

Vol.62 No 4 April 2022

Online edition

***ST PETER'S CHURCH
BRACKLEY***

"Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley"



Revd. Rich Duncan writes.....



On 15th April, it will be exactly 110

years since the sinking of the Titanic. The 15th April is also Good Friday this year. Therefore, let me try to draw *3 parallels between the Titanic's sinking and Christ's death:*

1) Both events were foretold

Over a decade before the Titanic's maiden voyage, Morgan Robertson wrote a novella called *Futility* (or *The Wreck of the Titan*) about the sinking of an imaginary luxury liner named the Titan, the largest ship in existence, with a passenger and crew capacity of 3000. It was considered unsinkable. On a cold April night, the Titan struck an iceberg just before midnight. The iceberg tore a gash in the ship's starboard side, sinking the 'unsinkable' ship, and a lack of lifeboats meant that more than half of the Titan's passengers died in the icy North Atlantic waters. All this, of course, would prove to be a remarkably accurate (albeit accidental) foretelling of one fateful night 14 years later.

The foretelling of Christ's death was even more astonishing in its detail and accuracy. About 28 specific (and deliberate) prophecies were fulfilled on Good Friday (compare Psalm 22 and Matthew 27 for example) – prophecies made not in recent history but several centuries earlier, before crucifixion had been invented. The importance of this foretelling is underlined by the Gospel writers. The Passion narratives constantly repeat the words 'fulfil' and 'fulfilled' to highlight that Jesus was no hapless victim and his death no accident. Rather, it all happened "by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge" (Acts 2:23).

2) Both involved heroic self-sacrifice

Stories of selfless courage on the Titanic abound. Famously, the 8-member band in the 1st Class Lounge kept playing for over 2 hours in an effort to keep passengers calm and upbeat. All members perished. A young woman called Edith Evans gave up her spot on a lifeboat for a

lady named Mrs Brown, saying, "Take this woman; she has children waiting for her." A Scottish pastor called John Harper put his 6-year-old daughter into a lifeboat then removed his life jacket and gave it to one of the other passengers. Survivors reported seeing him gathering people round him on deck to pray. Then, as the ship began to lurch, he jumped into the freezing waters and swam frantically to all he could reach, appealing to them to turn to the Lord Jesus and be saved. Finally, as hypothermia set in, John Harper, aged 29, sank beneath the waves.

These acts of sacrificial valour are surpassed only by the one who went through the physical, emotional and spiritual Hell, not just of crucifixion, but of bearing the whole weight of God's judgement upon humanity in order to save humanity. Like Edith Evans, he swapped his spot of safety for certain doom. Like John Harper, he offers a lifesaver to anyone who will accept it. "Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18). Good Friday contained the single most heroic act in all of history.

3) Both tragedies yielded life

These sacrifices were not wasted, but saved lives in more ways than one. Four years after the Titanic tragedy, a Scotsman called Aguilla Webb publicly retold this story: "I am a survivor of the Titanic. When I was drifting alone on a plank of wood that awful night, the tide brought Mr. John Harper of Glasgow, also on a piece of wreck, near to me. 'Man,' he said, 'Are you saved?' 'No,' I said, 'I am not.' He replied, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved.' The waves bore him away; but, strange to say they brought him back a little later, and he said, 'Are you saved now?' 'No,' I said, 'I can't honestly say that I am.' He said again, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved,' and shortly after he went down; and there, alone in the night, and with two miles of water under me, I believed. I am John Harper's last convert."

The sacrifice of the Lord Jesus was not wasted either. Even as he died, a convicted criminal is told, "Today, you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). The world has never been the same since. Billions of people around the world will celebrate Easter this April, because they know they can't save themselves, but on the lifeboat provided by Christ's death and of course his resurrection, there's room enough for everyone. I sincerely hope you too have climbed aboard and benefited from his long-foretold, heroic self-sacrifice. Happy Easter to you all!

EASTER SERVICES



10th April Palm Sunday 9.30am Holy Communion with Baptism

14th Maundy Thursday 7.30pm Holy Communion

15th Good Friday 9.30am Meditation

16th Easter Eve 7.30pm Easter Eve Service

17th Easter Day 8.00am BCP Holy Communion

9.30am All Age Holy Communion

9.30am Holy Communion at Halse



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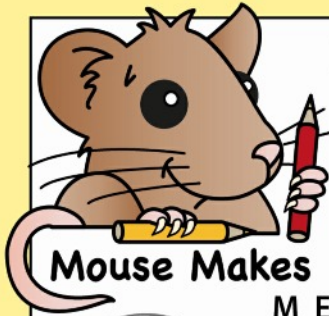
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Mouse Makes

HAPPY EASTER!
 Jesus has risen!
 Jesus is with us!
 Jesus will come again!



What did Jesus send the disciples to find?

What did the crowd do?

Read
 Matthew 21:1-11



Who betrayed Jesus?
 Who denied Jesus?

Read Matthew 26:17-75



What did the soldiers put on Jesus at his crucifixion?
 What time did Jesus die?
 Whose tomb was Jesus buried in?

Read
 Matthew 27



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

What did Jesus do at Passover?



Read Matthew 26:17-30



On the third day who rolled away the stone covering the tomb?
 What had happened to Jesus?

Read
 Matthew 28



Find these words from the Easter story in the word search:

DONKEY • ROAD • BRANCHES • PALMS • KING • HOSANNA
 PASSOVER • ROOM • BREAD • WINE • CUP • MEAL • BODY • BLOOD
 KISS • MESSIAH • CHRIST • JESUS • CRUCIFY • CROWN • THORNS
 ROBE • TREE • NAILS • CROSS • DARKNESS • QUAKE • DEATH • LOTS
 TOMB • LINEN • STONE • BODY • BURY • THREE DAYS • MORNING
 MARY • ANGEL • HEAVEN • GOD • RAISED • JOY • GO TELL
 GOOD NEWS • PEACE • SPIRIT • SAVIOUR • PRAISE • EASTER

April is the cruellest month, breeding Lilacs out of the dead land



The opening words of T S Eliot's famous poem *The Wasteland* are not especially uplifting – and indeed that poem written in 1922 in the aftermath of the First World War and the Spanish Flu pandemic is a complex, dark and dystopian take on the way the world had emerged from those two catastrophes.

A century on and Easter is late this year with the first part of the month firmly rooted in Passiontide so Eliot's poem might not seem out of kilter with the times. We too are emerging from a pandemic and an uneasy world faces climate change, a resurgence of cold war rhetoric, profound economic challenges and a struggle to integrate different cultures and creeds with society in flux. The Church itself can seem out of sorts, lacking in confidence, struggling to pay its way with numbers apparently continuing to decline.

And yet this is also the month when we, as a church, celebrate the miracle of Easter.

Against all the odds and every expectation, we shall once again declare: Christ is Risen!

When all seems lost, and every hope dashed, Jesus comes to Mary Magdalene in the Garden and asks: "Woman, why are you weeping?"

The fact is that she like, the other disciples, like Jesus' enemies could never have imagined this moment. But here and now, in the Garden, Jesus demonstrates that nothing can prevail against the unstoppable power of God's love.

That was a truth that TS Eliot owned. Twenty-two years after *The Wasteland*, as the Second World War reached its climax, he published another great work: *The Four Quartets* which ends by speaking of the fusion of pain and love (the fire and the rose) that unmistakably speak of Christ's self-sacrifice and by referencing the words of Julian of Norwich, "all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well" that assure us that, despite it all April is in fact the month when our hopes are rekindled and God's promises fulfilled:

*And all shall be well and
All manner of thing shall be well
When the tongues of flame are in-folded
Into the crowned knot of fire
And the fire and the rose are one.*

May joy and peace be yours this Easter

The Very Revd Chris Dalliston
Dean of Peterborough

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Dalliston".

St Peter's Church Maintenance Day

Saturday 23rd April
Starts at 9.30am

There are jobs to be done
in the Church & Churchyard

We would like



your HELP



Please bring your own
Gloves and Tools .



We will provide refreshments
Including a light lunch



Prayer from the Church of England Intercession for Ukraine

*In peace let us pray to the Lord.
We pray for the leaders of the nations,
that you will guide them in the ways of freedom, justice and truth.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.*

*We pray for those who bear arms on behalf of the nation,
that they may have discipline and discernment,
courage and compassion.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.*

*We pray for our enemies, and those who wish us harm,
that you will turn the hearts of all to kindness and friendship.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.*

*We pray for the wounded and the captive,
the grieving and the homeless,
that in all their trials they may know your love and support.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.*

*Most holy God and Father,
hear our prayers for all who strive for peace
and all who fight for justice.*

*Help us, who today remember the cost of war,
to work for a better tomorrow;
and, as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict,
bring us all, in the end, to the peace of your presence;
through Christ our Lord.*

Amen.