

People and Parish

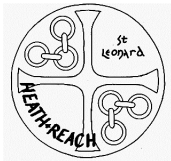
May 2024



In this issue.....

- The Three Fold Ministry
- The Major Prophets
- Childrens real exam answers

90p or £8 per year



The Parish Churches of St Leonard,
Heath and Reach
with St Michael, Eggington

Ouzel Valley Team Ministry

Team Rector: Vacant

The Parish of St Leonard, Heath and Reach with St Michael's Eggington

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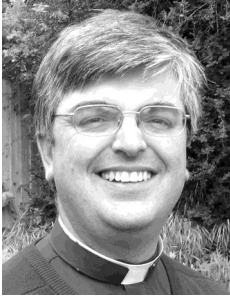
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GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Choir	Sundays at 10.15am in Church, Contact: Jane Newman, 01525 237421
SLAP	St Leonard's Amateur Players, Contact: Mrs Nicole Waldock, 01908 608304
Men's Breakfast Group	Termly, Saturdays at 8.30am. Contact Neil Forsyth on 01525 377047
Holiday Club	Vera Paul 01525 375095/Rosemary Young 01525 237345
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All copy to reach Editor by 15th of the month, please

Thought for the Month



THE THREE FOLD MINISTRY

I have been thinking recently about a particular aspect of the Christian vocation: the threefold Messianic ministry. This is important to all of us because although the Messianic ministry is Jesus' ministry, because we are baptised into Him, each of us is called to embody it in our own life in Him. Traditionally the Messianic ministry is described as having three parts: prophecy, priesthood, and kingship. Of those; one part we think we understand quite well; one part we don't understand much; and one part we have not even begun to really think about at all!

The aspect that we think we understand is priesthood. But even here, we are on shakier ground than we might think. Priesthood is something all of us share in Jesus, not just those ordained ministers whose particular vocation is to embody the Messianic ministry within the church. Priesthood is concerned with the vertical relationship between us and God. It involves a two-fold recognition of the sinfulness of creation – and specifically our own sinfulness as individuals and members of societies – and God's eternal unchanging love and holiness. The crucial thing to remember is that everything starts with God and His love: this is always the place to begin.

Then there is prophecy. We imagine this is about having a special, divine gift of predicting the future: it isn't! Prophets simply try to see God at work in the world around them. Prophecy is about looking horizontally, not vertically. While priesthood is about 'Being', you might say prophecy is about 'Meaning', or hermeneutical understanding. It is a vocation we all share, to look and see what God is doing in the church and world

around us now. (Provided that we always first of all remember what God Himself looks like: which is where priesthood comes in, of course!)

Lastly, there is kingship. This is the part we don't understand at all: partly because, as Jesus Himself tells Pontius Pilate, He is not even really a King, it is simply the best word available for describing a living growing loving unity of embodied interrelationship. When Jesus promises to bring a peace that is different to the world's peace, 'kingship' is what He is talking about: an embodied, integrated holistic interrelatedness between all of us that allows us to be fully ourselves and completely loved and loving, like a creaturely version of the Holy Trinity Themselves.

This is the purpose for which we were all created, and it should be dimly and imperfectly reflected in how we live together now, as we struggle together to build a better world we can all share, one more like the loving world God is bringing to birth.

Fr Bernard

Matthias the Apostle

Have you ever happened to be in the right place at the right time, with certain qualifications, and suddenly realise that God is singling you out for a special task? If so, Matthias is a good patron saint for you!

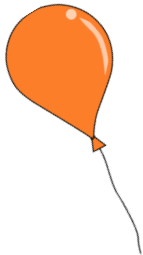
In Acts 1 (15 – 26) the apostles had a task to do: Judas had betrayed Jesus and died, and so a new apostle needed to be chosen. He had to have been a follower of Christ from the Baptism to the Ascension, and also a witness of the Resurrection in order to qualify. In the event, the choice fell to one of two: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias.

Lots were drawn, and Matthias was chosen. How confident he must have felt in his calling: what encouragement that would be when the going got rough in later years! Matthias is thought to have ministered in Cappadocia and even Ethiopia. His emblem is usually an axe or halberd, regarded as the instrument of his martyrdom. His supposed relics were translated from Jerusalem to Rome by the empress Helena.

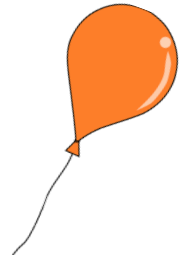
The Parish Registers



No entries this month



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The Major Prophets

This title usually refers to Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel – but by singling them out, and describing the others as “minor” it is not meant to diminish them at all. But these four (in fact “Isaiah” may have been written by three different people) are singled out primarily because of their length.

Prophets in the Old Testament were described as “Men of God”, “Seers”, and “Those who were called”. Moses is the characteristic prophet of the Old Testament: called by God into His presence, so that he could then stand before earthly rulers, to speak out to them of “the signs of the times” – God’s movements in history, social and moral issues, and proclaiming God’s word for the present and the future.

Isaiah – the author of the first part of the book (up to Chapter 39) – was a resident of Jerusalem, maybe of royal blood. His call to prophesy came as a result of a prophetic vision, when Assyria began to molest Israel. He is given a vision of God (in Chapter 6) which led him to proclaim judgment on Israel because of the people’s sin, although Jerusalem itself will be protected. In the following chapters Isaiah is given a prophecy of “Emmanuel” (Chapter 7) – which Christians see as referring to the birth of Jesus – and the birth of a new Israel after their defeat by the Assyrians.

Chapters 40 to 66 are focussed more on the defeat of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, and the carrying off a many of the Israelites into exile. The main purpose is to eliminate a weary state of mind, where a sense of God is absent; and to revive a consciousness of God, which can deal with this despair by expounding a new view of God’s calling of His chosen people, and their mission to live out their relationship with God. Key elements in this are the “Servant Songs” – within which the figure of The Servant must shape the people and be willing to suffer on their behalf.

Then we come to Jeremiah. My maternal grandfather (who sadly died before I was born) was a minister in the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland. He was fascinated by Jeremiah (maybe because, like Jeremiah, he was born on a small island, and ended up being minister of an influential church), and wrote a book about him. Here is a quote from the Preface:

“The story of the diffident, sensitive lad who was summoned from the obscurity of his native village to assume, at so critical an hour in the national life, the overwhelming responsibilities of the prophetic office, ranks among the most moving records of human history.”

Jeremiah cried out to God's people on the brink of exile, and pleaded for their repentance. We need to listen to his words now, as our country – like so many others – are going on the same road. Jeremiah's attempt to save his people of Judah from the consequence of their rejection of God was not heard; and as a punishment they went into exile. Lamentations, written by Jeremiah, presents a dirge as the exile became a reality.

The last two major prophets, Ezekiel and Daniel, spoke and wrote to the people in exile, encouraging them to remember that God was still in control and would eventually restore the spiritual fortunes of His disciplined nation.

Although some commentators think that the book Ezekiel was written by several different authors, the majority view is that it was written by one man, laying bare the iniquity of his people, who deserved their exile in Babylonia. He adopts a teaching method which enforces a truth on the present audience, by calling to mind and addressing an absent one.

Some commentators draw parallels with the New Testament book of Revelation, by setting forth the unmitigated terror of God's wrath, using all kinds of illustrations. His own personal story is seen as part of that wider story – the death of his wife (recorded in Chapter 24) is seen as part of God's judgement on the nation.

The final "major prophet", Daniel, contains many stories that children will remember from Sunday School – especially the miraculous salvation of the three men – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, from the fiery furnace. Daniel gains status with the emperor of Babylon by interpreting his dreams. But the main importance of Daniel's prophecies – which are recognised by Jesus Himself – is that he fearlessly speaks the word of God to the successive emperors under whose rule the people of God were in exile. In particular Daniel prophesied that the exile in Babylon would only last 70 years.

Before we leave these "major prophets" let us remember that the gift of prophecy is still available today, with three functions: "forth-telling" – speaking the words that come from God; "fore-telling" – warning the Church of dangers to come, and encouraging the Church to remain firm; and "discerning the secrets of the hearts" so as to counsel with directness and realism. All prophecy must be tested, in two ways: "Is it consistent with the written Word of God?"; and "Is it confirmed by the Body of Christ as a whole?". At a time when so many aspects of life in our world, and our Church, are under threat, we need this gift more than ever.

Quiz: Angels

1. Which perfume house makes the perfume 'Angel'?
2. What is the name of the demonstration squadron of the United States Navy formed in 1946?
3. Angels and Demons is a book by which author? He served in
4. What is the name of the contemporary sculpture by Anthony Gormley situated off the A1 in Tyne & Wear?
5. The City of Angels is better known to us as?
6. This multi-flavoured made-up dessert was a favourite in the 1980's (possibly longer) what is it?
7. What is the name of the 1938 American gangster film starring James Cagney and Humphrey Bogart?
8. Also found on a Monopoly board, what part of London do you think of being associated with an Angel?
9. Once upon a time, Jill, Sabrina & Kelly were police officers whose skills were being wasted in menial duties such as filing and answering phone – we know them better as?
10. The term *angel*, which is derived from the Greek word *angelos*, is the equivalent of the Hebrew word *mal'akh* What does it mean?

Answers on page 15

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St Michael's Eggington

by

Anne Sheppard

So here we are in May, is it too predictable for me to say how come we are in May already?

We have recently returned from a lovely holiday in Cyprus, but not the energy filled Ayia Napa or Protaras in the European Cyprus. We stayed in a small village area in the mountains above Lapta which is west along the northern coast from the ancient city of Kyrenia (now known as Girne in its native Turkish language). Therefore the traditional religion is Muslim and so the call to prayer is a regular and unusual sound several times each day.



*There are five different calls through the day known as adhan, and each announces a new period of prayer throughout the day.

The [Fajr prayer](#) happens right at dawn, before sunrise.

The [Zuhr prayer](#) happens at noon, or when the sun begins to descend after its highest point.

The [Asr prayer](#) occurs when the sun is halfway through its descent.

The [Maqhrrib prayer](#) is at sunset.

The [Isha prayer](#) is when the sun's light disappears and night sets in.

We were on holiday for the change to the clocks which also happens in Cyprus, springing forward one hour.

Because the clocks moved forward by one hour, the time of the calls also

changed, because of the position of the sun at that particular time. Sitting in the sunshine either with a cup of coffee in the morning, or a refreshment in the middle of the day, or a glass of wine as the sun is setting; all are framed with the sound of the “adhan” from the various mosque towers around the area ringing out not quite in sync!



The sudden call echoing across the district becomes very normal and day by day actually calls you to take stock and think about what time it is and how your day is going. This may be the case for residents and visitors alike and therefore gives a sense of belonging and community within. As much as I enjoy listening to our

church bells ringing out on a beautiful sunny day, I am not sure the same can be said for them, either for myself or visitors to our green and pleasant land!

Moving back to Eggington, we have our annual plant sale and coffee morning taking place on Saturday 18 May at the churchyard and village hall. Please do come along to buy your summer plants, both fruit and vegetables are normally available just in time to plant for beautiful displays and tasty salads! Proceeds go partly to the church funds but may be shared with other charities.

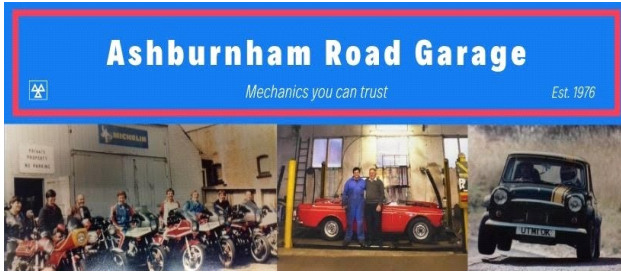
* Reference: www.wikihow.com/Call-to-Prayer

Ponder On These....

Why if you send something by road it is called a shipment, but when you send it by sea it is called cargo?

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

'I am' is reportedly the shortest sentence in the English language. Could it be that 'I do' is the longest sentence?



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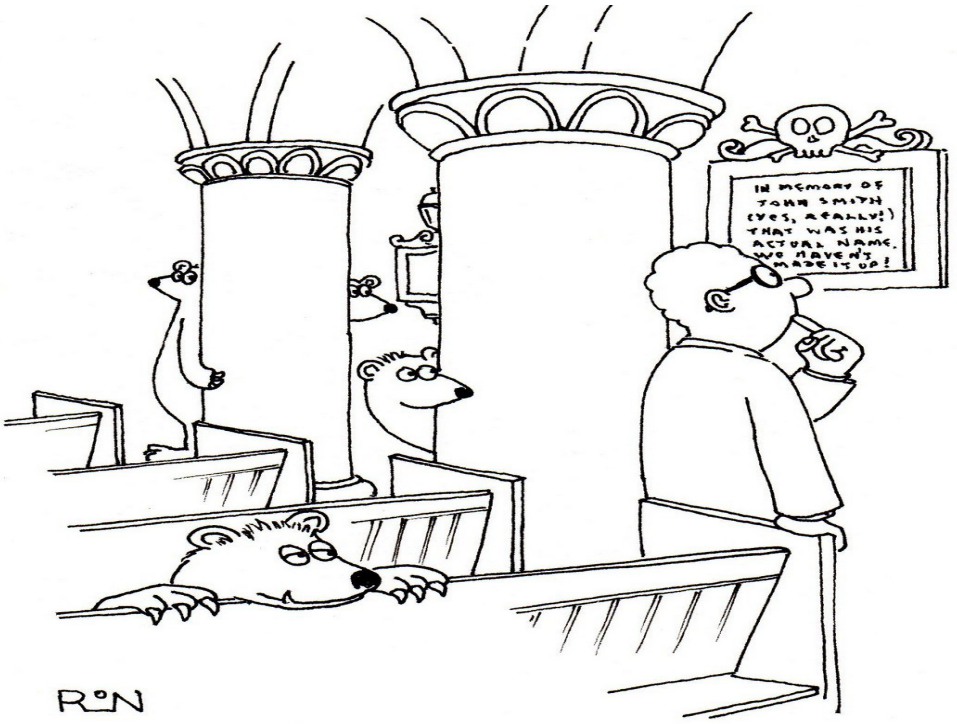
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*Dennis spent a long time in church
looking for his forbears*

Quiz Answers

1. Thierry Mugler
2. The Blue Angels
3. Dan Brown
4. Angel of the North
5. Los Angeles
6. Angel Delight
7. Angels with Dirty Faces
8. Islington
9. Charlie's Angels
10. Messenger

A Warden's Tale

Hello friends

I write my tale today on the 13th April and the sun is shining, The rain has gone for now but I am not going to hold my breath, I am going to make the best of it. The trees and shrubs have sprung into leaf as if by magic. Yesterday was the same and as I walked out of my cul-de sac toward the bus stop I could sense the miracle of spring all around. A heady perfume came from the open fields drifting on the gentle breeze enhanced by the dewy grasses. These are the same fields I grew up with, unchanged after almost 80 years. Of course back then all the spring and summer days were like this and our gang of chums would play Commando's in the Mill Wood. Look for birds nests, gather tadpoles from the stream and build huts out of old wood way away from the gaze of adults.

How those days come back to me now from deep in my memory. In my minds eye I can see us now climbing haystacks and building dams in the brook. I must have been a delicate child as I was always delighted to see a bunch of dog violets or the first peacock butterfly while my chums were happily making bows and arrows from the fast growing elder bushes, or making spears skilfully whittling away the end to make a sharp point, with their penknife. We quickly amassed an armoury with our skilfully made weapons, catapults and pea shooters were also a favourite of ours. Whenever we ventured over the railway bridge into Linslade proper we would buy a "penn'orth" of pigeon peas from Tooleys, the local seed merchant, then nip round the corner to the hay store which ran between Old Road and Stoke Road, hide in the bales until someone came past and then let rip with our ammunition. I remember we had a code of conduct so would not shoot on adults, especially Ladies with a pram, There was one exception, we were sometimes tempted to take a pot shot at P.C. Spice on his beat around Linslade but we never did as it would have resulted in a clip on the ear and a dressing down in front of our chums, and in most cases, a visit to our parents as he knew each of us as well as we knew him.

I love to reminisce and it seems the older we get the more we look back to the past and the less we look forward to the future. I am sure that you, like me, are concerned what lies ahead for our children. I find it fascinating that only 150 years ago we relied on horses to power our ploughs, pull the barges, carry



the mail, and deliver our bread and milk. Of course the working man could not afford a horse of his own, only the wealthy had that luxury. You can see evidence of that age still as you walk around the towns and villages of our country. Most of it is being developed into newer more energy efficient flats or houses. I have spoken before about the Linslade Stud near where I grew up

and spent many hours when not in school. In its hey-day the lands surrounding Southcott Stud were a country retreat for the rich and famous. Edward the VII was a regular visitor and when Lord Rothschild invited the London aristocracy to visit his Stud and the surrounding land it would have been as they say "Fit for a King." The old mill pond where we would catch tadpoles would have been landscaped and stocked with carp and the fields surrounding kept in pristine condition with all the finest race horses of the day experiencing being pampered and groomed to the highest standard, something their working cousins in the towns never did.

Back to St Leonards. You must-have seen the work being carried out next to our dear Church. The old giant confiners have gone from the surrounding boundaries resulting in more light entering our Church building and giving it such an uplift, It even feels warmer inside. Who knows what will happen next with the land but at the moment we are enjoying the extra light and warmth. Church life is busy as usual but not much to write about. David and I are busy preparing for the visit by Archdeacon Dave. His yearly visit keeps us on our toes checking that all is as it should be with a modern Parish Church. It sounds daunting but in reality it is something we look forward to.

Thank you for reading my ramblings, I do like to reminisce and dream of the days before Artificial Intelligence was thought of. When a slate and chalk was all we needed. When pen and ink were used, monitors were appointed to fill the ink wells. (I was never trusted with that job) and cartridge pens were frowned upon and Biro's unheard of. Definitely a time when less was more. Happy days?

God bless. And keep safe.

Warden Richard



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Saturday 18 May 2024

1.00pm at the Church Hall

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If you are feeling isolated or lonely, there is not only the helpline, but a telephone befriending service, where you are matched to a trained volunteer, who will phone on a weekly basis for friendship at a time convenient to you. So if you feel that you would benefit from the services of The Silver Line, please do not hesitate to call our 24/7 helpline on 0800 4 70 80 90.

St Leonard's Parish Prayer

Living God, you have given us St Leonard
as an example of one who extended himself
to relieve the difficulties of others;
help us to know in our hearts the love you have for us all
so we may reach out in genuine empathy
to those in our community
who feel lonely, grow together as a people
united in concern for each other and love for you. Amen

The tale of the Mustard Seed

& the tale of the Yeast

JESUS OFTEN TOLD
STORIES WITH
HIDDEN MEANINGS



SOME OF HIS STORIES WERE
VERY SHORT, BUT THEY MEANT
A GREAT DEAL

ONCE JESUS EXPLAINED HOW
THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
WAS LIKE A MUSTARD SEED

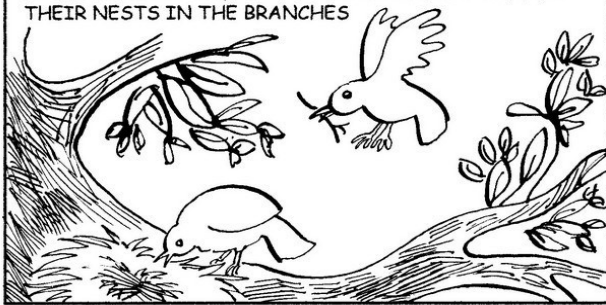


IT IS ONE OF THE SMALLEST
OF SEEDS....



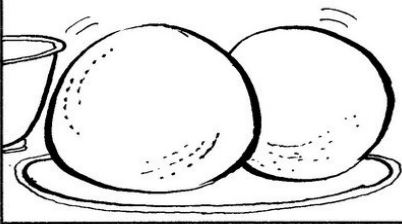
BUT WHEN IT GROWS UP IT IS
THE BIGGEST OF ALL PLANTS

IT BECOMES A TREE, SO THAT BIRDS
COME AND MAKE
THEIR NESTS IN THE BRANCHES



JESUS ALSO EXPLAINED THAT THE
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE YEAST.

EVEN THOUGH IT'S A TINY INGREDIENT,
WHEN IT'S MIXED WITH THE FLOUR,
THE WHOLE BATCH OF DOUGH RISES



THIS WAS JESUS' WAY OF SAYING THAT EVEN IF WE
HAVE A SMALL AMOUNT OF FAITH... IT CAN MAKE A
HUGE DIFFERENCE TO OUR LIVES, AND TO THE LIVES
OF OTHERS.

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HAPPENINGS!

Wednesday 1st May
COFFEE MORNING

St Michael's Eggington at 11.00am



Thursday 9th May
COFFEE MORNING
St Leonard's Church Hall
10.00am to 12.00noon

Saturday 18th May 2024
PLANT SALE
St Michael's Eggington
10:30am to 12:30pm



Saturday 18th May 2024
MAY FAYRE
St Leonard's Church Hall and surrounds
from 1.00pm

For more information on any of these events,
phone 01525 377047

May Day—Unbridled Merriment

May is the month when the ancient pagans used to get up to ‘all sorts’! The Romans held their festival to honour the mother-goddess Maia, goddess of nature and growth. (May is named after her.) The early Celts celebrated the feast of Beltane, in honour of the sun god, Beli.

For centuries in ‘Olde England’ the people went mad in May. After the hardship of winter, and hunger of early Spring, May was a time of indulgence and unbridled merriment. One Philip Stubbes, writing in 1583, was scandalised: ‘for what kissing and bussing, what smooching and slabbering one of another, is not practised?’

Henry VIII went ‘maying’ on many occasions. Then folk would stay out all night in the dark rain-warm thickets and return in the morning for dancing on the green around the May pole, archery, vaulting, wrestling, and evening bon-fires.

The Protestant reformers took a strong stand against May Day, and in 1644 May Day was abolished altogether. Many May poles came down— only to go up again at the Restoration, when the first May Day of King Charles’s reign was ‘the happiest Mayday that hath been many a year in England’, according to Pepys.

May Day to most people today brings vague folk memories of a young Queen of the May decorated with garlands and streamers and flowers, a May Pole to weave, Morris dancing, and the intricacies of well dressing at Tissington in Derbyshire.

May Day is a medley of natural themes such as sunrise, the advent of summer, growth in nature, and – since 1833 – Robert Owen’s vision of a millennium in the future, beginning on May Day, when there would be no more poverty, injustice or cruelty, but harmony and friendship. This is why, in modern times, May Day has become Labour Day, which honours the dignity of workers. And until recently, in communist countries May Day processions were in honour of the achievement of Marxism.

There has never been a Christian content to May Day, but nevertheless there is the well-known 6am service on the top of Magdalen Tower at Oxford where a choir sings in the dawn of May Day.

An old May carol includes the lines:

The life of man is but a span, it flourishes like a flower

We are here today and gone tomorrow – we are dead within an hour.

There is something of a sadness about it, both in words and tune, as there is about all purely sensuous joy. For May Day is not Easter, and the joys it represents have always been earth-bound and fleeting.

The Truth of the Ascension

‘While He was blessing them, Jesus left them and was taken up into heaven.’ (Luke 24:51).

The Ascension is a hugely neglected festival, which deserves to have a bigger place in our church life. How do we understand it?

The Ascension tells us that Jesus is in control: ‘Jesus has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand’ (1 Peter 3:22). Jesus occupies the top spot in the universe; the control of our world is in the safe, scarred hands of Jesus. We can offer Him our worship and allegiance, knowing that His plans are better than those of any Prime Minister or President.

The Ascension tells us that God is committed to His world: ‘And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus’ (Ephesians 2:6). Jesus did not leave His humanity behind when He ascended, for we are raised with Christ to heaven. Therefore, God is bound to His world and we can trust Him to fulfil His purposes for our lives and world.

The Ascension gives us a job to do: ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations’ (Matthew 28:18,19). God’s way of working in the world is through us. He commissions us for this task at the Ascension and equips us at Pentecost. We are called to make disciples, starting in our workplace, family and community.

‘Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world.’ (Teresa of Avila).

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Childrens Exam Papers

The following real-life answers to various exam papers explain why teachers need long holidays...

What is a nitrate?

Cheaper than a day rate.

What was Sir Walter Raleigh famous for?

He is a noted figure in history because he invented cigarettes and started a craze for bicycles.

Name six animals which live specifically in the Artic.

Two polar bears. Four seals.

Assess Fashion House plc's choice to locate its factory near Birmingham. Is Birmingham the right location for this type of business?

No. People from Birmingham aren't very fashionable.

How does Romeo's character develop throughout the play?

It doesn't, it's just self, self, self, all the way through.

Name the wife of Orpheus, whom he attempted to save from the underworld.

Mrs Orpheus.

Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?

At the bottom.

State three drawbacks of hedgerow removal.

All the cows will escape. The cars drive into the fields. There is nowhere to hide.

What is the meaning of the word varicose?

Close by.

What is a fibula?

A little lie.

Why would living close to a mobile phone mast cause ill health?

You might walk into it.

Where was Hadrian's Wall built?

Around Hadrian's garden.

The race of people known as Malays come from which country?

Malaria.

Worship at St Leonard's and St Michael's

All 11.00am services at St Leonard's will also be broadcast via "Zoom"

Check Church website for late changes

St Leonard's

5th May
08.00am
11.00am

6th Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion (Order 1 traditional)
Family Service/Toy Service

7th May
07.00pm

Holy Communion

12th May
11.00am

7th Sunday of Easter
Parish Communion (Order 1)

14th May
07.00pm

Holy Communion

19th May
08.00am
11.00am

Trinity Sunday
Holy Communion (Order 1 traditional)
Parish Communion (Order 1)

21st May
07.00pm

Holy Communion

26th May
11.00am

1st Sunday after Trinity
Parish Communion (Order 1)

28th May
07.00pm

Holy Communion

St Michael's

5th May
09.30am

6th Sunday of Easter
Parish Communion

19th May
09.30am

Trinity Sunday
Parish Communion