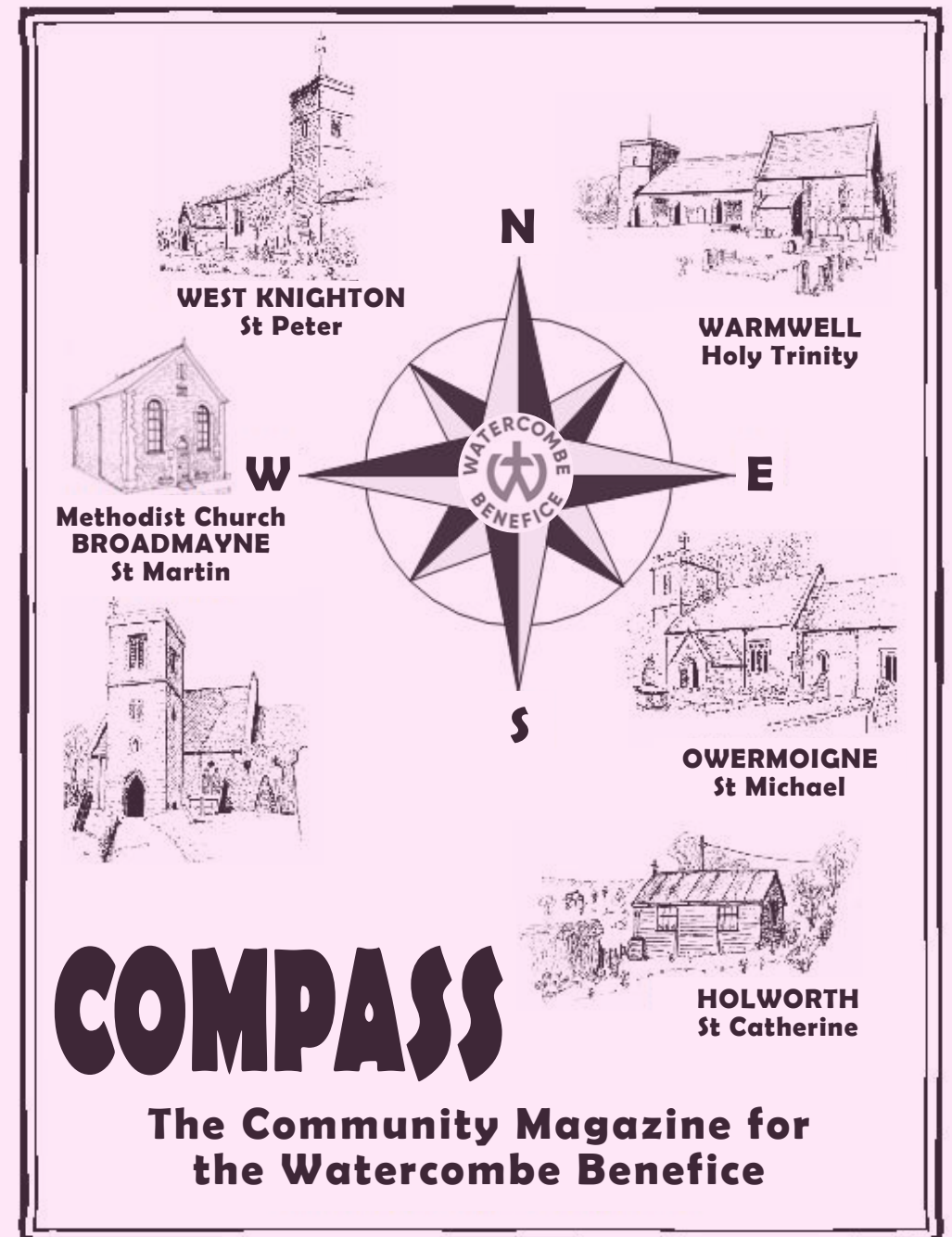




April 2026

Free



Priest in Charge – Rev David Johnson
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The Rectory, Main Street, Broadmayne, DT2 8EB Tel 01305 852435
Benefice web site www.watercombe.org.uk

Enquiries about Baptism, Wedding and Funeral arrangements should be made through Rev David Johnson (Sunday to Wednesday) [Anglican]; or Rev Brenda Stephenson [Methodist].
 Please contact the relevant Church Warden or Steward for anything else.

Priest: Rev Anthony Bush, Holworth Farm House, Holworth, DT2 8NH 01305 852242
 email: bushinarcadia@yahoo.co.uk Mobile 07711 794120

Licensed Lay Minister: Mrs Jenny Bagnall, 2 St. Peter's Barn, West Knighton, DT2 8PF 01305 854950

Benefice Secretary: Mrs Julia Denham, 1 The Spinney, Broadmayne, DT2 8UH 01305 852626

Benefice Treasurer: Roger Holehouse, Shepherd's Cottage, Whitcombe, DT2 8NY 01305 261337

Benefice Safeguarding Officer: Carol Wightman 6 Old Brickfields, Broadmayne, DT2 8UY 01305 854385

St. Martin's Church, Broadmayne

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St Martin's Hall Bookings: Tim Clayton, taclayton14@gmail.com 07443 659912

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St. Catherine by the Sea, Holworth

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Ministry Rev Brenda Stephenson, 11 Ellerslie Close, Charminster, DT2 9QQ 01305 459009

Team: Peter Jenner, 1 Vespasian Way, Dorchester, DT1 2RD 01305 751668

Steward: Margaret Eaglestone, Box Cottage, 4 Main Street, B'mayne, DT2 8EB 01305 854229

Methodist Hall Bookings: Wendy Stent, 7 South View, Broadmayne, DT2 8ET 01305 852795

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For rates and details of advertising in this magazine please contact the Editor



Broadmayne, Holworth, Owermoigne, Warmwell and West Knighton
Sunday Services April 2026



	Easter Day 5th April	12th April	19th April	26th April
Broadmayne St Martin	11am Joint Easter Communion at St Martin's		11am Together@11 at St Martin's	8am Holy Communion BCP
Broadmayne Methodist		11am Morning Worship		11am Morning Worship
Holworth	6.00am Lighting the Easter Fire 11am Holy Communion			11am Morning Prayer
Owermoigne	9.30am Holy Communion		9.30am Holy Communion	
Warmwell	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion		
West Knighton		9.30am Holy Communion	6pm Worship & Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion

Methodist & Joint Services **Sunday 5th April** 11am – Joint Anglican/Methodist Easter Communion: at St Martin's

Sunday 12th April 11am – Alan Turner-Smith

Sunday 19th April 11am – Rev David Johnson & Peter Jenner: T@11 at St Martin's

Sunday 26th April 11am – Elizabeth Haynes

Holy Week (See above for Easter Sunday)

Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday
 11.00am United Holy Communion St Michael, Owermoigne

Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday
 7.30pm Holy Communion St Martin, Broadmayne
 With foot washing (optional) followed by silent vigil until 9pm for those who wish to stay

Friday 3rd April Good Friday Pilgrimage — Stations of the Cross
 Timings are approximate – you are welcome to join us
 at any of the stages or accompany those of us who walk the route

10.00am 1st Inside St Peter, West Knighton 2nd Opposite St Peter, West Knighton
 3rd The Green, West Knighton

10.45am 4th Inside at Broadmayne Methodist Church
Coffee and Hot Cross Buns in St Martin's Community Hall

11.45am 5th Inside St Martin, Broadmayne 6th Outside St Martin, Broadmayne

1.30pm 7th Inside Holy Trinity, Warmwell 8th Outside Holy Trinity, Warmwell

2.30pm 9th Inside at St Michael, Owermoigne 10th Outside St Michael, Owermoigne
 11th Chilbury Gardens, Owermoigne

3.45pm 12th At the gate at east end of Ringstead NT car park

4.15pm 13th At the cross, St Catherine, Holworth 14th Inside St. Catherine, Holworth

Tea and Hot Cross Buns at St Catherine, Holworth

Saturday 4th April Easter Eve
 7.00pm Holy Saturday Reflection St Peter, West Knighton



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BENEFACTICE

By Still Waters Tuesday 14th April, 10am (and every 2nd Tuesday of the month)
Reflective prayer and sharing Broadmayne Methodist Church

FROM REV BRENDA STEPHENSON

When did you last begin a new phase in your life? A new job or retirement? Moving house? A new relationship of some kind? Taking up a new interest that becomes very important and alters the shape of your living? Unless you shut yourself away, these things happen, sometimes by your choice and sometimes not, I realise. I think we would be the poorer if they never took place.

If you're feeling young and/or adventurous these can be exciting new avenues to follow. However they can involve steep learning curves, as we call them. Or they may involve times of struggle or disorientation. It's only looking back that we realise they were often times of growth, in character and discernment.

For every new phase, for each slightly new direction, something old probably has to be set aside, let go. We may be ready for this. We may not even notice, if what is new is obviously good and fulfilling. On the other hand, we may sense that this is something we must do to be true to ourselves, or need to do for some other reason, and we are understandably hesitant. In my own life I've found that the seed of an idea grows if it is something I should follow.

Early in April we shall celebrate Easter – new life, tragedy and suffering turned upside down, transformation. It's obvious that for this resurrection Jesus had to let go, lay aside his very life. He had to die. Naturally he too was hesitant. On the cross he was disoriented. Yet he believed this was what he had to do. He had to go through with it to be true to himself, to his calling, and to the God he called Father – or should I say Dad? There is no doubt that this involved suffering for Jesus. Crucifixion was a form of torture as well as a way of killing. And I doubt we can understand what it meant for Jesus to feel that God had abandoned him; God with whom he shared an intimate relationship and whose purposes he spent his life putting into practice.

It probably seems that I have approached resurrection from the wrong direction. Why start with the new life which involves letting go some of the old? Because that is where we find ourselves. New life, transformation, suffering turned upside down are what we are offered by following the way of Jesus. We will discover that we too can call him Abba, Father – something a devout Jew would never have done. (For it suggests a closeness and intimacy of relationship they would not have believed appropriate or possible.) It will require us to let go some of our priorities and lay down some of our cherished ideas, not least about ourselves. (And I don't necessarily mean negative ones.) But my testimony is that this is overwhelmingly worthwhile. It may go against the grain, but then, Jesus was no conformist. We are called to be different from the crowd, to be countercultural in the way we think about life, money, individualism, who is important... perhaps you would like to add some more.

How about being open to a new phase in your life? One of spending time with the Jesus story, listening and discovering where this might lead.

Have a joyful Easter,

Brenda

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COMMUNITY



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St Mary's Students Shine Through Creativity, Leadership and Music!

March has been a vibrant and memorable month at St Mary's, filled with creativity, community spirit and remarkable opportunities for students to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

Year 8 Launch 'Make Your Mark' Community Leadership Projects

Year 8 students gathered in the school hall for the highly anticipated launch of Make Your Mark – a new initiative empowering pupils to design and lead a community project of their choice between now and June. The programme encourages students to become outward-looking, community-minded citizens. Throughout the coming months, every Year 8 student will plan and deliver a project aimed at making a tangible difference in the local area. Whether students choose to improve shared spaces, support local residents, raise awareness for a cause they care about, or design a service to help others, each project will give them the opportunity to develop teamwork, leadership and communication skills. More importantly, they will learn how their ideas – when combined with determination and collaboration – can create lasting, positive change. The launch morning sparked excitement, with students already planning thoughtful and imaginative ways to contribute to the community, from supporting elderly members of their community with jobs around the house, to environmental projects. Look out for our students making a difference near you!



World Book Day: An Explosion of Adjectives and Creativity World Book Day brought colour, laughter and literary magic to St Mary's as students and staff embraced this year's theme: dress as an adjective. Classrooms filled with everything from "sparkly" to "mysterious," "gigantic" to "chaotic," with costumes capturing the descriptive power of language in wonderfully inventive ways. Another highlight was the school-wide "Decorate Your Door" competition. Each class transformed their classroom door into an artistic celebration of a favourite book. From beautifully illustrated classics to bold modern titles, the corridors became a walking gallery of literature. The creativity on display made judging incredibly difficult, and the event brought the whole school community together in the spirit of reading for pleasure.



Musicians Represent St Mary's at Bryanston Orchestral Day

A select group of St Mary's talented young musicians received a special invitation this month to attend Bryanston School's Orchestral Day. The event brought together musicians from across the region for a day of ensemble playing, expert coaching and inspiring musical experiences. Students enjoyed rehearsals led by Bryanston's specialist music staff, the thrill of performing alongside new peers, and the chance to stretch their musical skills in a high-level environment. The day concluded with a showcase performance, leaving students buzzing with confidence and motivation. Their participation was a credit to St Mary's flourishing music department and a celebration of the dedication these young musicians show in developing their craft.



March has highlighted the many talents of our students and their commitment to making a difference both within and beyond the school gates. We now look ahead to an equally exciting summer term and the inspiring community projects Year 8 will unveil in June.

e-mail: office@stmaryscemiddle.uk website: www.stmaryscemiddleschool.co.uk

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Dr Tim Ennion (Head of School)





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COMMUNITY

Crossways Youth & Community Centre – Forthcoming events

4 April – 9am to 12 noon – Spring Fayre – A variety of stalls, including our community café full of munchies! Free pitches via bookings@crosswaysycc.org

11 April – 7pm – Screen Quiz at Moreton Village Hall – £10 per person to include a ploughman's supper – plus Raffle but bring your own refreshments! Tickets via buytickets.at/moretonvillagehall/2112789



BOCKHAMPTON & DISTRICT
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Derwen Organic Farm Visit – West Stafford – Friday 17th April – 11am

We invite all of our members to attend this informative visit to our local family-run organic farm. Guests are invited to attend £5pp for the farm visit and talk.

Parking is at the village hall, and we will walk as a group to the venue at 10.30am. We expect the visit to take approximately an hour and afterwards we invite you to the village hall to enjoy homemade soup and bread – the cost for this lunch will be £2.50pp. For catering purposes we need members and guests to confirm that they require lunch by Wednesday 15th April to jacquie.walton@outlook.com.

If you would like to consider full membership for free entry to our 2026 programme the cost is £7.50; please email our membership secretary adrian-edwards@btconnect.com

The Occasional Singers: Choral Masterworks

Sunday 17 May 7.00pm at

St Mary's Church, Edward Road, Dorchester DT1 2HL

The Church will resound to the glorious music of Handel, Bach and Mendelssohn when The Occasional Singers present a concert of short choral pieces for choir with chamber orchestra.

They will be joined by the outstanding young Soprano Sumei Bao-Smith as they run the gamut of emotions from the joyful, energetic vigour of Handel's 'Let God Arise' to the tender romantic passion of Mendelssohn's Psalm 42. The programme includes the famous soprano aria 'Scherza Infida' from Handel's Ariodante.

Entrance is FREE. There will be a retiring collection for Weldmar Hospicecare.

Everyone is most welcome.



Crossways Library

Opening Hours

Monday:	2:30pm to 5pm (supported by volunteers)
Tuesday:	10am to Midday (supported by volunteers) and 2pm to 5pm
Wednesday:	10am to 1pm and 2:30pm to 5pm (supported by volunteers)
Thursday:	10am to 1pm
Friday:	Midday to 6pm
Saturday:	10am to 1pm
Sunday:	Closed

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COMMUNITY

Music at St Peter's, Dorchester

We hope you can join us at St Peter's Church Dorchester this month for the many concerts, choral services and musical events that are taking place, including choral services and performances through Holy Week and over the Easter Weekend

Maundy Thursday 2nd April, 7pm: Choral Eucharist, which is free to attend, includes works by Gibbons, Duruflé and William Byrd.

Good Friday 3rd April, 6pm: Stainer's Crucifixion with soloists Paul Heaslip (tenor) and Jonathan Prentice (bass). The performance is offered as an act of worship, so admission is free and all are welcome.

Easter Sunday 5th April, 10.30am: Choral Eucharist with a joyful programme of music by William Harris, Mozart and Stanford, along with the now traditional closing 'Hallelujah Chorus'!

Saturday 11th April, 4.30pm: Choral Evensong for Easter includes Vaughan Williams's 'Rise heart, thy Lord is risen', David Beeby's 'Preces & Responses', Stanford's 'Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in Bb' and Hadley's 'My beloved spake'. The service is free to attend and followed by a glass of wine!

Saturday 18th April, 12.30pm – 1.00pm: the lunchtime concert is a programme of works for violin and organ performed by husband-and-wife duo Christina and Graham Scott, who enjoy busy performing careers alongside their work in the music department at Bryanston School. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Do look out for our latest Summer Music Brochure, which is available through the website or in print from the back of the church.

Keep up with events via our website: www.musicatstpetersdorchester.org If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, subscribe through the website or drop us a line at: musicatstpeters@mail.com All of our social media and contact details can be found at: linktr.ee/musicatstpeters

WEST KNIGHTON / BROADMAYNE

Broadmayne and West Knighton Women's Institute

Thursday 9th April at 7pm
Broadmayne Village Hall

Annual Meeting Followed by Michelle Leonard Clifton Rapist!!

Ladies interested in the WI please come along
and meet us or for more information contact:

E:mail bandwkwi@gmail.com



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Knightsford Parish Council Meeting Dates

Wednesday 13 May 2026, 7.30 pm, West Stafford Village Hall
ANNUAL MEETING. This is a meeting for electors



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BROADMAYNE

BROADMAYNE PARISH COUNCIL – notes from the March 2026 meeting

Public participation (i) Two residents present commented on their experience when attempting to contact Dorset Council to deal with flooding in a local residential road which was affecting their property. They explained that this incident highlighted two issues: (a) The need to ensure that the emergency supply of sandbags held in the container at the Village Hall car park is adequate. In response, the Parish Clerk reported that a further stock of sandbags had been ordered and has since been delivered. (b) Some shortcomings with the emergency response from Dorset Council. When the residents phoned DC, having made it clear that pumping was required, they were informed that DC staff would attend, but staff simply put out a “Flood” road sign. A pumping lorry arrived the following day and when questioned they reported that the initial request made had not been passed on to them. The details of this incident, and the communication shortfall were passed to Dorset Cllr Tarr. It has since been confirmed that the adjacent drainage ditch which contributed to this problem is to be dug out by DC Highways staff. (ii) A member of the public wished to question again whether the ‘haul road’ for the agreed development on land adjacent to Broadmead is still intended to be constructed. It was confirmed that it is intrinsic to the development. The same resident commented on planning application P/ADV/2026/00867 for the proposed advertising board on the land adjacent to Broadmead. He remarked that he felt that the chosen site for it is appropriate, as its proposed location is at a point where there are no current dwellings directly overlooking it. (iii) A further resident remarked on a trench which has been dug alongside a section of Knighton Lane which appears to present a hazard to road users. This point was noted. Cllr Tarr remarked that DC Highways are already in consultation with the occupier of the land on a number of points.

Planning and Tree Matters Consultations Received: P/ADV/2026/00867 Land Adjacent Broadmead Broadmayne. Advertising board with two artworks for pre-marketing and marketing stages. Parish Council members present had no comment to make. Planning matters received after publication of the agenda: None. On another matter related to Planning, the Parish Council noted the receipt of a communication from the Dorset Association of Parish & Town Councils on behalf of Dorset Council with a questionnaire about employment land in each parish. This is intended to help inform a future further round of consultation on the Dorset Local Plan. DC have assured us that the general public will be given opportunities to comment on the draft Dorset Local Plan in due course.

Reports Dorset Council Ward Member: (i) Dorset Cllr Tarr commented on some points raised by DC with the occupier of the land adjacent to Knighton Lane. It is understood that an electricity supply is shortly to be installed. This is expected to eliminate the need for the generator currently being used. Cllr Tarr also reported that a number of other points requiring action have been raised with the occupier by DC Highways and by the DC Planning Team. (ii) Cllr Tarr commented further on the flooding incident (see “Public Participation” above). He had held a meeting with the DC Flood Manager who noted the evident communication problem and will review and improve the relevant instructions for the public given on the DC Website about what to do when a property is at risk of flooding. Playing Field Association: The BPFA are progressing maintenance issues with the pavilion hot water system, the referee door which requires replacement, repair to the multi-play unit in the children’s play area, and football pitch improvement work. The grounds maintenance contractors have used their “quadraplay” system to groom the football pitch to good effect. Village Hall: The next meeting is on 15th April 2026, at 7:30pm, and is the Village Hall Trustees’ AGM, as well as the normal quarterly meeting.

Governance Matters The Parish Council dealt with a number of matters of governance and internal control. These included detailed reviews and updating where necessary of the Internal Control Plan / Internal Audit checklist, the Council’s Financial Regulations and Standing Orders, its Register of Assets, and the extent and levels of cover provided by its insurance policy.

Other matters of report The Clerk reported on the following matters: (i) Allotments: ►

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BROADMAYNE

There have been no new additions to the waiting list. Two currently vacant plots have both been offered to the next two people on the waiting list and decisions are awaited from them. (ii) Footpaths: There is no further news on the missing bridge on the right of way between Washponds and West Knighton. Reminder: this bridge is not within Broadmayne Parish, but the matter was taken up with the relevant DC Ranger and the Parish Council have been told that DC hope to deal with this when further budget becomes available in the new financial year. (iii) Road works: Two notifications of temporary road closures to enable safe working for contractors had been received from DC Highways for March, and for 30th April, B3390, Moreton, for 1 day (Main Street is part of diversion route. [Cllr Ellis](#) reported on an enquiry which has been sent on behalf of a resident to the designated planning officer at Dorset Council for the development on the land adjacent to Broadmead. This concerns a request for screening on the haul road, and is intended to help avoid startling livestock on adjacent land.

Next meeting The next meeting (the Parish Council's AGM) will take place on **Monday 13th April 2026** in the Methodist Church Hall, unless otherwise advised. Parishioners are always welcome to attend and speak at council meetings during 'public participation'. Agendas are posted on the village notice boards and the website approximately a week before the meeting. For the full minutes please see the website www.broadmayne.org

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Broadmayne Village Hall AGM

The village hall AGM is being held on Wednesday 15th April 2026 @19:30 in the committee room at the hall. All are welcome to attend the meeting. Currently the vice chairperson post is vacant, if anyone thinks they could take this role on. If you want further details please email bookingsbvhall@gmail.com and one of the trustees will contact you.

BPFA LOTTERY March 2026

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£5 R. Ferneyhough
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Fridays 10 am - 12 noon at the Methodist Church

We are CLOSED Good Friday, 3rd April

Warm Welcome Wednesdays
Are taking a break

The last meeting of this winter's sessions will be on
WEDNESDAY 1st April
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10am – 12 noon

Many, many thanks to the volunteers who served the coffees, teas, & biscuits, and to all those who came and shared enjoyable mornings together.

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BROADMAYNE

BROADMAYNE WEATHER REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2026 by Ted Byrne

From the weather station situated at 23 Watergates Lane

The end of February signified the end of the meteorological winter, one of the wettest on record in the south of England. The blocked weather pattern that made January such a wet month kept south-easterlies feeding us with lots of rain during February as well. We didn't get 55 consecutive wet days as they did at Cardinham in Cornwall, but in February we did get 21 days of rain, adding up to 186mm for the month and 450mm for the year to date. Some of that rain was quite heavy, the wettest day being the 18th with 37mm and on two other days rainfall exceeded 20mm. All in all it is not surprising that there has been the degree of flooding that we have seen in this part of the country.

February may have been wet, but it was also mild, as this winter generally has been. The temperature dropped to freezing on only one day, the 17th, and in fact we had just a handful of days when it dropped below 5°C. We did get one or two sunny days and on these the temperatures were very pleasant, with the best being the 15.8°C we enjoyed on the 25th. Nature, judging by how many plants were flowering and how many birds had started building their nests, decided that winter was over well before the first of March. We have to hope that the old adage which says that if March comes in like a lamb it goes out like a lion, doesn't come true this year.

Maximum temperature: 15.8°C on the 25th	Minimum temperature 0°C on the 17th
Wettest day: 37mm on the 18th	Days with rainfall (0.5mm or more): 21
Total rainfall for the month: 186mm	Total rainfall for the year: 450mm

More details are available in real time on www.watergatesweather.co.uk. You will see temperatures in degrees Fahrenheit. If you would prefer centigrade click on the settings button at the top right hand corner of the screen and select °C.

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 COMMUNITY HALL

Tuesdays
 14th & 28th April

Come along for coffee, tea and biscuits while enjoying a friendly chat. Put the dates in your diary or on your calendar and pass the message around to friends and neighbours. Everyone is welcome so do join us. We look forward to seeing you.

COMPASS ONLINE: Compass can be accessed online as a downloadable pdf file. Either search Watercombe Benefice and then click or tap on the News tab, or type <https://watercombe.org.uk/news> into your browser. If you would like a printed edition, these are available at various outlets in the villages, but most reliably from the churches

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BROADMAYNE

BROADMAYNE FIRST SCHOOL

Despite it being a rather short half term, our school has continued to *fly high* with a wonderful range of exciting learning opportunities and community experiences.

We began the half term with a fantastic event hosted by Year 3: a Fairtrade Café. The children worked incredibly hard to prepare delicious food and drinks, all made using Fairtrade ingredients. Their efforts paid off, and pupils across the school enjoyed sampling the treats during breaktimes.

We were also delighted to welcome Artsreach, who organised a vibrant Turkish Folk Dance workshop for the whole school. The hall was filled with music, movement, and laughter as every child embraced the chance to try something new.

Book Week was another highlight, celebrating our shared love of reading. Families joined us for *Read to a Relative*, and we introduced the *Mask Reader*, challenging children to guess which member of staff was reading behind the disguise. We rounded off the week in style with World Book Day, filling the school with an array of book characters brought to life by the children's brilliant costumes.

Sport has been a strong theme this half term too. Children have been taking part in *Chance to Shine* cricket sessions each Friday, as well as enjoying a special tennis taster session that introduced them to new skills and games.

Year 4 have been especially busy, rehearsing for their upcoming singing concert at Thomas Hardy School. This event is a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase their musical talents alongside other local first schools. Excitement is also building for their residential trip to Hooke Court at the end of term – a milestone experience they are very much looking forward to.

As we head into our final week, there is still plenty to enjoy. We are expecting a visit from the Easter Bunny, our church volunteers will be joining Year 1 to create beautiful Easter Gardens, and we will be hosting our very first Easter Bonnet Parade – a lovely way to bring the whole community together.

We are always open to visits to our school, and anyone interested would be warmly welcomed.

It may have been a short half term, but it has certainly been joyful and memorable!

BROADMAYNE, BUMPS, BABIES AND BEYOND!

When you receive this copy of the Compass magazine we shall be in the Easter holidays. We shall return to our usual weekly sessions on Monday 13th April. You may be reading this for the first time if so here is some information about the group. We meet in St. Martin's Community Hall (next to the Church) at 10am on Monday mornings during term time. The group is for anyone at home looking after the under 5s. We have parents, grandparents and childminders who come along with their little ones. There are toys to play with, snacks for the children, tea/coffee for the adults and most importantly a friendly welcome and a listening ear in a supportive setting. All this for just £2 per family. We look forward to seeing you all, old and new friends, on Monday 13th April. Happy Easter to everyone.

If you would like to know more about the group why not come along to one of our sessions or ring one of the numbers below.

Carol 854385, Leri 07879 405698; Pam 852648



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OWERMOIGNE

Owermoigne Village Hall – April

This month's main events are:

• **Saturday 4th April is ELVIS and Friends plus Pizza night...**

Come along for an evening of music commencing at 7:30pm – details will be on noticeboard and newsletter – contact Derek Woodward on 07976 058158 to book. Pay in advance only £10 per person.

The Firehouse Pizzeria will be ready to serve delicious pizzas from about 6pm. You can order in advance (see their Facebook page for the menu) or come along and order on the night.

• **Village Market, Saturday 11th April, 10am**

Visit our monthly market for fresh foodstuffs, plants, gift ideas and delicious tea, coffee and homemade cakes. Please come along to support local makers and growers and Owermoigne's wonderful village hall.

• **Table-top sale Saturday 25th April.**

Doors open 10:30 contact Derek Woodward on 07976 058158 for details

ADVANCE NOTICE – Owermoigne Open Gardens June 20th and 21st

Our regular events are:

Village coffee mornings, 14th & 28th April

In April we meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays so come along between 10.30am and 12 noon to receive a warm welcome. We have shelves full of books for you to borrow and you can also get help with any digital issues you may have. We'll be pleased to see you.

Group guitar lessons

Wednesday 22nd April 7-8pm. Contact Nick for more info at nickandjudy@hotmail.com

Owermoigne painters

Our friendly painting group welcomes new members. We meet on Friday 10am-12noon, except the last Friday of the month. Contact nigel_baker@icloud.com

Short mat bowls

The Short Mat Bowls Club usually meets on the first and third Saturdays from 10am till 12 noon. We welcome new members so contact Rob Burgess on 07836 386088 if you're interested in learning a new game.

Table tennis every Thursday

Table tennis at 10am. Come along to join in or call Margo on 07887 685199.

Dog Training Club

Peter Gibbins runs a number of classes on Thursday evenings from 6.30pm. Call him to check availability on 07767 147248.

The Village Hall also hosts a wide variety of clubs and societies and everyone is welcome. Please see the separate adverts for **Owermoigne Flower Club, Pilates classes** with Deni and **Yoga classes** with Kaly.

You can see event bookings online at <https://owermoignedorset.com/calendar>
 Contact Margaret Burgess on 07909 718569 to book the hall or send an e-mail to her at crozlemargaret1950@gmail.com

You can find the village Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/owermoigne/>

Owermoigne Lent Lunch

Very many thanks to all who supported this years' Lent Lunch in Owermoigne: through your generosity we were able to donate £239.00 to Weldmar to support their great work.

Many thanks also to Roger & Hilary for the rolls; Jen, Phillipa and Chris for providing the soup, apples and cheese etc; kitchen and waiting staff; and June for her lovely spring table arrangements. Also the village hall – a super venue.

Jill Lawton

NEW! Owermoigne ladies walking group

Our first walk will be on April 15th at Thornecombe Woods, 10 am.

If you would like more details please contact Sarah Power, 07919 551317.

PILATES CLASSES with *Denise Bowditch* in Owermoigne Village Hall
Mondays 11am Multi Level **Tuesdays 6 pm Multi Level**
Wednesdays 10am Beginners/No Rush, no pressure
Mondays 9am on Zoom Virtual Pilates

For more details of the classes and to book your place, please contact me 07714 836850 or email denbowditch@aol.com

Black Dog News

WHATS ON IN APRIL!
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EASTER!

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STEAK NIGHT!

17th
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OWERMOIGNE

OWERMOIGNE FLOWER CLUB

Jo Richards from the Academy of Floristry in Bournemouth treated us to beautiful spring flowers, lots of pussy willow and innovative arrangements. Jo's

enthusiasm is infectious and we were amazed with what you can do with a cast-off grid from a table fan. Recycle, reuse is her motto. A very enjoyable afternoon for us all.

In April visitors are very welcome to join us for a talk and demonstration on container gardening as part of our Gold Club membership of the Gardens Group. Our local connection is through the Poundbury garden centre and I'm sure we'll all be inspired to improve our garden pots this summer.

In May, Area demonstrator Sarah Brooker will give us a floral demonstration on a theme. We're already working on our Open demonstration afternoon in June, at Moreton Village Hall. Our plant stall was a great success in 2024 so we're busy dividing, potting and propagating to give visitors lots to purchase.

We meet at Owermoigne Village Hall at 2pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. For further information contact Sue Legg 07775741439 or email: owermoigneflowerc@gmail.com Visitors £7 per afternoon. Annual subscription is £40



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Owermoigne Photography Group

2026 Village Project

The village photography group would like to spend time in 2026 documenting our village and the people who live here.

The Group consists of about 12 members who gather once a month in the Cricket Club to discuss photography, plan excursions and think up other photographic activities. Recently we thought that it would lovely to illustrate the beauty of the village we live in, as well as the people who make it such a special place.

We want to cover the whole year, from the recent pantomime through to this Christmas seeing the seasonal changes and documenting the jobs and lives of the residents. We have residents who do all sorts of unusual jobs like leather work, shepherding etc, which would be great to record.

We would also love to cover some of the shows in the Village Hall as well as village events like the 'Open gardens scheme'.

Early in 2027 we will hope to have collated enough good quality shots to mount an exhibition in the Village Hall and we would like to eventually produce a photography book which we would print on an ad hoc basis for anyone who would like to own one.

We hope that everyone will enjoy participating but of course we appreciate that some people might not want themselves or their houses photographed. We will ask permissions individually and allocate roles between us as we tend to favour different areas of photography. We are all keen amateurs but all enjoy pushing ourselves in different photographic directions!

We welcome any ideas from residents for projects, people, pets and places that have relevance to Owermoigne, so please don't hesitate to get in touch with those of us listed below (or speak to any of the group members you might know).

Ross MacGibbon rossamacgibbon@gmail.com

Neil Legg neillegg1410@gmail.com

Carol Legg carollegg412@gmail.com

Thanking you in anticipation

Ross



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OWERMOIGNE

Owermoigne Cricket and Social Club

The night was buzzing on 28th February for our Wine and Cheese Quiz. Nine teams of four gathered for the challenge, though the focus was arguably more on the delicious cheese boards than the scoreboard! As the evening progressed, a curious phenomenon occurred: the questions seemed to grow harder in direct proportion to the amount of wine tasted. Between lively debates over the vintages and the wonderful selection of cheeses, the social spirit was in full swing. It was a fantastic turnout and a brilliantly spirited night. Despite the tricky brain-teasers, everyone left in high spirits and, most importantly, not a single soul went home feeling cheated off! A huge thank you to those who hosted the night; Tony, Caroline, Steve and Sarah, who worked tirelessly to keep the evening (and wine) flowing. Also, a huge thanks to everyone who came along and made it such an enjoyable evening. Congratulations to the winning teams!

A friendly reminder that membership fees are now overdue. Thank you to everyone who has already paid; your promptness is greatly appreciated.

Forthcoming Events for April:

- **Thursday, 9th April – 8pm – Annual General Meeting**
- **Thursday, 23rd April – Fish & Chips Supper**, followed by **Col's Quiz**
- **Friday, 24th April – Meat Raffle**

Keep your eyes peeled for posters and emails with details of all our forthcoming events!

Caroline Holmes, OC&SC Secretary

LIFE IN THE 21st CENTURY

What home gadgets do you regret buying?

You know what they are: those things you never knew you needed until you saw one in an advert. Then suddenly you felt that life would never be complete without one.

And so, you brought home the spiraliser that makes vegetables look like spaghetti. And the pasta maker that you can't quite figure out how to use. And the ice-cream maker that makes everything sticky and helped you put on another three pounds. And the robot vacuum which terrorises the cat. As for the bread maker, well at least it makes a good shelf on the kitchen counter.

If this is you, you are not alone. A recent survey has found that 65% of us have experienced 'gadget regret'. It occurs when we buy something and then wonder why we ever bothered, because who needs it anyway?

Top of the list of regrets is the spiralizer – 62% of us woke up one morning to realise that no one needs vegetables to look like spaghetti. Second place belongs to digital picture frames, which 52% of us regret buying. After that comes the pasta maker (45%), the ice-cream maker (42%), VR headsets (35%), the bread maker (31%), the internet-connected exercise equipment (31%) and finally, the robot vacuum (29%).

What do we do with all this stuff? 46% of us keep it, even when we don't want it. 15% of us try and sell the things, while a desperate 14% of us simply throw them away. And 19% of us grimly hang on to them for a year or so, before passing them on to an unsuspecting friend.

ECO TIP OF THE MONTH

Feed the birds in summer? Opinion is divided. There should be more of their natural food available for them to find for themselves. With our changing climate that may not always be the case, so in dry weather, at least leave a tray of water out every day.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Laughter is a property in man essential to his reason.

Lewis Carroll

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Children's page

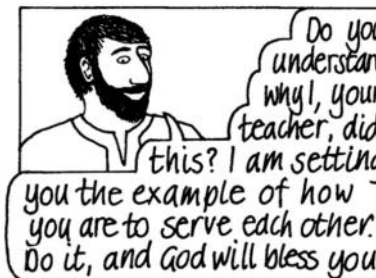
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in
Luke 22:24, John 13:3-17

Jesus and his disciples were celebrating
the Passover with the special meal.
The disciples were bickering again.



There was a reason why no-one wanted to be the least important - the roads were mud and everyone's feet got very dirty.



PUZZLES — 1

CODEBREAKER

Each grid number represents a letter. Every letter of the alphabet appears at least once in the grid.

Some of the words have a connection with the scriptures or a religion in some form or other.

Some words may be (sometimes obscure!) names of people and places. Four letters are given to start you off.

Can you crack the code?

For another letter see page 47

14	11	16	7	23	19	9	23	12	7	1	9	14
9		9		11		25			5		22	
13		8	21	14	14	11		26	21	22	12	7
	21			16		1		8		7		
8	14	11	6	3		24		15	3	22	24	8
	20		3		4	5	5		19		11	
8	3	9	14	12	3		6	22	11	3	8	23
	22		23		14	3	23		18		7	
8	12	22	3	19		17		18	3	26	5	14
	22		12			23		9			6	
8	5	26	5	8		3	10	21	11	6		2
	18		8			22		14		5		9
8	23	9	23	11	5	14	1	9	8	23	3	22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					P				Q	I		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
									T			

Easy SUDOKU

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

Medium SUDOKU

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

PUZZLES — 2

WORDSEARCH

Look in the grid for the **bold underlined** words.

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 **priest** of the Russian **Orthodox Church** politely asked if he could speak. Bukharin shrugged and made way for him. The priest stood next to Bukharin, facing the people, and raised his arms. He spoke just three 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 the atheist politician, who had no response to this **ancient** Easter **liturgy**.

E	Y	L	L	A	R	E	B	I	D	S	N	F
B	C	C	U	U	E	C	N	E	L	I	S	A
T	I	H	F	O	K	C	H	U	R	C	H	I
S	N	A	R	I	R	S	H	A	N	R	T	T
E	D	D	E	I	I	T	H	S	I	O	S	H
I	E	V	W	L	S	K	H	D	S	T	I	R
R	E	V	O	L	U	T	I	O	N	A	R	I
P	D	M	P	B	N	C	I	E	D	R	H	S
S	E	O	R	E	U	I	M	A	S	O	C	E
D	I	S	I	L	S	U	D	I	N	U	X	N
K	I	C	E	Y	G	R	U	T	I	L	B	E
A	N	O	C	R	U	S	S	I	A	N	S	A
A	C	W	A	S	S	E	M	B	L	Y	L	S

LAST MONTH'S PUZZLES ANSWERS

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

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

LEADER
GREASE
PUBLIC
STRONG
POWDER
ENGINE
SPREAD
BORDER
DRIVER
BEAUTY
DINNER
SUMMER
POLICE
WASHER
FREEZE
RUNNER
BEETLE
CLOSED
PASTRY
INSIDE

N	A	T	C	Y	E	F	N	D	R	M	Y	E	N
T	I	E	R	D	L	I	M	I	Y	F	P	T	
P	O	T	S	E	O	I	A	N	O	T	H	E	R
N	S	B	A	V	F	U	C	U	A	I	E	N	S
T	L	T	E	L	N	C	E	O	C	L	O	O	J
R	H	D	T	D	A	T	R	B	M	I	I	E	D
E	T	U	Y	Y	I	V	W	E	T	M	S	A	R
P	S	S	R	Y	N	E	E	A	N	U	A	P	T
P	U	E	A	S	T	O	N	I	S	H	I	N	G
U	M	R	O	L	D	I	M	C	D	H	R	U	D
S	H	V	P	H	M	A	O	E	E	E	E	D	S
D	T	I	D	O	D	G	Y	V	R	H	M	D	O
S	T	C	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	A	S
Y	T	E	A	C	H	E	R	A	U	O	C	I	R

Hidden phrase: BREEZES LOUD AND SHRILL

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ALL IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

It was....

400 years ago, on *9th April 1626* that Francis Bacon, philosopher and politician, died. He was known as the 'Father of Empiricism', as his works influenced the scientific revolution in Europe (see p35).

125 years ago, on *3rd April 1901* that Richard D'Oyly Carte, theatrical impresario, died: he built the Savoy Theatre and the Palace Theatre in London, managed some of the most important theatrical stars of the era, and founded a touring opera company (see p35); and on *15th April 1901* that Joe Davis, snooker and billiards player was born. He co-founded the World Snooker Championship in 1927 and won the first 15 championships.

100 years ago, on *6th April 1926* that the Revd Ian Paisley, Baron Bannside, Northern Irish politician and Protestant evangelical minister was born: he was leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) from 1971-2008, and then First Minister of Northern Ireland in 2007-08; and on *21st April 1926* that Queen Elizabeth II was born.

90 years ago, on *23rd April 1936* that Roy Orbison, American singer, songwriter and musician was born: he is best known for *Oh, Pretty Woman*, *Crying*, *Only the Lonely*, and many more.

80 years ago, on *2nd April 1946* that Sue Townsend, writer and humourist, was born: she is best known for her Adrian Mole series of novels; and on *21st April 1946* that John Maynard Keynes was born: regarded as the most influential economist of the 20th century, his ideas formed the basis of the Keynesian economics.

75 years ago, on *2nd April 1951* that General Dwight D Eisenhower (later US President) became NATO's first Supreme Allied Commander: he assumed command of all Allied forces in the Western Mediterranean and Europe; and on *17th April 1951* that the Peak District National Park was established: it was Britain's first National Park.

70 years ago, on *18th April 1956* that American film actress Grace Kelly married Prince Rainier III of Monaco and became Princess Grace of Monaco.

65 years ago, on *10th April 1961* that South African golfer Gary Player became the first non-American to win the Masters Tournament in Augusta, Georgia; and on *12th April 1961* that Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person in space and the first person to orbit the Earth.

60 years ago, on *10th April 1966* that Evelyn Waugh died. This satirical novelist, biographer, and travel writer is best known for *Decline and Fall*, *A Handful of Dust*, *Brideshead Revisited*, and *Sword of Honour*.

50 years ago, on *3rd April 1976* that the UK won the 1976 Eurovision Song Contest with *Save Your Kisses for Me* by Brotherhood of Man; and on *7th April 1976* that politician John Stonehouse, who infamously had tried to fake his own death in 1974, resigned from the Labour Party, leaving the government in a minority (and after his death in 1988 it was revealed that he had been a Czech spy since 1962).

40 years ago, on *11th April 1986* that Halley's Comet made its closest approach to Earth during its most recent visit: it will return to Earth's vicinity in 2061 and 2134; and on *17th April 1986* that TV journalist John McCarthy was kidnapped in Beirut, Lebanon by the militant group Islamic Jihad, but was not released until 1991; and on *24th April 1986* that Wallis Simpson, Duchess of Windsor and American wife of Prince Edward, formerly King Edward VIII, died; and on *26th April 1986* that the Chernobyl disaster took place in Ukraine, then within the Soviet Union: it was the ►



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30 years ago, on *1st April 1996* that during the BSE ('mad cow disease') outbreak, the government announced that it would begin slaughtering all cattle over the age of 30 months to eradicate the disease: in the end, 80,000 cattle were slaughtered.

25 years ago, on *7th April 2001* that NASA launched its Mars Odyssey spacecraft to search for evidence of water and volcanic activity on Mars: it found water and ice below the surface.

20 years ago, on *6th April 2006* that the first case of H6N1 avian flu (bird flu) in the UK was confirmed, following tests on a dead swan found in Fife.

15 years ago, on *29th April 2011* that Prince William and Catherine (Kate) Middleton were married at Westminster Abbey in London: they were given the titles Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

10 years ago, on *20th April 2016* that Victoria Wood, comedian, actress, singer and songwriter died: she is remembered for *Victoria Wood as Seen on TV*; and on *22nd April 2016* that the Paris Agreement on Climate Change was signed: it came into effect on 4th November 2016.

MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

4th April – Easter Eve or Holy Saturday

Easter Eve is the last day of Lent. It is the day between Good Friday and Easter Day, and represents the one full day that Jesus was dead. It is a day of quiet reflection and anticipation for Christians worldwide. In various church traditions it is known as Easter Eve, Holy Saturday, the Great Sabbath, Hallelujah Saturday, Saturday of the Glory, and Black Saturday. Easter Eve is sometimes incorrectly called Easter Saturday, but Easter Saturday is the Saturday *following* Easter Sunday.

Not all churches have services on Easter Eve. In the Catholic Church, the altar remains stripped completely bare. Some Lutheran, Anglican, Methodist, and other churches observe many of the same customs as the Catholic Church; however, their altars may be covered in black instead of being stripped. In these traditions, Easter Eve lasts until nightfall, marking the official start of the Easter season.

What did Jesus do on that one full day in the grave? Christian understanding varies on this. The Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and most mainline Protestant churches teach that Jesus descended to the realm of the dead on Holy Saturday, to save the righteous souls who died before His crucifixion. The catechism of the Catholic church calls the descent "the last phase of Jesus' messianic mission". Often called "the Harrowing of Hell", the dramatic image of Jesus breaking down the doors of Hades has proved almost irresistible to artists, from the painter Hieronymus Bosch to the poet Dante to countless Eastern Orthodox iconographers.

But some Protestants say there is little scriptural evidence for the detour to hell, and that even Jesus' own words contradict it. For on Good Friday, Jesus told the Good Thief crucified alongside Him that "today you will be with Me in Paradise".

The Bible says little about the interlude between Jesus' death and resurrection. Churches that teach He descended to the realm of the dead usually quote 1 Peter 3:18-20: "Christ was put to death as a human, but made alive by the Spirit, and it was by the Spirit that He went to preach to the spirits in prison."

The descent might not have become a doctrine if it were not for a fourth-century bishop named Rufinus, who added that Jesus went *ad inferna* – to hell – in his commentary on the Apostles' Creed. The phrase stuck, but it was officially added to the influential creed only centuries later.



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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

Remembering Francis Bacon – Tim Lenton

Four hundred years ago, on 9th April 1626, Francis Bacon, philosopher and politician, died of pneumonia. He served as Attorney General of England and Wales (1613-17) and then Lord High Chancellor of England (1617-21). He was known as the “Father of Empiricism”, as his works influenced the scientific revolution in Europe.

Although involved in high-end politics, Bacon’s primary interest was in promoting a sceptical and methodical approach to scientific experimentation, which he saw as a way of glorifying God. A devout Anglican, he wrote that superficiality in science promoted atheism, but deep research “bringeth men’s minds about to religion”.

Bacon was born in central London in 1561 and was educated at home to start with because of poor health. His father was Lord Keeper of the Great Seal and his mother the daughter of a prominent Renaissance humanist. She was also sister-in-law of the powerful William Cecil, 1st Baron Burghley.

Multi-talented and with a keen intellect, Bacon had a long career as a parliamentarian, being first elected as MP for a Cornwall seat in 1581, but also as a respected author and as a judge, where he was pro-Puritan but also had a reputation as a liberal-minded reformer who opposed religious persecution.

Bacon thrived when James I came to the throne in 1603, and he was knighted and adopted as an ally to the monarch. He also married the 13-year-old Alice Barnham, daughter of a Sheriff of London, but the marriage was probably not a happy one.

Although he was regarded by most as fair and compassionate, Bacon had strong and long-term enemies, including Sir Edward Coke, who charged him with 23 counts of corruption when as Lord Chancellor he accepted as gifts what seemed to some to be bribes. He was fined and imprisoned briefly but later pardoned by the King.

Remembering the musical genius of Richard D’Oyley Carte – Tim Lenton

It was 125 years ago, on 3rd April 1901, that Richard D’Oyley Carte, theatrical impresario, died. He built the Savoy Theatre and the Palace Theatre in London, managed some of the most important theatrical stars of the era, and founded a touring opera company.

Best known now for his association with Gilbert and Sullivan, Carte operated during the late Victorian age as a talent spotter/agent and theatrical impresario, as well as building a hotel empire. Among his many clients were Jacques Offenbach, Clara Schumann, James McNeill Whistler, Matthew Arnold and Oscar Wilde.

Carte was born in 1844 in Soho, but when he was a boy the family moved to Dartmouth Park in Islington, North London, where he was brought up in a large, detached house by an artistic family who spoke French at home two days a week. The name D’Oyley is French/Norman, and the family also had Welsh ancestry. Musically gifted, Carte studied violin and flute from an early age, then took up composing.

While risqué French musicals were popular on the London musical stage in the 1870s, Carte felt that wholesome, skilful English comic opera could take over. So, he recruited dramatist W S Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan, whose first joint venture was the short, experimental Trial by Jury. This became a huge success and led to the 13 ‘Savoy’ operas, whose clever wordplay and magical tunes exhibited such staying power that they are still in constant demand today.

To exploit his ‘find’, Carte founded the D’Oyley Carte Opera Company, which was run after his death by his second wife, Helen. He also built the state-of-the-art Savoy Theatre, and next to it the Savoy Hotel. Other hotels followed. It is said that he took what other people thought were risks, but he felt were certainties.



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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

Noah: builder for God – Lester Amann

Mention the name Noah, and it's likely we remember he built an ark, and then filled it with animals. But did you know that Noah lived for 500 years before he started this massive carpentry project?

With such a long life before the flood, we may wonder what he did for five centuries! Apparently, Noah lived in an age of widespread depravity and violence, but he stood out as a man of righteousness. He was a shining example of goodness and holiness in a generation of corruption and evil. This didn't mean he was perfect, but at that time he was blameless before God.

Noah also preached to those around him. He wouldn't have preached in the way we think of preachers today, standing in a pulpit or on a platform. Instead, his life was the 'sermon' – an example of purity and faithfulness in a world defiled and rampant with wickedness.

We must admire Noah's courage and obedience. Perhaps we should ask ourselves, how well do our lives compare with Noah's, as we also live in a society that falls short of good qualities such as love, peace and trust.

Noah spent 120 years building the ark. No doubt he was plagued with inquisitive questions and hurtful comments about his work. Despite this, he kept doing what God had told him to do. There is no record that Noah had any converts. Only Noah with his wife, his three sons and their wives, were together on a voyage to a new life and to a new world.

We too must be dedicated to any task we have been given to do – even if we fail to see others appreciate what we are doing. Noah's task was not to save the world but to be a faithful servant. His life tells us not to give up in the face of ridicule and opposition, and to remember that we are working for a better future.

Sudan war – 15th April marks its third anniversary

This month brings a tragic milestone – the third anniversary of the vicious civil war in Sudan – a war that with the fighting in Ukraine and Iraq has been largely forgotten.

Since the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) began fighting in 2023, more than 12 million people have been internally displaced, and more than four million refugees have fled to neighbouring countries. Now a staggering 33.7 million people (two-thirds of the population) need humanitarian aid. Of these, more than 21 million face high levels of food insecurity.

Sudan is the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. It is also the largest and fastest displacement crisis. No end is in sight, as both SAF and RSF leaders have regional backers, and both continue to profit from Sudan's war.

Meanwhile, the country is in chaos: civilians and infrastructure are often attacked; sexual violence is widespread; and forced child soldier recruitment is common. With 70% of Sudan's hospitals destroyed, millions have no access to medical care. Cholera and other diseases are spreading fast.

Several Christian relief agencies are still operating in Sudan or neighbouring countries. These include *Christian Aid*: working through local partners to provide emergency cash, water, and sanitation to over 20,000 families in Sudan, while also supporting refugees in South Sudan; *World Vision*: providing food assistance and water, particularly in Chad for Sudanese refugees, serving around 70,000 on a daily basis; *CAFOD*: delivering emergency aid and repairing water pipelines; *Barnabas Aid*: supporting Christian refugees fleeing the conflict.

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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

A history of our Easter chocolate

Chocolate. Just a mention of the word can trigger off all kinds of emotions: craving, greed, passion. Few foods have the ability to get such a hold on people. As you eat your Easter eggs and bunnies and whatever else this month, here are some of the facts of chocolate.

Where does chocolate come from? Chocolate is made from the seeds of the tropical cacao tree, *theobroma cacao*. The Greek word 'theobroma' means literally 'food of the gods'. The Cacao Tree is found in Latin America.

Who first discovered it? The Aztecs. The cacao beans were used to prepare a hot, frothy beverage with stimulant and restorative properties, something like hot chocolate.

Who was (probably) the first chocoholic? The Emperor Montezuma. He drank 50 goblets a day of the frothy drink.

Who used chocolate as currency? The Aztecs. 100 cacao beans would buy a slave; 12 cacao beans bought the services of a courtesan, etc.

When did chocolate as we know it today begin? Surprisingly, not until 1879. That year Rodolphe Lindt had the inspired idea of triglyceride cocoa butter. The cocoa butter in chocolate contains saturated fat, but a normal level of consumption doesn't have any bad effects.

At what point does a chocolate lover become a chocoholic? It is generally considered to be when a person feels impelled to consume 12 or more 60 gram bars of chocolate per week. Chocolate contains its own cannabinoid (a chemical that prolongs pleasurable sensations) and when you eat chocolate, there is an increased blood flow in areas of the brain which are also activated by addictive drugs such as cocaine. But scientists agree that occasional over-indulging will cause no long-term problems... except perhaps around your waistline!

How to get the best from your chocolate

- * Keep your chocolate cool (16 – 18 degrees Centigrade) and in a dry, airtight place.
- * Never put your chocolate in the fridge (if you already have, let it warm to room temperature for a couple of hours before you eat it).
- * Bring out the full flavour of chocolate by drinking water with it.
- * If you are drinking tea or coffee, don't bother with expensive chocolates – you won't be able to appreciate them properly!

...but beware Our obesity is costing us millions

66% per cent of UK adults are now overweight or obese. That is according to recent NHS England figures. Around 30% of these are officially obese, with a Body Mass Index of 30 or above.

It is affecting our chairs, our ambulances, and even our coffins. Furnishing companies are getting orders to provide bigger chairs. Airports provide wider seating. We now have bariatric ambulances with double-width stretchers to accommodate patients. And our firefighters are given special training on how to rescue people whom they can no longer lift.

One doctor at the University of Cambridge explained what is happening: "We are surrounded by cheap calories, and they are available in more places."

Meanwhile, obesity has become a huge public health issue: it is the main cause of cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, and strokes. Treating weight-related diseases is now costing the NHS an estimated £11.4 billion a year.



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MISCELLANEOUS MUSINGS

What's orange, sticky and worth preserving?

This month sees *National Marmalade Week* (18th – 25th April). If you really want to celebrate, go to Dalemain Mansion and Gardens in Cumbria, where they hold the World Marmalade Awards & Festival. It celebrates, preserves and promotes artisanal marmalades, with thousands of entries. (Even Paddington Bear will be in attendance!)

If you like marmalade, ever wonder where it comes from? One tradition traces it to a storm-damaged Spanish ship which took refuge in Dundee Harbour in 1700. It was full of Seville oranges that the captain was desperate to sell before they went mouldy. A local down-on-luck merchant, one James Keiller, bought the lot. He didn't know what to do with the oranges either, but fortunately he had a resourceful wife. She set about turning a shipload of Seville oranges into a preserve, and so the first marmalade factory was born.

Marmalade has been at the heart of British breakfasts for centuries. Winston Churchill fought the Second World War on it (washed down with a flute of Pol Roger champagne each morning). DH Lawrence wrote novels on it (he frequently turned to marmalade-making as a soothing remedy for depression and artistic stress). Paddington Bear's sandwiches were all marmalade. If you also want to get your fingers sticky, visit: www.marmaladeawards.com

'He gave us eyes to see them': the screen at the east end – Rev Michael Burgess

"I am the light of the world," our Lord says in St John's Gospel. He is the One who can bring sight and insight to those born blind, and vision to those who feel they live in a world of darkness. In Him is the glory of God and life for all people. That radiant glory greets those who visit Wymondham Abbey in Norfolk and look down the main aisle to see the wondrous screen at the east end depicting Christ in majesty surrounded by our Lady and the saints.

Ironically, the history of the Abbey in the Middle Ages was one of darkness and conflict, where disagreement severed the harmony of monks and townspeople. The Abbey was dissolved in the 16th century, but then restored to its former glory in the early 20th century. Ninian Comper began working on the screen in 1922, and it was completed in 1934.

In front of the screen is a large altar with a crucifix and six tall, stately candlesticks. Their lights are signs of Jesus the Light proclaimed by the dazzling central figure on the screen behind. Originally candlesticks would have stood on the ground before the altar, or lamps were hung above. In the 14th century candles were placed on the altar.

Aesthetic judgement will vary from person to person, and some may find tall candlesticks like these obtrusive, detracting from the sacrament of the altar. Whatever their size, when lit they announce that Jesus is the true light, who welcomes everyone to find nourishment and guidance for life's pilgrimage in communion at that table. Here at Wymondham Abbey I think the pilgrim visitor will find that the beauty and grace of these altar furnishings complement the great mystery of divine light celebrated in Ninian Comper's masterpiece.



Wikimedia Commons: Evelyn Simak/Wymondham Abbey - the chancel

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Nigel Beeton writes: My poor old car was beginning to show its age, not helped by some of the pot-hole roads in Suffolk which would cause a challenge to a Challenger tank! I was beginning to dread that MOT time of year! And the new car is great, but it's stuffed to the gunwales with electronic gizmos and technical wizardry. I'm not going to test it in anger, but I don't think it would actually allow me to run into the back of a vehicle in front! But when it comes to finding some music to listen to!

My New Car by Nigel Beeton

My old car was a little tired;
 It failed its MOT!
 So then it was I felt inspired
 To go PHEV.

It is a good car – nice to run
 And helpful as can be!
 But now my troubles have begun –
 It's cleverer than me!

I used to press a button once
 For music on CD
 But now – I must be such a dunce –
 I can't find BBC!

I got it playing from my phone
 By Bluetooth link maybe?
 But then what truly made me moan –
 I spoke – it misheard me!

It turned my lovely music off
 And played some awful sound;
 I tried to speak, I tried to cough
 But no way back I found!

So if you want to buy a car
 To get from A to B,
 Don't forget you first require
 A technical degree!

Poor Thomas – between Sundays by Howard Webber

I'm lost and bewildered,
 All hope is now gone.
 I cannot imagine
 How life can go on.

My mind's in a turmoil,
 I can't understand
 How this could have happened
 To so good a man.

I'm tortured by thoughts of
 Him hung on that tree;
 The thorns and the nails;
 In His face – agony.

It happened so quickly,
 I still can't believe
 He's dead and He's buried,
 What did that achieve?

My friends are now saying
 That Jesus has risen,
 "We've seen Him and heard Him,
 He's out of death's prison!"

I'd like to believe them,
 I'm sure you would too,
 But claims like they're making
 Just cannot be true.

Whilst no-one likes losing
 A valuable friend,
 There's no point pretending
 The end's not the end.

They think they have met Him,
 But senses deceive;
 Come. Show me His wounds, then
 Perhaps I'd believe.

FROM THE EDITOR...

Compass relies on advertising to cover all our costs, and the more we can attract the easier it is for us to balance the books! We have an 'advertising year' that runs from April to March, and advertisers are encouraged to renew for a full 12 months. Most have renewed, some have not, some have amended their ads to reflect changes in what they offer, and in this issue there are also new advertisements. Advertisers like to know how customers found out about them, because it means their money is well spent. . .

. . .so if you respond to an advertisement, please mention Compass!

In the meantime, our thanks go to those of you who contribute articles for the magazine, to the distributors who deliver if you have a printed copy, and, of course, you, for reading Compass.

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Every Sunday	Church Services (including Holy Week and Easter Day)	Page 3
Every Monday, 10am	Bumps, Babies & Beyond, St Martin's Community Hall (not 6th)	Page 19
Every Mon, Tue, Wed	Pilates, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Every Mon 11.30/Thu 9.30am	Move It or Lose It, Crossways (Mon)/Broadmayne (Thu)	Page 9
Every Monday 6pm	Yoga, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 23
Every Thursday, 10am	Table Tennis, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Every Thursday, 6.30pm	Dog Training Club, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 1
Every Friday, 9.30am	Pilates, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 17
Every Friday, 10am	Chapel Café, Methodist Church, Broadmayne (not 3rd)	Page 15
Every Friday, 10am	Owermoigne Painting Group, Village Hall (not 24th)	Page 21
Every Friday, 7pm	Short Mat Bowls, Broadmayne Village Hall	852285
Every Saturday, 8.30am	Yoga, St Martin's Community Hall, Broadmayne	Page 17
1st & 3rd Saturdays, 10am	Short Mat Bowls, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Wednesday 1st, 10am	Warm Welcome Wednesday, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 15
Th 2nd, Fr 3rd, Su 5th, Sa 11th&18th	Music at St Peter's Dorchester	Page 11
Saturday 4th, 6pm/7.30pm	Elvis and Friends & Pizza Night, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Saturday 4th, 9am	Spring Fayre, Crossways Youth & Community Centre	Page 9
Tuesdays 7th & 21st, 10.30am	Coffee & Company, St Peter's West Knighton	Page 11
Thursday 9th, 7pm	Broadmayne & West Knighton WI, Broadmayne Village Hall	Page 11
Thursday 9th, 8pm	Annual General Meeting, Owermoigne Cricket & Social Club	Page 25
Saturday 11th, 7pm	Screen Quiz, Moreton Village Hall	Page 9
Saturday 11th, 10am	Owermoigne Village Market, Village Hall	Page 21
Monday 13th, 7.30pm	Broadmayne Parish Council, Methodist Hall	Page 13
Tuesday 14th, 10am	By Still Waters, Broadmayne Methodist Church	Page 5
Tuesday 14th & 28th, 10.30am	Coffee Shop, St Martin's Community Hall	Page 17
Tuesday 14th & 28th, 10.30am	Owermoigne Village Hall Coffee Mornings	Page 21
Wednesday 15th	May Compass deadline	Page 2
Wednesday 15th, 10am	Owermoigne Ladies Walking Group, Thornecombe Woods	Page 21
Wednesday 15th, 7.30pm	Broadmayne Village Hall AGM	Page 15
Friday 17th, 11am	Organic Farm Visit, BDHA, West Stafford	Page 9
Tuesday 21st, 2pm	Owermoigne Flower Club, Village Hall,	Page 23
Wednesday 22nd, 7pm	Group Guitar Lessons, Owermoigne Village Hall	Page 21
Thursday 23rd	Fish & Chip Supper, Col's Quiz, Owermoigne Crkt & Social Club	Page 25
Friday 24th	Meat Raffle, Owermoigne Cricket & Social Club	Page 25

For your event to be included FREE in WHAT'S ON, email details to the Editor (see Page 2)



Greetings again from St Petrified's

It's now two years since Lady Duckworth opened Upperwell Hall for weddings, and she was saying to some members of the congregation one Sunday that the project had changed her life. It's true that she has seemed happier of late, and, according to Mr McNasty, is no longer struggling for the cash to maintain the Hfall and for 'keeping up appearances'. He said that she now is actually paying him as an employee at the Hall, which made some folk wonder what remuneration he had received for all the other work he had done for her in the past – some of which took all night to complete. Other folk, of course had formed their own ideas long ago.

You may recall that the Hall has a chapel so it is approved as a venue for religious ceremonies, provided the service is taken by registered clergy, and is approved for civil ceremonies in other areas. Rev Keen, who supported the use of the Hall for weddings, was hoping that the less formal Hall chapel might counteract the trend of marriages at St Petrified's diminishing. To a certain extent it did, and he had officiated at the Hall at most of them. Not all? Surely not Rev Spasm in charge of the others (or would his ramblings and deviations from the standard wedding service add to the advertised 'informality' of the occasion?). No, it was Rev Young who officiated at the others, as the venue had been selected by a few couples from Hyton, who for various reasons had ruled out Four Saints, and but for Upperwell would have 'gone civil'. So win-win all round.

There were some who were surprised that Lady Duckworth had continued with the project, especially considering that the first wedding was something of a fiasco when the Groom and Best Man got lost, and after receiving directions and copious Burgundy from Rev Spasm, arrived late to the relief of the Bride who forgave her husband-to-be even though he could hardly stand to say his vows. Lady Duckworth now relates the story with gusto – one of the situations you can look back on that gets funnier with age.

She has other stories, one of which was a booking for the marriage of Will. Webster and Fred. Franklin. She had assumed that Will. was short for William and Fred. was short for Freda. So when Lady Duckworth and Rev Keen met the couple for a pre-wedding briefing they were surprised to see William and Frederick. They had wanted a church wedding but having encountered prejudice elsewhere hoped for none at Upperwell. Rev Spasm, who would not attend anyway, would not approve, so it was agreed that all orders of service and the like would retain the shortened names, complete with full stops, but that what was actually said in the ceremony could be of the couple's choosing. It was to be a small congregation, so would easily fit in the chapel, and the great hall would not be needed for the breakfast. As had become custom, Lady Duckworth employed villagers to provide the catering, music and drinks (which kept Bill Brewer happy as he used to accommodate small wedding breakfasts at the Snare & Ferret). The arrangement has brought Lady Duckworth into village life more, which has added to her general contentment. Good weather has helped – during last summer weddings could be held in the gardens, and the Hall was a summer venue every other week. Keeping the gardens tidy and using the lawn vacuum to suck up last week's confetti kept Mr McNasty busy, and employed.

One day Lady Duckworth received a letter from a Mrs Tina Casey saying that her great-great-grandmother had been christened at Upperwell Hall, the infant's mother having been in service at the hall before her marriage, and she had found a certificate to record the christening when tracing her family tree. So, at last, confirmation that the chapel had been used for religious ceremonies (fairly) recently! So Tina came to show Lady Duckworth the certificate, and she immediately recognised Tina as being the first bride at the chapel – Tina of course was now using her married surname. She and her husband, Matt, had started off by calling themselves Matt & Tina until someone said their middle names, Jill & Ted, would be more appropriate, given what (nearly) happened at their wedding! Anyway, Tina was now pregnant, and wanted their child to be christened at the Upperwell chapel. Another sideline for Lady Duckworth and Rev Keen?

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CODEBREAKER extra letter - 9 is A

AND FINALLY . . .

Speeding

A speeding motorist was caught by radar from a police helicopter in the sky. An officer pulled him over and began to issue a traffic ticket. "How did you know I was speeding?" the frustrated driver asked. The police officer pointed soberly toward the sky. "You mean," asked the motorist, in awed confusion, "that now even God has installed speed cameras?"

Economic definitions

A recession is a period in which you tighten your belt. A depression is a time in which you have no belt to tighten. When you have no trousers to hold up, it's a panic.

Show and Tell

A teacher asked her students to each bring in an object that represented their religion.

The first student got up and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David." The second student got up and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary." The third student got up and said, "My name is Emily. I am a Methodist, and this is a Recipe."

I'll bet the monks didn't worry about reading from a 12-foot-high pulpit



Polite

A New York traffic expert says that some London taxi drivers are refreshingly different – and witty – compared to those in New York. He tells the story of the London taxi driver who screeched to a halt when a tourist ran into the road, and then stopped, looking around in confusion. Leaning out of the window the taxi driver asked very politely: "I say, sir, may I ask, what are your immediate plans?"

Stargazing

I can see how astronomers figure out the distance of the stars and their size and temperatures and all that. What really gets me is how they find out what their names are!

Cured

A teacher asked her pupils if they could describe any of the miracles that Jesus performed. One youngster responded: "Yes, He cured people who had leopards."

A tourist was visiting the convent. Noticing the nuns waiting in the refectory, she enquired of them:

"What is your order?". The nuns replied "It's Friday, so fish and chips."

