40p

March & April 2019

The LORD bless you and KEEP YOU, The LORD MAKE HIS FACE shine upon you, AND DE GRACIOUS TO you, The LORD lift UP HIS C♥UNTENANCE upon you, And give YOU PEACE.

Devoted to Christ Dedicated to Community



Sharon's Sharings

What's in a name?

As I write this, my first three weeks have now gone past and I have to say, I have loved nearly every minute of it. Christ Church is so friendly and so kind, and Andi and I have been made to feel very welcome. I say nearly every minute because our little cat went missing for a while; but we found that people were genuinely sad for us, and genuinely pleased for us when found him. Christ Church we Orpington really is a very special church where we have felt not only welcomed but also loved. I wonder if it is something to do with its name?

You might have heard the saying "Give a dog a bad name..." which means that once someone has a bad reputation, even if it is completely undeserved, it tends to stick. Names can define a person. In Biblical times and still in many places today, people are given names that are believed to describe them. For example, the apostle Simon's name meant "listen" which did indeed happen. He listened to his brother Andrew when he told him about Jesus. Then Jesus renamed him Cephas meaning "rock", from which we get the Greek "Petros" or Peter. And when Peter declared Him to be the Christ, Jesus said that on that rock He would build His church.

As Christians we bear Christ's name and who we are, the way we act, our identity itself, is defined by Christ whose name we bear. A quick look at the internet is enough to prove that the need for Christ's love, mercy, forgiveness, compassion, peace, concern for the broken and hurting, and help for the least in society that fall through the world's nets are as much needed in our world today as they have ever been.

As a young Christian I remember joining the Staff Christian Union at the university where I worked - a tiny band of Christians around a small table in a large empty lecture room. It felt slightly intimidating but we began to share who we were. The person next to me shared how they didn't tell anyone they were a Christian because they felt so inadequate and didn't want people to think that was what a Christian was. My feelings were the opposite, I told everyone I was a Christian because even though knew I was much more inadequate than that lovely person sitting next to me, I hoped that people would see that you didn't have to be perfect to be a Christian, and that God loves us and accepts us just as we are, "warts and all". If He could accept me, He would accept anyone.

As Christians sometimes we do stumble and fall, and sometimes we don't reflect Christ as well as we could, but we are all on journeys learning to reflect Him more. As we journey with Christ and the Holy

Spirit changes us, we begin to experience more love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control in our lives. But none of us will be perfect this side of Heaven, only Jesus was, and I am looking forward to journeying with you all as the Lord leads us together deeper into His heart.

Amen.

Sharon Smith
Vicar of
Christ Church
Orpington



Get Ready For Thy Kingdom Come



Thy Kingdom Come, takes place again this year from Thursday 30th May to Sunday 9th June 2019 - the period between Ascension Day and Pentecost.

Are you ready?

Over the past three years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come Holy Spirit', praying that the Spirit will inspire and equip us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our friends and families, our communities and networks.

In our own Diocese of Rochester last year, over 300 prayer events took place; from prayer walks and quiet days, to prayer workshops introducing people to new forms of prayer, as well as 24/7 prayer rooms. There were traditional as well as creative expressions of prayer, and prayer events that brought different denominations and traditions together.

Whether you have joined in 'Thy Kingdom Come' before or not, you are invited to take part this year – along with churches from over 65 different denominations in 114 countries around the world.

Free Workshops in March

Two free workshops are being offered in our region to help inspire and equip churches to get involved. Hosted by the National Thy Kingdom Come team, they will explore simple and creative prayer activities for everyone and all participants will receive samples of resources.

They will take place on:

- Mon 4th March, 2pm to 4pm,
 St. Martin's Church, Maidstone, ME15 7LP book thru Diocese of Canterbury website canterburydiocese.org/events/tkcinspire
- Tues 5th March, 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Christ Church, Chislehurst, BR7 5JJ to book email: inspireandequip@gmail.com

Save the Date

Please also save the date for a fantastic Thy Kingdom Come event that will take place at **Rochester Cathedral** on **8th June** called **'Come and see**...' More details will be released shortly.

Why not also commit to praying with others around the Diocese, wherever you are, for the successful preparations of Thy Kingdom? Offer a prayer every Tuesday at 5pm – if you're active on social media, why not let people know what you are doing by using the hashtag #TKCTuesday.

Making Sense of Lent

by Rev Paul Hardingham

March sees the start of Lent, the sixweek period leading up to Easter. In the early Church, it was a time when new converts were instructed in the faith, ready for their baptism at Easter. Over the years, Lent has become a season of penitence, self-examination and fasting. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and taught his disciples to fast, 'when you fast...' (Matthew 6:17).

Fasting might involve missing one or two meals in a day, refraining from TV or alcohol, or whatever gets in the way of us fully focusing on God. What are the reasons for fasting?

 The act of giving up something is a tangible sacrifice to God, reminding us of our desire to put him first in our lives.

- Giving up things I value shows me how depend I can be on other things rather than God.
- Fasting helps me to surrender my 'idols' to God.
- When fasting I am reminded of a deeper hunger and need for God in my life: 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.' (Matthew 5:6).
 I learn to be more dependent on God, while releasing the stuff I depend on in my life.

Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines e.g. joining a study group, 'random acts of kindness', giving more time to prayer and Bible study Whatever you do, have a great Lent!

'Jesus takes it for granted that his disciples will observe the pious custom of fasting. Strict exercise of self-control is an essential feature of the Christian's life. Such customs have only one purpose - to make the disciples more ready and cheerful to accomplish those things which God would have done.'

(Dietrich Bonhoeffer).

Women's ordination – 25 years on The Van John

The Ven John Barton, former Archdeacon of Aston

Twenty-five years ago, on 12th March 1994, women were ordained as priests in the Church of England. As the BBC commentator on the first service in Bristol Cathedral I was prepared for disruptions from demonstrators

but it proceeded reverently and without a hitch. The only protest was outside, where a group of approving Roman Catholic women held a banner saying, 'We're Next'.

Of course, there are still people who object to women's ordination on principle. Some believe the practice frustrates the prospect of church unity, others hold that God has created women and men to hold complementary but different roles - and leadership in the Church is reserved for men.

At the last count, 30% of the 20,000 active clergy were women and 23% of the senior posts were held by women, and that includes 18 bishops.

It would be difficult now to imagine the Church of England without women priests and bishops. They serve as chaplains in prison, hospital and the Armed Services, and of course as Vicars and Curates in parish churches.

Hannah Madin was ordained 18 months ago when she was 28, and is a Curate in York. She recalls visiting a parishioner whose husband had just died; the widow said, "I wasn't expecting a female Vicar, but I'm so glad you are". Hannah's husband is also ordained; she says it helps that he understands the random and unique nature of the job, they support each other in prayer, and they never talk shop on their day off!

Sue Restall was one of those ordained in Bristol 25 years ago and is now in active retirement in the Midlands, having been a parish priest and a hospital chaplain. In her experience, although women and men may have different talents, that is more to do with personality than gender. However, she does recall making a bereavement visit when a widower cried his eyes out, saying he could only have done that in front of a woman. Sue says her role is no longer controversial — "I am simply a priest who happens to be a woman".

The induction service for Sharon

was a memorable event. The church was full, the body of Christ was worshipping God and there was a sense that God was here enjoying the event too.



The Institution

by The Right Reverend James Langstaff, Bishop of Rochester and

The Induction and Installation

by The Venerable Dr Paul Wright, Archdeacon of Bexley and Bromley

of

The Reverend Dr Sharon Smith

Vicar of Christ Church, Orpington

Saturday 12th January 2019 at 3pm





The Parish Church of Christ Church, Charterhouse Road, Orpington, BR6 9EP

It was Saturday the 12th January when the institution occurred. The folks from Sharon's previous church arrived in good time – maybe too good a time at an hour and a half early, wondering about the possibility of refreshments. The catering team were ahead of schedule so tea and coffee were produced for the coach load of visitors from All Saints, Caddington and St John, Farley Hill.



The clergy from various Anglican and other local churches came and provided support for Sharon.



The Mayor of Bromley, Kim Botting who is an Orpington Councillor came and seemed to enjoy being part of the service.

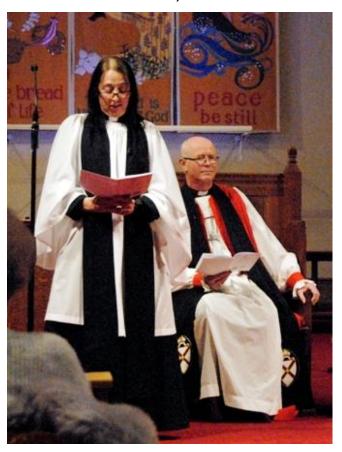
The Area Dean John Musson was there to help lead the service.

The Bishop presided over the event and spoke.

Various members of this parish took part:

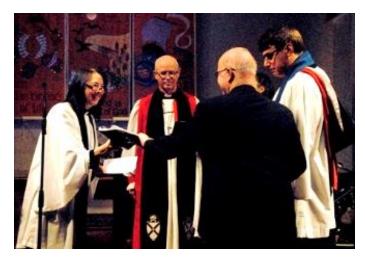
 Parish Reps, Caroline Bailey and Alan Goddard together with Father Rob from All Saints presented

- the prospective incumbent on behalf of the interviewing panel,
- A service book was given by Mr Dominic and Mrs Stephanie Theodoulou and their son, Aidan,
- A Bible was given by Mrs Sara Onslow,



- Water for Baptism, and Bread & Wine were given by Mr Brian Ko with Master Haydn Kenny and Mrs Jennie Mapp,
- Oil of Healing was given by Mrs Maureen Grandini,
- A copy of the electoral roll was given by Mr Martin Hayward and Mr Roger Wilkinson,





 Representing the children and young people of the Parish, Teni and Fikummi Adeloye played their part



All of these presentations provided a symbolic pointer of the ministry at Christ Church for the incumbent.

The music group excelled at bringing us into God's presence with appropriate songs of worship.



After the service there were bountiful amazing cakes and other refreshments which were enjoyed by the many who went through to the hall.

It was a great day to signal the start of Sharon's ministry in this parish and we look forward to what is to come as we minister together in the future. As a parish representative it is good to see God's choice of leader instituted after nearly a year of interregnum.

Alan Goddard & Caroline Bailey

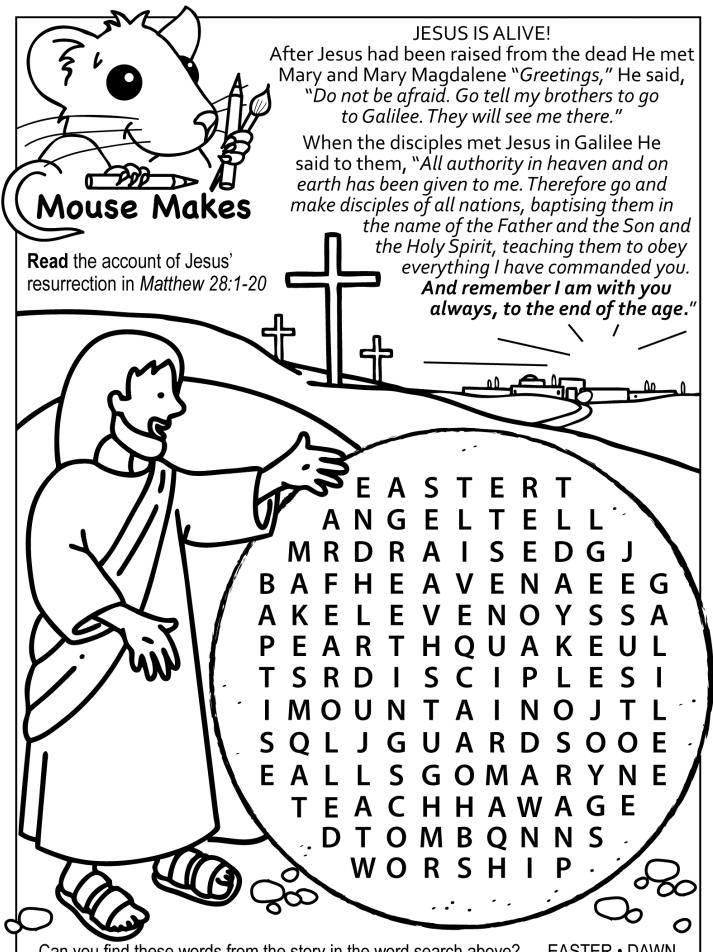
The Bible verse of 2018

A Bible app, YouVersion, has named Isaiah 41:10 as the most popular verse of 2018.

That verse has been posted, bookmarked, and highlighted more times than any other on the app (which has been downloaded more than 350,000 times around the world).

Isaiah 41:10 reads: 'So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.' The verse also came top in Chile, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Perus, South Africa, Spain and the United States.

But in the UK, for 2018, we preferred Jeremiah 29:11: 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to proper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'



Can you find these words from the story in the word search above? EASTER • DAWN DAY • MARY • TOMB • EARTHQUAKE • ANGEL • HEAVEN • ROLLED • STONE • GUARDS JESUS • RAISED • FEAR • JOY • RAN • GREETINGS • TELL • DISCIPLES • SEE • ELEVEN GALILEE • MOUNTAIN • WORSHIP • ALL • GO • MAKE • BAPTISE • TEACH • END • AGE

Mystery Sudoku

Sudoku with a twist – solve the puzzle and you'll discover that one of the rows/columns/blocks spells out a word, phrase, place or a song

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	ОМС		0ТН		6V1			
			6V1			NGD		
ОМС	NGD		EW	TTH			MA	0ТН
0ТН		OME						EW

Last edition's sudoku solution

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	NDB	AR	ALT	PAR	GAS	MEL	HAS	CHI	ORA	
	MEL	GAS	HAS	ORA	CHI	AR	NDB	PAR	ALT	
	CHI	ORA	PAR	ALT	NDB	HAS	GAS	AR	MEL	

GASPAR MELCHIOR AND BALTHASAR

Word Search

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

April brings us to Easter – the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ - the triumphant highlight of the Christian year. As St Paul pointed out, unless Jesus really did rise again, our faith is useless, and we may as well forget any hope of heaven or eternal life.

PASSOVER	SOLDIERS
BREAD	CROSS
WINE	NAILS
BODY	VINEGAR
BLOOD	TEMPLE
BETRAYAL	CURTAIN
JERUSALEM	TOMB
PILATE	ANGEL
JUDAS	STONE
GETHSEMANE	RISEN
TRIAL	GARDENER
CRUCIFIXION	MARY

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It was Lent, so they took it back

History of Tea & Toys

I recently spent a lovely morning chatting to Doreen Turvey about the history of **Tea & Toys** and I thought you might be interested to hear what she told me, and a bit more about the group that meets on a Wednesday afternoon.

Tea & Toys first began in 1973, the founder members being Doreen Turvey, Muriel Spooner and Dorothy Jones (the wife at the time to the Vicar of Christ Church, Gordon Jones). The first session was also attended by Ann Waghorn, the Woman's Worker and staff member at the church, to see how they got on. Six mums attended that first session, including Alison Pauls who went on to become a stalwart member of Christ Church and the flower arranging. manage Doreen's husband, Rodney, was also an unsung hero in the smooth running of Tea & Toys, building cupboards for storage and repairing broken toys!

Back then, the charge was 60 pence per family (this has only increased to £1 per family now). Those who attended were met with a warm welcome from the helpers and a place to relax and enjoy meeting other parents/carers, whilst the children enjoyed a Bible story and song time. When the weather was good, the children were able to play outside and every summer, families were invited to a picnic with a bouncy castle.

Freda Skillman became Doreen's long-term colleague (praying weekly for the families) but other helpers

included May Neale, Kath Harris, Andrea Owen and Pat Hemmington.

Tea & Toys has undergone a few changes over the years and one of the biggest challenges came when the new hall was being built and the group met in the undercroft for a while. Health and Safety regulations and GDPR have meant that the group now has to ask all parents to fill in registration forms which obviously involves an annoying but essential layer of admin!



The faces have changed (the group is now led by Jo Gavin, Maureen Grandini, Pauline Dugard, Steph Fargie and myself). Judith Motto was a long-time helper for many years and we were sad to see her leave a few years ago.

However, we hope and pray that the great legacy that Doreen and so many other faithful people started so many years ago can be carried on into the future. Tea and Toys is currently seeing approximately 40 families per week which makes for a very noisy and challenging story time! However, it is also a wonderful opportunity for outreach and we would ask that you

pray for Tea and Toys and that we will continue to show the love of Jesus to all the families that attend.



If you would like to come and help us with providing tea, coffee and a friendly face, please come and speak to one of us. Also, if you know of any parents/carers who would value a group like this, we would love to see them.

Paula Lynch

Tea & Toys

Every Wednesday from 1pm until 3pm during school term time, our bright spacious halls provide a wonderful drop-in for parents and carers in the community with pre-school children.

Adults can relax and chat together while babies, toddlers and children up to 4-years old play with a variety of toys and equipment, including role-play, playdoh and ride-on toys.

Sessions include a song time with handheld instruments and a short Bible story. Juice, biscuits and a cup of tea or coffee are included in the cost of £1 per family.

Round, like a circle in a spiral, like a wheel within a wheel...

Many years ago, at the Pleasure Beach at Blackpool, there was a certain 'ride' or amusement that was strictly for the physically fit. It consisted of a flat wooden disc about 20 feet (6m) in diameter and set at an angle of 45 degrees in the floor. When it began to rotate, the aim was to get to the centre where there was a pole. As the disc rotated faster and faster, everyone who failed to get to the pole got flung off. Nowadays there's probably a regulation banning it as far too dangerous!

The principle of the game was a basic law of physics. When any wheel rotates, the outer rim moves fastest of all. Half way to the centre and you are moving a lot more slowly. And, at least theoretically, at the absolute centre will be a point which is totally still. That's why anyone who reached that pole could stand there quite comfortably.

We have just started the Church's season of Lent. It's generally thought of as being a time for giving up chocolate, wine, whatever. But it's really a time to remind us that in our own rapidly spinning world, God is the still centre.

All around God is motion, sound, change and decay – galaxies circling, seasons and years rotating, life developing and decaying. And at the still centre, where there is no variableness, is God, the same yesterday, today and forever.

At Christmas, we thanked God for entering the ever moving and changing life of the world. But one great characteristic of Jesus was His stillness. Busy, harassed, injured people found someone with neither clever chat nor idle gossip, neither vulgar boasting nor loud opinion. His life always seemed to rotate round a still central point, which gave Him His balance and authority.

"Be still then and know that I am God" wrote the Psalmist. Lent is a time for us to stop and remember that. Lent is a good time to be a little more silent than usual - quicker to listen and slower to speak. And the more silent spaces we give ourselves, the more we'll give that still, small Voice within.

God's stillness is still full of energy. That still centre of the spinning disc is also the point which drives the rest of the rotating circle. Equally, when we're in touch with that still centre, we'll be able to give strength and support to those who feel they're spinning at the edges.

Being still does mean that we need to take time to pause, to take stock, to take a critical look at our lives. That's what Lent is about. On the spinning discs of our own lives, we need to remember that there is a still centre, calm and yet full of energy – which is where God is.

Rev Dr Gary Bowness

Safeguarding and You

The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults in our churches is of utmost importance and the Diocese and Christ Church takes its responsibilities in this area very seriously.

In 2017, the House of Bishops published the Safeguarding Training and Development Practice Guidance for staff and volunteers in churches.

The training is divided into various modules. **CO** provides a basic awareness of safeguarding for everyone and **C1** is more detailed for those people involved in activities with Children and Young people or vulnerable adults. Both modules **must** be completed by anyone volunteering with Children and Young People.

If you are were unable to attend our recent **CO** training session in Church, it is available on-line at https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org/ You will need to register beforehand, there are a number of slides with information and some quizzes to complete. Once you have completed the module, they will send you an email to confirm. Please let Jennie Mapp (jenniemapp@gmail.com) know if you do this course online so that we have a record of those who have completed the course.

c1 training must also be completed if you are involved in activities with Children or Young people either on a Sunday or during the week, this can also be done this on-line as above – also if you are involved with caring for our vulnerable adults. Currently we do not have a session planned for this however if you prefer **not** to do this on-line please advise and we can look to organise something in the near future. Again, once completed please advise Jennie Mapp.

2019 Diary...

Sunday 3rd March

10.30am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Worship

Ash Wednesday, 6th March

8.00pm Holy Communion



Sunday 10th March

9.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 6.30pm Evening Worship

Sunday 17th March

10.30am Morning Worship 6.30pm Holy Communion

Sunday 24th March

9.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 6.30pm Evening Worship



Mothering Sunday, 31st March Clocks go forward one hour

9.00am Holy Communion10.30am All Age Worship6.30pm Evening Worship

Wednesday 3rd April

10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 7th April

10.30am Holy Communion 6.30pm Evening Worship

Palm Sunday, 14th April

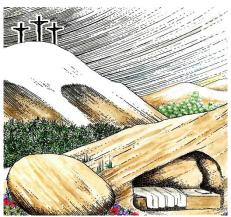
9.00am Holy Communion10.30am All Age Worship6.30pm Evening Worship

Maundy Thursday, 18th April

8.00pm Holy Communion

Good Friday, 19th April

2.00pm Good Friday Meditation



Easter Sunday, 21st April

9.00am Said Holy Communion10.30am All Age Holy Communion6.30pm No evening service

Sunday 28th April

9.00am Holy Communion10.30am Morning Worship – APCM6.30pm No evening service – APCM

On the Grapevine

WITH SYMPATHY

We remember those who have recently passed away:

Barbara Beavon

new winepress May & June 2019

Is there a forthcoming church event you would like to promote or write about one that has just happened (special days, weddings, baptisms etc), then new winepress may just be the place to tell everyone about it!

The copy (closing) date for articles for the next issue is **Friday 5th April**

Please email your articles to our editor

Vernon at vandjmapp@gmail.com

If you need more time, contact

If you need more time, contact Vernon on 01689 832433

NB due to copyright issues we have had in the past, can you please make sure any pictures photo's etc can be reproduced with permission

Article A piece of writing included with others in a newspaper, magazine, publication etc.

Front cover

Acknowledgements

Making Sense of Lent; Women's ordination – 25 years on; The Bible verse of 2018; Mouse; Word Search; Cartoon; Round, like a circle in a spiral, like a wheel within a wheel..., Page 16 reproduced courtesy of www.parishpump.co.uk

Children's Groups

On Sunday's

During Morning Services:

The Rainbow Room Crèche is a fun, supervised soft play facility available on Sunday mornings for babies and children aged 0-3 years (inclusive)

3 to 7 years and meet in the Small Hall. Activities each week include singing, Bible stories, games and craft

7 to 11 years and meet in the Large Hall for singing and crafts in a framework of Christian teaching

Pathfinders is for young people aged 11 to 14+ and meet in the basement of the church for games, videos, drama and discussions, looking at the Bible and discussing relevant issues

During Evening Services:

"**Juice**" meet on alternate Sunday evenings (6.30pm – 8pm) in the Undercroft at Christ Church.

Juice is for young people who are year 10+ and is a place where you can be yourself and hear something about how great our God is!

ATSOC POD (for those year 11+) meet bi-weekly at Costa, Tesco, 4pm – 5pm

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BBC to run a 'Year of Beliefs'

The BBC is going to 'shine a light' on faith and spiritual values in Britain today by running a year of programmes dedicated to religion and ethics.

The move comes a year after the BBC promised to 'raise our game' in the way that it treated religion. That promise followed a year-long review of its religious and ethics output.

So what series should we look out for? Here are just some:

On BBC 1, *Earth's Sacred Wonders* will look at the rituals and monuments of faith around the world; *Medical Ethics* will be a documentary filmed at Great Ormond Street Hospital; and *Pregnant and Platonic* will be a documentary on people who have children without being in a romantic relationship.

On BBC 2, *Inside the Vatican* will show a year in the life of the Vatican community, including Pope Francis; and the popular *Pilgrimage* series will return.

The Bishop of Repton, the Rt. Revd. Jan McFarlane, who chairs the Sandford St Martin Trust, welcomed the BBC's plans. Especially "bringing issues of faith, belief and ethics to as wide an audience as possible."

Moses and IT

When you think about it, Moses was the first one to download files from the cloud, using a tablet.

Easter faith

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, 'He is risen indeed!' It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people who have already experienced God, that He does not exist?

Church notice

Easter Sunday we will ask Mrs Cusworth to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Miscellaneous musings on life:

- Why is yawning contagious?
- You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windshield that read: 'Parking Fine'. That was so nice.
- You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive. You never learn to pray until your kids learn to drive.