

## Annual Church Meeting

Another year another meeting!

This year's Annual Church Meeting, will be held after the 10.30 am service on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April and anyone involved in the life of our church is welcome to stay and come along to this meeting. This is an opportunity for people to have their say and is the meeting where the Church stewards and congregational representatives are elected onto the Church Council. We are trying it at this new time, in the hope that more people will attend. There will be activities for children whilst the meeting takes place.

I am willing to take nominations for congregational representatives to the Church Council up to the morning of the meeting and would like them in writing, with a proposer and seconder. This year we have a number of positions to be filled as congregational representatives.

At this meeting we will also discuss other areas of ministry and mission in the life of our Church. There will also be space for feedback on reports from the various Church groups.

Please think and pray about this important meeting, but most of all please try and attend.

I hope to see you there.

**Cameron.**

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The next edition will be for the summer.

Contributions by e-mail will be very welcome.

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# The Methodist Church News

*(of The Methodist Church serving Haxby and Wigginton)*

**Easter 2007**

**Issue Number 87**

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### **Minister:**

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Most of us are well acquainted with Good Friday. If we lead a normal life, we have undoubtedly had our full share of what the term implies. We have had enough headaches and heartaches, disappointments and betrayal, doubts and worries to last a lifetime. It isn't difficult to identify with Jesus in his passion and death. The question asked of us on Easter Sunday however, is whether we can also identify with Jesus in his resurrection. Are we able to experience peace, hope, confidence, excitement and joy?

Good Friday cannot be considered 'good' without Easter. We cannot rejoice in good times unless we have experienced bad times. The point is there IS Easter, there IS joy and victory, there ARE good times. We Christians are Easter people, meant to rejoice - not only in Christ's triumph, but in our own. Easter proclaims the good news that God's love is the ultimate power in the universe and that God sent that love to us in Jesus Christ, crucified yet risen.

He is here! He is risen, just as he said he would.

Easter proclaims that the world is not just a stream of frustrating days and endless nights. There is somebody there and that somebody is God who loves us and cares about us. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our faith for today and our hope for tomorrow. It is the assurance that we have a living Saviour to help us live as we ought to live. Easter calls us to affirm our faith in the power of the Resurrection.

We celebrate an event that occurred at a particular time in history. But Easter becomes a reality only when it leads us to a continuing experience with the living Lord.

Not a hopeless end – but an endless hope!

If our greatest need had been information,  
 God would have sent an educator.  
 If our greatest need had been technology,  
 God would have sent a scientist.  
 If our greatest need had been money,  
 God would have sent an economist.

*"There is no one righteous, not even one;" Romans 3:10.*

Is 'being green' not for you? Is it too much of a commitment, too hard and complex a voyage to embark upon with the full-to-the-brim life you have already? You're just not cut out to be a tree-hugger. It's 'all or nothing' and you can't do it all.

For me, living gently on the earth has parallels with my spiritual journey as a Christian. I have made a commitment, but I fail dismally every hour of every day to love God and others as I should. And in our industrialised twenty first century overcrowded world, living in a way that does not damage the earth is pretty near impossible. There are too many people in the world and too much carbon dioxide already up there in our atmosphere. And our modern life style depends so much on fossil fuels that however much we try to reduce our energy use we will always contribute more than our fair share of carbon dioxide to the global commons. So, in this too, I fail dismally every day. However much I try not to, I and my family are contributing to the destruction of God's creation.

So what do we do? Do we give up following Jesus because we can't be perfect Christians? Do we give up trying to live in a way that cares for creation because we can't give up our cars or dish-washers? No! I believe that Jesus accepts us as we are and is pleased with every feeble attempt we make to love others as ourselves and to protect his creation. And every time we fail to follow him, to love others, to live gently on the earth, we can turn to him in repentance, accept his boundless forgiveness, get up and start again!

Take holidays, for example. Are you planning to fly off somewhere this summer? Well, I'm sorry to be such a kill-joy, but flying off to see the world is, I'm afraid, bad for the world. Huge quantities of climate-damaging greenhouse gases are released by planes – just look at the size of them and think about how much energy must be required to lift them off the ground! So do try to limit your far-flung holidays. But if you still feel you need that holiday in the sun, don't give up trying to do it as caringly as you can.

Climatestewards.co.uk is a great project run by the Christian charity A Rocha where you can reduce the impact of your journey by paying towards tree-planting and other projects which off-set and reduce carbon dioxide emissions. For under £10 you can more contentedly fly your family to the Mediterranean while £70 will help compensate for two flying around the world.

It's not always 'all or nothing'. Sometimes it's good just to do something!

## Puzzle Page

1.

A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over five minutes. Finally, she hangs him. Later they both go out and enjoy a wonderful dinner together. How can this be?



If our greatest need had been pleasure,  
God would have sent an entertainer.  
But our greatest need was forgiveness,  
So God sent a Saviour.

He is alive! May we know and discover that experience this Easter and always.

Easter joy and peace,

**Cameron.**

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Answers to the puzzles in the Christmas edition:

**1.** The first word is the corrected word of the clue, the second word is the answer.

Across: 1. Prayer/Amen. 3. Fish/Boat. 6. Vow/Obeys. 8. Room/Inn. 9. Be/Thine. 12. Fathered/Lot. 13. Give/Teach. 15. Men/Wise. 16. Plant/Herb.

Down: 1. Forefather/Amos. 2. Night/Eve. 4. Mount/Olive. 5. Home/Tent.

7. Good/Saint. 9. Book/Titus. Also for 'Old' read 'New'. 10. Fast/Slow.

11. Son/Ahab. 14. Tool/Axe.

**2.** French, Spanish, Greek and German.

All are used to wish 'Season's Greetings' at Christmas.

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## 2007 - A Year Of Methodist Anniversaries

2007 brings a series of significant anniversaries which will be celebrated by Methodists and by many others. Here are some of the key years:

1707 - Birth of Charles Wesley.

1807 - First Methodist 'camp meeting', forerunner of Primitive Methodism.

1857 - First assembly of the United Methodist Free Churches.

1907 - United Methodist Church formed.

1932 - Methodist Union - forming the Methodist Church of Great Britain

Further information on these anniversaries, and latest news of events, may be found at <http://www.methodistanniversaries2007.org.uk>

## Prayer Page

### Prayer Focus:

In the light of the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade in Britain  
*Pray for the youth and children's work that takes place within our Church  
- for youngsters and leaders.*

We give thanks:  
*Pray for Greg, Katie & Grace Roberts as they prepare to move to Haxby  
for the life and witness of all the abolitionists, black and white;  
and Greg begins work as our new Youth & Children's Worker.  
for those who led resistance;*

for those who stood up for what they saw to be right.

We remember especially:

William Wilberforce, Olaudah Equiano, Thomas Clarkson and Ignatius Sancho.

Among others we name:

Mary Seacole, Mahatma Ghandi and Nelson Mandela and all those known and unknown who have worked for freedom and peace in the world.

We give thanks for the abundance of the Earth.

May we learn to equitably share its riches.

We give thanks for freedom of speech and action.

May we learn to use that freedom for the good of all.

May we not seek to restrict the freedom of those with whom we disagree.

We give thanks for the opportunity to work for a living wage.

May we learn to be generous with our sufficiency.

We give thanks for the freedom to elect our representatives.

May we learn to exercise that freedom wisely without fear or prejudice.

We have the plenty of the Earth.

Help us to appreciate its riches, help us to conserve its resources for the generations yet to be born.

Let us rejoice in the fruitfulness of the world.

We are all brothers and sisters. Amen.

**Gracious and liberating God,**

**Lift us beyond the burdens of pain and guilt.**

**Build our memories into life-giving resolutions.**

**Give us the vision of a new creation.**

**Strengthen us to act for justice and human dignity,**

**And set all free.**

obviously suitable walking boots, waterproofs and changes of clothing will be required - as will head torches for the last part of the descent of Ben Nevis and the first part of the ascent of Scafell Pike.

We are looking to support through sponsorship, a maximum of four charities on the walk and all members are invited to make suggestions as to suitable charities. So far we have Macmillan Cancer, British Heart Foundation, Mercy Ships and Christian Aid - all other suggestions are welcome and, when we have a full list, we shall vote on them to decide the final four.

Finally - we need to train (some of us more than others)!

*Colin Shephard*

## Dancing With God

When I meditated on the word 'GUIDANCE', I kept seeing 'dance' at the end of the word.

I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right, the movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing tightly in one direction or another. It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

My eyes drew back to the word 'GUIDANCE'.

When I saw 'G': I thought of God, followed by 'U' and 'I'.

God, 'U' and 'I' dance. .... God, You, and I dance.

As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead.

My prayer for you today is that God's blessings and mercies be upon you on this day and everyday. May you abide in God as God abides in you. Dance together with God, trusting God to lead and to guide you through each season of your life.

This prayer is powerful and there is nothing attached.

Please share this message, for prayer is one of the best gifts we can receive.

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## The Three Peaks Challenge

We have decided to undertake the three peaks Challenge in June of this year - actual date Saturday 30th June to Sunday 1st July. We shall start at Ben Nevis and work our way south to Snowdon via Scafell Pike.



The plan is to set-off from York around 8 - 9am on the Saturday and drive up to Scotland (stopping for lunch on the way). This will get us up to Fort William for around 4pm. We start walking at about 5pm from the Ben Nevis visitor centre car park. It should take about five hours to get up and down Ben Nevis, the last hour or so of descent will be at dusk.

When we get back to the car park hopefully our dedicated driving team will have a cup of tea ready for us!

We then drive through the night down to Scafell Pike. As we are not supposed to arrive at Wasdale Head until 5am, we may park up near by for an hour or so to get some kip.

At 5am prompt we arrive at Wasdale Head NT car park, jump out of the vans, and set off up Scafell Pike. We expect this will take a maximum of five hours to climb and descend getting us back to the car park for 10am.

Back in the vans and straight down to North Wales to arrive at Pen-y-Pass by 2pm. This then gives us three hours to climb Snowdon and get back down again (via the Pyg Track).

Dave Petty has agreed to be our leader for the mountain ascents (as he has his mountain leaders certificate!)

We have sixteen walkers at the moment; they are: Adrian Brown, Chris and Amanda Cooper, Rob, Steph and Mark Cooper, Phil Lazenby, Nick Mudge, Steve Padfield, Phil Payton, Dave Petty, Colin Shephard, Judith Smith, Stephen Spain, Mark Whiteman and Dave Wilson, and hopefully four drivers; Dave Groom, Kevin O'Callaghan, Andrew Smith and Andy Woolley.

We will need two fifteen-plus seater mini-buses (so that we have space to stretch our legs and put all our kit) and the cost of these will be met by the group members (obviously we shall shop around to find the cheapest option! -If anyone knows of a local charity bus we could use please let us know).

We will draw up a recommended equipment list nearer the time but

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## From The Registers:

### Baptism:

We have welcomed into the family of the Church by Baptism:

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25-03-07 Josie Hill

We have also welcomed by **Dedication:**

21-01-07 Sophie Lymath

### Wedding:

We have celebrated with the following people as they were married within the life of our Church:

24-03-07 Lee Starkey & Lynette Coates

### Funerals:

We offer our condolences, thoughts and prayers to families who have recently been bereaved:

24-01-07 Elsie Harker

09-02-07 Ethel Quiney

22-02-07 Frank Richards

23-02-07 Mathew Carr

22-03-07 Joan Halstead

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## Afraid Of The Dark

A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother asked him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "I don't want to go out there. It's dark."

The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you."

The little boy looked at his mother and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?"

"Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him," she said.

The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and opened it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, "Jesus, if you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?"

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## Introducing Greg....

Hello, my name is Greg Roberts and I am very pleased to be joining Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church in June as the Youth and Children's Worker.

My wife Katie and I were married at Christ Church, Chorleywood, in September 2004. Our daughter, Grace was born in May last year, and brings us much joy and laughter – she is a real little character.

I currently work as Youth Worker for Little Chalfont Methodist Church just outside the M25 in Buckinghamshire. Before that I trained on an Oasis Youth Work and Ministry course in London, after a brief career as an actor with Riding Lights Theatre Company. That followed a degree in 'Arts In The Community (Drama)' in Lincoln. Katie is a qualified nurse. Katie and I love musicals in particular and we are currently putting on 'Godspell' in my present church.

I share with Cameron an upbringing in Warrington, whereas Katie has lived in Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire all her life. We are all really looking forward to coming to live near the church and shops, just on the Wigginton side of the border. We are getting to terms with and learning the lingo – with our favourite new word being 'ginnel'. We are very taken with the local passageways.

It will be great to meet you all in June.

**Greg, Katie and Grace.**

English. They will soon be junior teachers back home, just like my daughter. That makes a talking point.

On late shift is Emily, a bubbly Asian girl. When I tell her that we have an Emily in our family, she giggles and brightens us all up.

In 1971 I cadged a 'lift' on an express parcels train. Geoff was the guard and he kept me entertained as we travelled up the east coast main line from Peterborough to York at 100 mph. It was a fair while before we met again and then he was playing dominoes in the 'railway corner' at the Centre.

The Centre is always keen to recruit new volunteers and I can thoroughly recommend it. The work is rewarding and you meet such interesting people.

*David Farr*

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## Sharing Care Needs You!

Do you like spending time with children and feel up for a challenge?

Sharing Care is a short break scheme for disabled children, who may have learning disabilities, autism, difficulties with communication, complex health care needs or physical disabilities. We need committed volunteers, able to care in their own or the child's home.

- No qualifications are needed as training will be offered.
- You will be fully assessed by a scheme worker.
- Support is always available.
- Carers receive a financial reward.

If you would like more information please contact:

Sharing Care

Ashbank

1 Shipton Road

Clifton

York YO30 5RE

Tel: 01904 613161 (ask for Sharing Care)

Email: [sharingcare@york.gov.uk](mailto:sharingcare@york.gov.uk)

Web: [www.york.gov.uk/caring/adoption/sharingcare.html](http://www.york.gov.uk/caring/adoption/sharingcare.html)

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## A Glimpse Of The Centre

St Sampson's Centre in Church Street, York is a haven for senior citizens. It offers the cheapest cup of tea in town along with delightful sausage rolls, pie and peas not to be missed, ham rolls, tasty soup, Madge's trifles and lots more. Soon it will also be non-smoking.

Malcolm, the manager has a permanent smile for all his guests. Guide dogs and grandchildren are welcomed with open arms.

I am one of seventy five volunteers - we are not all there at once! Madge is my team leader. I call her a Trojan for she appears to have boundless energy.

On Thursdays I potter through the lounge fastening my green overall. In the kitchen, Madge greets me with a glass of blackcurrant drink. The young Mum who works the industrial washer will soon be there with her dreadlocks and colourful hair. She is a breath of fresh air. It will be quiet until the lunchtime peak, when there will be a queue almost to reception.

I spot Edith from Wakefield, whom I knew when we were both twenty. Her husband is buying the ham rolls. He has the list for Barnitt's and for Robin the fishmonger.

There is Sid who tells me the same joke each week. I wait for the punchline when I really ought to be clearing tables. I think it is the high spot of his week.

Across the way is Don who was on the platform at the station when the first Baedeker bomb fell in 1942. With his Mum he fled and sheltered in what became the old Railway Museum. He has described seeing WRVS 'angels' feeding and watering the troops. One listener went home and told her aged Mum, who, it turned out, had been one of those WRVS ladies. Had the raid started any earlier, two fully loaded troop trains would have been part of the carnage.

Last week near reception, I met a silver haired, diminutive lady. She was smiling and told me she was happy because she knew that her son had written to her from Africa, where he works maintaining light aircraft used by Aid workers. When he was seven the family were told that he had an incurable disease and had less than a year to live. They were prepared for the worst which happily did not come to pass. He is now forty and she is so obviously proud of him.

Two students are with us. They are Swiss and are brushing up on their

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## The Things Children Say!

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the bottle. During her struggle the phone rang, so she asked her young daughter to answer it.

"It's the minister," the child said to her mother.

Then she added, "Mummy can't come to the phone to talk to you right now. She's hitting the bottle."

## Letter From The Sisterhood To The Ladies Of Pinelands

This Church Sisterhood keeps in touch with the 'Pinelands Women's Auxiliary' in South Africa around three times a year with letters cards and photographs. Members of the Sisterhood so enjoyed hearing our Easter Letter written by Pam Tucker that it was thought it would be nice to include it in our Church Magazine.

Dear Pinelands Friends,

If, eighteen months ago, someone had told me I would be writing to friends in South Africa as a new member of the Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church Sisterhood, I would have looked at them in disbelief! Why?

Well, my husband and I were at that time living one hundred and fifteen miles south of York in a city called Peterborough. We were members of a small Baptist Church, and certainly had no friends in South Africa! But God had other plans for us: We moved to York to live just ten miles from our daughter, husband and two year old granddaughter, (since our move, little Lucy now has a baby sister). We became members of Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church and gradually got to know, even by name, some of the three hundred members and participated in various meetings, etc. But one group I was not going to join - the Sisterhood - absolutely not!

Isn't it a good job that God knows what's best for us - so how did He change my obstinate mind?

Well firstly, my husband and I were invited to join the ladies on last summer's coach outing, just to help with the cost of the coach! Ann Quick's husband was on board too, so Ron didn't feel the 'odd one out' and we soon discovered that the ladies were a very friendly and welcoming group.

Secondly, I learnt that most of the meetings are preceded by an 'exercise' session for those who are interested, and that includes Tai Chi. This is: "A mind and body discipline practised by older Chinese people.....a series of slow controlled movements requiring much concentration, found by research to be most effective in reducing the risk of falls by-older people". I had only recently been reading that Tai Chi was relaxing and eased stress -just what I was needing!

So here I am, each Monday afternoon, exercising with about ten or twelve others, starting with gentle warming up exercises, mainly as we sit on our chairs. Then we stand for Tai-Chi movements, performed to quiet music, and end with

"We in the UK plant trees because they look nice in our garden. However in developing countries such as Kenya, which have been heavily deforested, trees take on much greater significance. Trees not only encourage the rains but they also help prevent soil erosion that can lead to fatal mudslides."

If you would like to become a Christian Aid collector in Haxby or Wigginton, Pauline Stonehouse would be very pleased to hear from you.

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### Christian Aid Coffee Morning

Saturday 12th May

Haxby and Wigginton Methodist Church

10am - 11.30am.

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### Scarecrow Festival

The Twinning Group are holding  
a scarecrow festival and competition  
on Saturday 5th May and Monday 7th May.

Volunteers to make and display scarecrows in their gardens  
in the Haxby and Wigginton area are warmly invited.

Scarecrows of all descriptions are required and villagers will  
be  
invited to follow a competition trail with prizes being awarded  
for the best scarecrow design.

Refreshments will be served in the church hall and any  
profits  
will be donated to the Phambili project.

Please support this event by:  
offering to make and/or 'house' a scarecrow,  
helping with the refreshments,  
or bringing people to do the trail on the day.

## Christian Aid Week Goes Gold -And Green!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, Britain's longest running door-to-door fundraising week, turns fifty this year. And to mark the golden jubilee it's going green, encouraging people to plant trees in support of overseas work on climate change projects.

Back in 1957, the first Christian Aid Week mobilised residents in two hundred towns and villages across the UK, collecting £26,000. Half a century later Christian Aid hopes to draw on around three hundred thousand volunteers to raise £15.5 million during the fundraising week, which this year takes place from 13th-19th May.

“The world has changed significantly in the past fifty years,” says Daleep Mukarji, director of Christian Aid. “Little did we know in 1957 that we would be facing the problem of climate change which is destroying the lives of thousands of vulnerable people across the world.

“Christian Aid Week remains a vital part of our fundraising efforts. As we face new challenges, and our work increases, so too does our reliance on the incredible support and generosity of individuals and churches across the UK and Ireland.”

This year we are encouraging people to plant trees in their gardens, community spaces and churchyards as a way of reflecting on the impact deforestation and climate change have on poor communities around the world.

Diarmuid Gavin, award-winning garden designer and star of hit BBC TV show Home Front, travelled to Kenya with Christian Aid last year and saw the devastating impact of climate change on small-scale farmers who rely on the land. He says: “Drought is a serious issue there and it’s inspiring to see how Christian Aid partners are teaching some of the world’s poorest people new agricultural techniques to enable them to make the best use of the little water they have to grow food.

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dancing, singing and marching, etc. - great fun and good for us, too. Then we go into another hall for the main Sisterhood meeting attended by an average of forty lovely people, participating in close Christian fellowship as we are led in singing, prayer and listening to God’s word, followed by the ‘Speaker of the week’. A variety of subjects are included in the programme, all with a spiritual slant. Over a cup of tea afterwards you can often hear the members’ appreciation for what they have just heard.

I must just say that at my first meeting, I was very amused that we had to queue up each week to have our names ticked in the register - but now I realise that if someone is missing and no reason has been given beforehand, those missing ticks must be followed up. There is always updated news of those who are unwell and cards are sent.

How could I have resisted belonging to such a friendly and caring group of people? It is lovely to have been given the opportunity to share with you all the impressions of a ‘new girl’ - I just hope I’ve done justice to all who plan the meetings and other Sisterhood activities.

God bless you all,

Pam Tucker.

Does this make those of you nearer to home feel like joining us on Monday afternoons? Do come along, you're sure of a welcome, or give Ann Quick a ring on 762286.

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### Just For Laughs

•**Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting.**

- Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.
- Sometimes I wake up GRUMPY. At other times I allow him to stay in bed.
- Reporters interviewing a 104 year old woman: “What’s the best thing about being 104?”  
“No peer pressure”.

## Preparing for Easter

Millions of people prepare for Easter in so many different ways and with differing anticipation. Many people regard Easter as the start of spring, time to start planning their holidays, a house move or simply to do the garden. Children anticipate the gift of chocolate Easter eggs. For Christians around the world Easter represents the greatest gifts of all, salvation, the ultimate gifts of love and hope and an end to despair given by the Resurrection.

For the Flower Group, it is perhaps the most challenging of festivals, as it encompasses the whole range of human emotions, taking us from the triumph and joy of Palm Sunday, to the trepidation and anguish of Gethsemane, through the fear, betrayal, and injustice of arrest and trial, the brutality, pain, horror and destruction of Calvary and back to love, overwhelming sacrifice and the hope of the resurrection. How and where do we start to represent in flowers such a roller coaster of events and feelings? Fortunately for us (or not, depending on the scale and difficulty!) help is at hand and Cameron often gives us a theme. Whether complex or simple, having a focus to start from certainly helps and has had some amazing results.

This really is a group activity and everyone has a contribution to make to the whole. Each of the members takes responsibility for one or more areas and creates their own individual interpretation, based on the agreed theme and colours.

As happens every week, once the weekend is over, many of the flowers are then made into arrangements which are distributed to those members of the congregation who are unwell, housebound, bereaved or otherwise indisposed. The members of the group then resume their normal weekly role of being responsible for the flower arrangements, sometimes at the request of members of the congregation. If at any time you would like to have an arrangement made for a particular reason, please get in touch with me or any one of the group. We would love to hear from you.

As the group's coordinator, it is my role to make sure that everything comes together smoothly, to ensure that everyone is fully informed, to deal with any administration and to represent the group on several of the Church Committees. Naturally we have our fair share of last minute panics, problems etc. but it's great to have the chance to work with and learn from so many talented and creative friends.

If you would enjoy seeing the flower decorations at your leisure, we are

opening the Church on Easter Sunday afternoon 2pm – 4pm and also on Easter Monday afternoon 2pm - 4pm. Please come along. Everyone is most welcome and refreshments will be served in the Hall.

*Sue Raybould*

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## Do You Know....

### ....Why many coin banks are shaped like pigs?

Long ago, dishes and cookware in Europe were made of a dense orange clay called 'pygg'. When people saved coins in jars made of this clay, the jars became known as 'pygg banks'. When an English potter misunderstood the word, he made a bank that resembled a pig. And it caught on..

### ....Why ships and aircraft in trouble use 'mayday' as their call for help?

This comes from the French word m'aidez -meaning 'help me' - and as you will know, is pronounced 'mayday'.