



IN TOUCH

A Magazine for the Parish of Paignton

No. 7 – March 2024

Welcome to our Magazine for March, which we hope you find interesting and enjoyable. We greatly appreciate your feedback, and are always delighted to receive any items from you for publication.

Joyce and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and joyful Easter.

A Message from Father Neil

At the Ash Wednesday service on the 14th Feb, I outlined how that day marks the beginning of the 40-day period of Lent. A period for Christians to take time out for self-examination, self-denial, penitence, self-giving and study in preparation for Easter. Undertaken diligently and with integrity, it can and should be, hard. A period of challenge, that reflects the 40-day struggle Jesus faced in the desert. Many reading this article will no doubt ask themselves, so what; why is that relevant to me? Indulge me briefly while I suggest how it may be relevant.

Much of our society has become increasingly secularised in recent decades with many people in the UK having limited or no understanding of Christian beliefs, practices, or lifestyle issues. However, the self-examination of Lent is a great opportunity for everyone, not just those of faith, to consider the extent to which our lives are inward-facing and self-absorbed. To explore possibilities where we might become outward-looking; contemplate what we can give to make a difference, help others, as well as ourselves, so that all may feel valued and flourish.

Not so long ago I spent two days moving my mother out of her home of 40 years, into residential care, due to her deteriorating dementia to ensure she remains safe and cared for. Understandably upset and a little confused, she would repeatedly ask "I know why this is happening; but can't I just go back home?" I was struck by the resonance with the words that Jesus spoke the night before his crucifixion that we hear read out on Palm Sundays from Matthew or Mark: 'Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want

but what you want'. Jesus knew what had to happen next and why, yet even he appeared uncertain and anxious about it, just as my mother did then.

That uncertainty, anxiety and confusion was evident in many of the residents I met over those two days, just as it is in some of those, I meet in the local Care Homes I visit here. However, what is replicated in all these homes, is the selfless, unwavering love and care offered by all those who work there, that, in a way which is unmeasurable, helps allay much of that anxiety and fear. These wonderful staff don't do it because they are paid to, but because they feel called to; to be self-giving and relevant to others. Just like them, many other good people from across our communities reach out in self-giving to assist in food banks, soup kitchens, and night shelters. Some operate drop-in centres, run support and social groups or luncheon clubs. Anyone who encounters these people cannot fail to recognise the 'relevant' and virtuous aspect of this human interaction and contribution.

Invariably, we cannot stop what is happening to ourselves or others but what we can do is offer ourselves to influence it for the better. Christians use Lent to examine their lives and themselves before God asking that he might be incarnational and transformational in their lives. So, whether you have faith or not, why not use the remainder of Lent to examine how you might be 'relevant' to those around you so that you too may be transformational in the lives of others?

Every Blessing Father Neil

On becoming a Server, by Eve Aylott

I became a server with my younger brother, Mason, when Father Neil approached us and asked us if we'd like to be a more important part of the church.

I didn't know what he could mean, but it sounded good, so we both showed interest in his suggestion.

He went on to say that we could become a server if we liked. I was excited because I've always thought that the servers play a very important role within the congregation.

He said that he'd talk to our mum after the Service, which he did and she seemed very happy about it, so we were given our costumes to try on. They fitted perfectly and Mason and I were excited for the week after because we'd be serving as an acolyte for the first time, which is carrying large candles down the aisle.

We had a great time and now we've been doing this for about three weeks and are enjoying it just as much as before.

Written by Eve Aylott (aged 11 Years)



Juliet Explores Women in the Bible – ABIGAIL

Abigail (meaning Fathers Joy) – A Woman of Wisdom and Courage in Biblical History

In the tapestry of biblical history, Abigail emerges as a remarkable figure whose story resonates with wisdom, courage and resilience. Often overshadowed by other well-known characters, Abigail's narrative in the Bible, found in [1 Samuel 25](#), unveils her as a woman of profound influence and strength.

The Encounter with David

Abigail's story begins in the wilderness of Paran, where she is married to Nabal, a wealthy but harsh man. David and his men, having protected Nabal's shepherds and flocks, approach him seeking hospitality. Despite David's goodwill, Nabal dismisses the request, provoking David's wrath. Abigail, upon hearing of the brewing conflict, takes immediate action.

Wisdom in Action

Abigail's response is a testament to her wisdom and foresight. Realising the impending danger, she quickly gathers provisions and approaches David with humility and grace. Her eloquent plea for peace and understanding showcases not only her diplomatic skill but also her deep understanding of the consequences that could befall her household.

If you want to know more about women in the Bible, talk to Juliet or Joyce.

In [1 Samuel 25: 32-33](#), Abigail says to David "Please forgive your servant's presumption. The Lord your God will certainly make a lasting dynasty for my lord because you fight the Lord's battles, and no wrongdoing will be found in you as long as you live."

Courage in the Face of Adversity

Abigail's courageous act not only averts disaster but also earns her the admiration of David. Her intervention prevents him from taking revenge, highlighting her ability to navigate a delicate situation with poise and insight. This encounter marks a turning point in David's life, and Abigail's influence becomes a pivotal force in shaping his destiny.

Recognition in Biblical Legacy

Abigail's story is a beacon of light in the bible, emphasising the importance of wisdom, humility, and the transforming power of a woman's influence. Her recognition as a significant figure in biblical history is evident in the esteem in which she is portrayed. The narrative goes on to describe Nabal's untimely death and David marrying Abigail, acknowledging her as a woman of substance.

From Luke Appleton, on the recent General Synod

In February General Synod met in London for an action-packed session. The key themes were on national safeguarding, the Living in Love and Faith process and on codes of conduct for lay members of the church. There was also a very interesting item on estate's ministry and a couple of items that grabbed headlines

relating to racial justice. While there were robust debates across these issues, as one of your representatives I was struck by how little of our time was spent really grappling with the issues of decline and evangelism.

So much of what we talked about was inward-looking, just when we need to be looking outwardly. If you'd like any more information, please do drop me an email: post@lukeappleton.co.uk

King Charles III, Defender of the Faith

This title dates back to the reign of Henry VIII, before the break with Rome. In 1521, Pope Leo X issued a charter granting Henry the title – Fidei Defensor, in Latin – in recognition of the theological treatise 'Defense of the Seven Sacraments' which he authored, maybe working with Thomas More and Cardinal Wolsey. The title Fidei Defensor or Fidei Defensatrix for queens has been bestowed occasionally on other monarchs by the papacy, notably James IV and James V of Scotland. In 1546, following the break from Rome, Parliament passed an act bestowing the title upon Henry and it has been used by subsequent English and then British monarchs.

Sometimes people refer to the monarch as the "head" of the Church of England. Monarchs are known as the "Supreme Governor" of the Church of England. This dates back to the 1558 Act of Supremacy, during the reign of Elizabeth I. In practice this includes giving Royal Assent to ecclesiastical laws in a similar way to secular legislation and formally approving the appointment of bishops, archbishops and other senior clergy, such as many deans of cathedrals.

At the Coronation, King Charles III, like every monarch since George I, takes a special oath to maintain "the settlement of the Church of England and the doctrine, worship, discipline, and the government thereof, as by law established". He also undertook a separate oath at his Accession to uphold the security of the Church of Scotland.

In his first address to the nation on his accession the King said "the role and the duties of monarchy also remain, as does the sovereign's particular relationship and responsibility towards the Church of England – the Church in which my own faith is so deeply rooted. In that faith, and the values it inspires, I have been brought up to cherish a sense of duty to others, and to hold in the greatest respect the precious traditions, freedoms and responsibilities of our unique history and our system of parliamentary government. As the Queen herself did with such unswerving devotion, I too now solemnly pledge myself, through the remaining time God grants me, to uphold the constitutional principles at the heart of our nation."

Praying Through the Seasons – Easter

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live." John 11.25.

For Christians worldwide, the important message of Easter is praising and acknowledging Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, and his most glorious assurances of eternal life for all those who believe in

Him. As Christians, we celebrate Easter as a time of new life and new hope and a time of renewal; we have full confidence that no matter what happens to us here on this Earth, we are guaranteed that we can experience eternal joy with God in heaven.

God of renewal, of life and death and rebirth. God of promises of all beginnings and all endings. God of hope, of new growth and harvest; renew our hearts and minds this Easter time and help us to grow in faith. Amen.

This month's Quiz – Television Presenters.

1. blowy hilly lough
2. aerobic fun
3. jacklyn remorse
4. able cradling
5. honest kellen
6. adorer motley
7. augment chanty
8. clam vandalic

February Answers

1. Football
2. Ice Hockey
3. Badminton
4. Skateboarding
5. Taekwondo
6. Lacrosse
7. Volleyball
8. Water Polo
9. Boxing
10. Rugby League



Date for your Diary

Saturday, 13th July – Glastonbury Pilgrimage. 12 noon Mass in the Abbey Grounds, BA6 8BS
See Father Harry or Joyce if you are interested.

GIVE TO GO GREEN The Final Week of fundraising

If you are reading this before 16th March, please come along to the Cream Tea (3.30-5pm) on 16th March in the Parish Church. This will be our final fundraiser as all money has to be deposited by 16th March to qualify for us to claim double the amount through the grant.

More updates on the amounts raised and whether we completed our virtual pilgrimage to the Holy Land in next month's magazine.

To find out more and to donate please go to the parish website : www.paigntonparishchurch.co.uk and click on the Give to Go Green link. **Remember – Please donate before 12 midnight on 16th March.**

Useful Contacts

Parish Office and Administrator: 07915 736169 (9am – 12 noon Monday-Friday)

Email: office@paigntonchurch.co.uk

Father Neil Knox: 01803 551866. Email: rneilknox@gmail.com

(Please note that Father Neil's rest day is Monday)

Parish website: www.paigntonparishchurch.co.uk

Parish Magazine: email magazine@paigntonchurch.co.uk or by post to Margaret Twitchings/Joyce Cappello, 34 or 9 Homebourne House, Belle Vue Road, Paignton TQ4 6PT

And Finally.....Marriage and Coffee

Shortly after tying the knot, a young married couple started arguing over who should make the coffee. Being a good Christian woman, the wife went to the scriptures for her answer. She said that the Bible specifically stated that men should be the ones to make the coffee.

Puzzled, the husband asked her where in the Bible it said that. Very confidently, the wife opened up her Bible and said: "It's right here—HEBREWS."
