composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

The custom of observing a period of three hours’ devotion from 12 midday to 3 pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The ‘Three Hours of the Cross’ often take the form of an extended meditation on the ‘Seven Last Words from the Cross’, with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn singing.



## **EASTER, the most joyful day of the year**

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be ‘growing’ in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the

date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 30 AD or Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 33 AD with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22<sup>nd</sup> March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25<sup>th</sup> April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from *Eostre*, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like *Eos* and *Aurora*, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring.

Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.



# Prayers for April

Lord Jesus, thank you for everything that we have to celebrate because we know you. Thank you that you did not shy away from the terrible things that happened to you at Easter. Thank you that you chose to suffer for our sake, loving and forgiving to the end.

In this season of Lent, we pray that you will give us minds and hearts that are focused on you. Help us to hear your voice telling us about the things that you are pleased with in our lives and the things that we need to change. Shine your light into the dark parts of our lives; may we know the joy of bringing our wills into line with yours.

When we think about how the crowds who welcomed you on Palm Sunday later turned on you, we remember that so many people today have no real faith, putting their trust in things that cannot satisfy. We think of all the people who are worshipping false gods. Show them instead that it is your love that can sustain and meet their every need.

And, as we think about a world that often seems covered in darkness, we pray for the leaders of the nations to repent and turn to you. May they reject the ways of greed and hatred and may they seek instead a world in which nations and peoples care for each other.

We raise before you particularly those parts of the world which so desperately need peace and justice to prevail. We pray for the Sudan, for Gaza and for the Ukraine, that all those who have suffered from war for so long may finally find

**If you would like to join the Annual Magazine Prayer Rota, or even**

## by Jamie Harding

relief. And we pray for the new government of Syria, that it will keep its promise to rule for all the people and allow Christians to worship in freedom.

We think also of those who are living in terrible poverty around the world and who are losing the aid that is so crucial to their survival. We pray for Christians who are trying to bring relief to their suffering. May they have the wisdom, the hope and the resources to demonstrate your love under the most difficult circumstances.

We pray for our own community, for the people of Walbottle, Newburn and Throckley. You know the needs of every person in this parish and we pray that you will draw alongside all those who are finding life difficult, both those who know you and those who don't.

Above all, we thank you for the extraordinary victory that you won at Easter. Give us a glimpse of the reality that you have overcome death and that our hope is not just for this life.

Thank you that, no matter what the physical or emotional pain of this current time, those who know you are assured of spending eternity with you. May we live as people who are certain that the best is yet to come, that this life is only preparation for something far greater, when we meet you face to face.

We lift up all these prayers in your precious name.  
Amen

en just do a one off prayer, please get in touch with Helen Dawson.

# 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.

*Canon Paul Hardingham*



## Sharing the Easter story – with the help of an egg

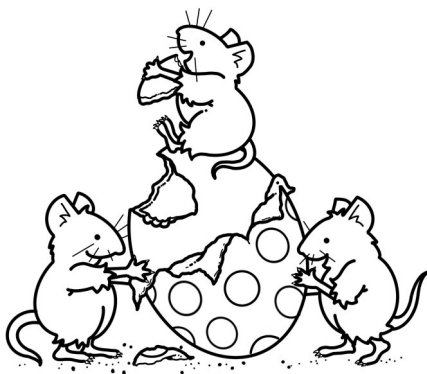
There are 80 million Easter eggs being sold in the UK this year, but The Real Easter Egg is unique.

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 2025 Real Easter Egg is not available in any supermarket, but the full range can be ordered at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk), or by calling 01925 877004.

The Real Easter Egg is made by The Meaningful Chocolate Company which was 'crowd founded' 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.



## **What's the Big Idea? An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Psalms**

This month we continue our examination of a selection of books from the Old Testament.

*'The Psalms have a unique place in the Bible, because most of the Scripture speaks to us, while the Psalms speak for us'* (Athanasius of Alexandria).

The Book of Psalms contains 150 prayers or songs of praise, the majority (73) attributed to David, although some were composed later. They were mostly composed for liturgical worship. There are songs of praise, in which people joyfully express praise for God's work of creation and sustaining (eg 135 & 136). In others, the psalmist recounts a desperate situation and gives thanks for God's answer to his prayers (eg 30 & 116).

There are a significant number of psalms of lament, both individual (eg 3-7; 22) and communal (eg 44), which begin with a cry for help. Some express deliverance from sin (51 & 130), or point to the certainty that the Lord has heard their prayer (7, but contrast 88). The theme of trust is central in many psalms (23, 62 & 91).

The 'royal psalms' (eg 20, 21 & 72) point to the promised Messiah, fulfilled in Jesus. There are also psalms teaching wisdom (eg 37, 49); 'torah' psalms, focussing on the law of the Lord (eg 1, 19 & 119), and psalms which celebrate the history of Israel and God's faithfulness (eg 78, 105 & 106).

The psalms can help us in our own prayers, by providing us with models to follow, as they express our own deepest feelings as we approach God: *'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul'* (Psalm 23:1-3).

*Canon Paul Hardingham*

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passover  
 bread  
 wine  
 body  
 blood  
 betrayal  
 jerusalem  
 pilate

judas  
 gethsemane  
 trial  
 crucifixion  
 soldiers  
 cross  
 nails  
 vinegar

temple  
 curtain  
 tomb  
 angel  
 stone  
 risen  
 gardener  
 Mary

Bethany - Welcome



## BETHANY

We meet on the third Wednesday of the month in St Mary's, Throckley at 1pm.

We will be observing some restrictions owing to the continuing Covid situation. As previously we will have a time of worship, an activity or quiz and there will be a cuppa with light refreshments.

**ALL ARE WELCOME - we look forward to seeing friends old and new.**

There is no charge - voluntary donations to cover expenses can be given.

Please contact Margaret Ledger on 0191 2672953 for more info if required



## Noah's Ark Playgroup

Wednesday 10-11.30am  
(school term time only)

Newburn Parish Hall

£1.50 per family,  
Refreshments provided



## Chocolate – food of the gods!

Did you know that the botanical name for the cocoa bean is *Theobroma* – which means ‘food of the gods’?

Millions of us obviously think chocolate is special – on average, each of us consumes 8.1 kilograms of it a year!

Certainly, chocolate makes us feel better. Some scientists believe that this is due to the chemicals it contains. These trigger the release of endorphins, similar to those we naturally produce when we fall in love.

But nutritionists warn against using chocolate as a pick-me-up, especially in the evening. Chocolate eaten before bedtime can cause your blood glucose levels to plummet during the night, which will disrupt your sleep. Chocolate eaten in quantity every day can lead to mood and energy swings, weight gain and poor immunity. If you have mad cravings for it, you could have a problem with blood sugar, or a deficiency in magnesium, copper, zinc or iron.

But occasional consumption of cocoa can provide medical benefits. Chocolate containing 60 per cent or more cocoa solids is rich in essential trace elements and nutrients such as iron, calcium and potassium, and many vitamins. Cocoa is also the highest natural source of magnesium.

Good as all this may be – most of us enjoy chocolate because of its high sugar and caffeine content. Chocolate simply gives you an instant sugar hit, providing a sudden burst in energy, unfortunately followed by a slump and then the desire for another sugar-fix.



# VE DAY<sup>©</sup>

80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8 M A Y 2 0 2 5

On 8th May St Mary's church will be open for anyone who would like to spend some time in quiet reflection or prayer as our nation commemorates the end of war in Europe.

It is hoped that there will be a display of photos of those who served in the forces and the medals that were awarded to them. *Someone will be present in the church at all times to make sure that everything is kept safe.*

Also, if there are older residents who have personal memories of VE Day 1945 it would be lovely if we could collect those memories and make a display where they could be read and shared with visitors to the church.

In the early evening there will be a service in the church to give thanks and remember all who served. If anyone has photos/medals of family members that they would like to have included in the display or anyone who has memories to share would you please contact me.

Rev Margaret Ledger tel: 01912672953

e-mail: [margaret.p.ledger@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret.p.ledger@btinternet.com)

Further details of times will be given nearer the date..

Thank you

## Reflecting Faith: Baptisms and Easter

What time of year were you baptised? For the first few centuries of the Early Church, baptisms were only held at Easter, with the preparation being taught in the few weeks beforehand.

Leo I, Bishop of Rome from 440 to 461 AD, was a strong advocate of holding baptisms solely at Easter.

He wrote: "... for in the baptismal office death ensues through the slaying of sin, and threefold immersion imitates the lying in the tomb three days, and the raising out of the water is like Him that rose again from the tomb."

But, as the years went by and more adults began seeking baptism for their children, the practise changed. The Church was keen to not put any obstacles in the way, and so baptisms became a sacrament to be freely given at any time of the year.

This was especially important because for many years it was mistakenly thought that unbaptised babies should not be buried in a churchyard, and, even more importantly, would not get into heaven.

Thankfully the Church moved away from those wrong positions long ago. Now most of us were baptised when we were very young, often in our first few months of life, at any time of the year.

One thing is certain: baptising a child is not so that God will love them more. It is instead to say that the parents believe in God, and therefore intend to raise the child as part of the family of God.

**This month:** Have a think about your own Baptism. How old were you? Do you know – if you were a child at the time – why your parents chose that age?

*Revd Dr Jo White*

## **Poet's Corner**

### **The Magic World of Oliver Postgate**

*Born 12/4/1925 – Died 8/12/2008*

The Clangers on their planet, the Pogles in their wood  
In Oliver's bright kingdom we children had it good!  
Smallfilms brought us joy, and spoiled us all for choice  
With ev'ry charming tale told by Oliver's fine voice.

In Wales' top left corner a small green engine puffed  
And Ivor was the engine's name, he whistled and he  
chuffed.

He kept a dragon's egg within his fire so hot  
Which Jones the Steam his driver never seemed to  
spot!

A stuffed cloth cat called Bagpuss still figures in our  
dreams;  
He was pink and baggy, a bit loose at the seams!  
We met the king of the Northmen - Noggin the much  
loved Nog,  
And the Pogles were a family who lived in a hollow log.

Green soup and blue string pudding which all the  
Clangers eat  
Provided by a soup dragon who lives beneath their  
feet!  
So thank you Mr Postgate for all that you have done  
To bring such joy into our lives and fill them full of fun!

*By Nigel Beeton*



## History in the Making

The king had a dream and called for his wise men  
But none could interpret what the dream meant,  
Only Daniel could give him an answer  
And tell the king of the unfolding events.

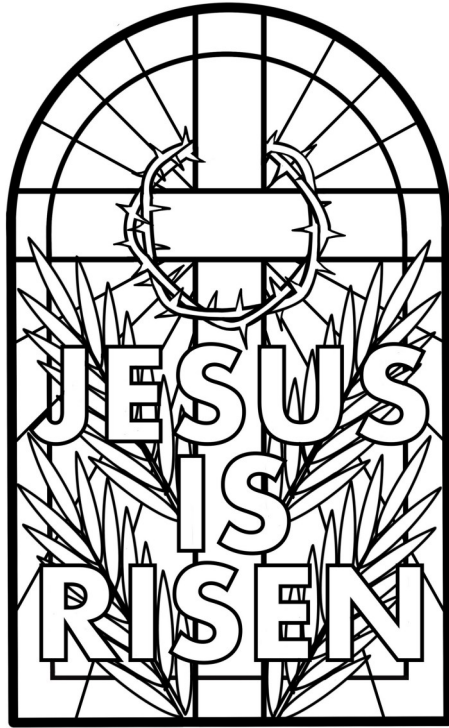
The statue he dreamed of depicted four kingdoms,  
King Nebuchadnezzar was the head made of gold  
But each of these kingdoms would all be demolished  
This mystery to Daniel God had foretold.

A rock cut out not by human hands  
Would smash the statue and break it down  
And the rock would become like a mighty mountain  
Filling the earth and all around.

Today as we see new kingdoms arising,  
Dangerous and evil, filled with hate,  
They too will fall and be broken in pieces  
Swept away by the wind and leaving no trace.

History is ruled by another king,  
And a time will come like never before  
With His kingdom established upon this earth  
King Jesus will reign for evermore.

*By Megan Carter*



Throckley Community Hall

**CRAFT CLUB**

Every Friday  
12.30-2.30pm  
£2

Tea, Coffee, Cakes and  
Biscuits

Come along, meet new  
friends, share your skills and  
pick up some new ones!

**You could advertise  
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Quarter page: £35  
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Full page: £140  
(all per annum)  
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Ian Taylor MInstChP

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# Taylor

CHIROPODY



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Rev Allison Harding (Vicar)

Please contact Allison to arrange Baptism, Confirmation or Marriage. If you know of people who are ill or are in hospital please let us know.

The deadline for any inclusions for the magazine is

**Two Sundays before the last Sunday of the month**

Please either email or hand to Helen Dawson.  
helenrdawson@yahoo.co.uk

If you have any questions or opinions about the magazine content and style, or would like to write an article please get in touch.

All feedback welcome.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive a magazine (only £5.00 per annum) please get in touch and we will add their name to the distribution list.