

GRAPEVINE

St Matthew's Rosslyn – Spring 2020 Issue 94



Vicarage View

LENT 2019

As I write this we are in Lent, the season of preparation for Easter. Now for many people, Easter wouldn't be Easter without a chocolate egg – or several. But did you know that we in Europe nearly missed out on chocolate? When Christopher Columbus returned from the New World, he brought back many things; trinkets, native artefacts, a few terrified American Indians and cocoa beans. People looked at the beans, but no-one knew what to do with them. They certainly didn't look very exciting, and they were discarded as useless.

Some years later, an even bloodier explorer, Hernan Cortes, tasted chocolate as a drink at the court of the Aztec Emperor Montezuma II, and managed to acquire the secret recipe. By way of thanks, he murdered Montezuma and destroyed Aztec civilization. But, for over one hundred years, Spanish monasteries had a chocolate monopoly, processing cocoa beans as a drink.

Even when the secret leaked out, manufacturing problems had to be overcome before anyone developed chocolate to eat, rather than drink. But all the obstacles were cleared in time, because people with names like



Cadbury and Rowntree had faith in the product. At Easter especially, it is somehow appropriate that those unlikely-looking cocoa beans should have a new life, transformed into something as wonderful as chocolate! Its spread throughout the world has been astonishing.

Do you know who Italy's richest man is?? Not Silvio Berlusconi, not Ferrari or Gucci. No, it is the owner of Ferrero Rocher chocolates.

Anyway, like our chocolate pioneers who had faith in their very unlikely product, Mary Magdalene believed in something even more unlikely: that her teacher and friend had risen from the dead. John's gospel tells how she was the first to discover the empty tomb and the first to meet the Risen Lord, who calls her by her name and sends her to tell the good news. All four Gospels credit her with being a first witness to the Resurrection. According to the various accounts, Mary, alone or with

other women, came to the tomb on Easter morning. In every account, they find the stone rolled away, the tomb empty, and angels tell them the Lord is risen. In all except Luke's Gospel, Jesus himself appears to Mary.

And the substance of the message, from the angels or from Jesus, is to go and tell others. Easier said than done. This was long before "women's lib" or votes for women, let alone women priests. As in so much else, Jesus leads the way in treating women as equal to men. Often in the Gospels we read of him talking with women, in the absence of their fathers or husbands. He discusses matters of faith with women. All completely unheard of back then; in a society where women weren't even allowed to testify, as they were considered unreliable witnesses.

Is it not then marvellous, God chose a woman to be the first witness to the Resurrection?? An unlikely choice and for centuries in a male-dominated society the church struggled to come to terms with it. As a result, in about the 10th century the Pope decided that Mary Magdalene was the same Mary as the reformed prostitute. There is not one scintilla of evidence to support this conflation, but it was a useful rebranding exercise for mother Church. Now Mary was a representative of sinners, not women

per se. True or false, the news is still good. All of us as sinners, whether male or female, are forgiven our sins if we follow Christ.

Regardless of gender or background, thanks to Mary, the first seeds of the church were sown. She was sure of what she had seen and knew how important it was to tell others, however difficult that might be.

So, unlikely as it seemed, those ugly cocoa beans that some wanted to throw away held the secret of chocolate. It took people with faith in its potential to turn it into the global product that it is today. Much more importantly – even if your name is Ferrero Rocher – is the fact that the man executed as a common criminal on Good Friday held the secret of eternal life. That, too, seemed most unlikely. That, too, needed people to have faith. People like Mary Magdalene and the first disciples, people like Christian men and women through the ages, people like us.

We may think of ourselves as unlikely ambassadors of Christ, but we have the example of Mary Magdalene – and of course – chocolate.

FATHER JOE

Vestry Report



I hope you are hunkered down as the wind, rain and sleet swirls around us! On a brighter note the new constitution for the Vestry was approved on Sunday 16 February 2020, at a Special Meeting of the Congregation. Unanimous approval was given for a new Constitution for Rosslyn Chapel. This followed some months of discussion within the Vestry and with the Diocese, who were encouraging all charges within their jurisdiction to adopt a new Model Constitution.

The new Constitution follows the broad principles of the Model Constitution, but includes a number of clauses specific to

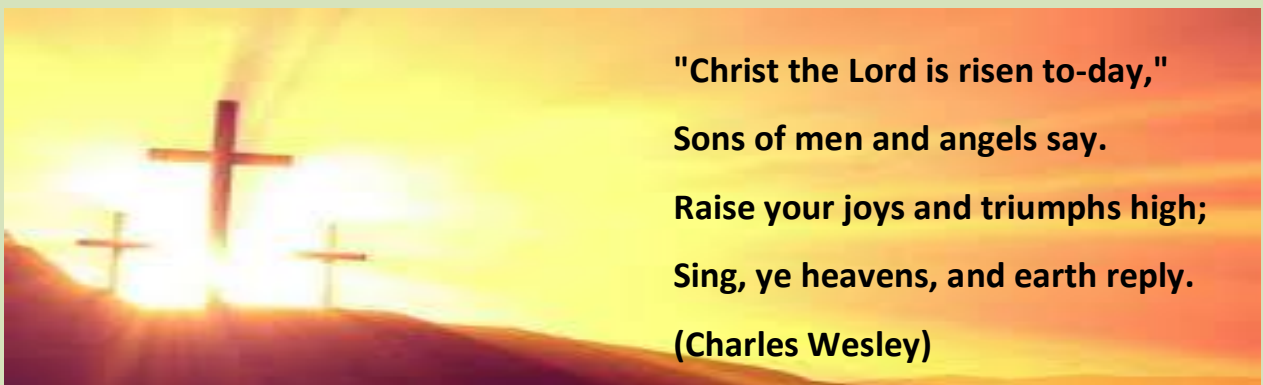
Rosslyn Chapel, in order to reflect our special circumstances. Anyone wishing to see a copy of the new Constitution should contact Mike Fitchett, Vestry Secretary at mfitchett48@gmail.com or by phoning 0131 440 4569.

You may have seen that the Countess of Rosslyn was awarded an BEM in the New Year Honours list. On behalf of the congregation I passed on our congratulations. The award was much deserved for her hard work and efforts to develop and support Rosslyn Chapel.

I am sure you will have noticed that the serving of coffee after Sunday services has returned to the Chapel itself. I think we all recognise the importance of this being in the chapel to provide a better social experience for everyone, so it will be available – as before - after services until noon. From noon onwards the chapel is back in the hands of the RCT team and open to paying visitors.

Look forward to seeing some of you at the summer parish lunch, if not before, and hoping for a warmer and brighter spring and Easter!

James Cardwell Moore
Vestry Chair



**"Christ the Lord is risen to-day,"
Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.
(Charles Wesley)**

Rosslyn Chapel Trust Report



The year started on a very positive note when Helen Rosslyn was awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year Honours for her work with Rosslyn Chapel Trust. We also had a good month for visitors recording an increase of 4 on the numbers for last January!

The roof of the Chapel was surveyed by our stone conservation specialist, as part of the ongoing maintenance programme, which helps us to address any issue at an early stage. Some emergency stone repair work has been undertaken at Rosslyn Castle and that is now coming to an end.

It has been a busy time for school visits, thanks to a new school programme, put together by Sarah Chapman, our Learning and Outreach Co-ordinator; we have welcomed nearly 350 pupils since the start of the year. This year's Junior Guide programme, which we run with Roslin Primary School comes to an end with a special evening celebration in March and we look forward to welcoming Councillor Peter Smaill, Provost of Midlothian, for the evening. We helped launch Midlothian's Young People Awards at the Chapel, where the awards ceremony will take place in September. Now in its third year, and organised as a partnership between Midlothian Council and the Lord-Lieutenant of Midlothian, the awards have 5 categories and nominations have now opened. You can find out more and nominate a young person aged between 8-26 years old at <https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/MYPA>

We have completed some changes to the visitor centre shop and, in the coming weeks, will be testing further improvements to the lighting inside the Chapel.

The current situation with coronavirus means that, inevitably, there will be some uncertainty but – all being well – we look forward to another busy year ahead.

Ian Gardner
Director, Rosslyn Chapel Trust



There is a wonderful range of lunchtime and evening concerts on through March and April at the Chapel – please see the website or enquire at the shop for details

Homelessness and the church By Kevin Greally

Isaiah 58 v 7

*Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
And that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out;
When you see the naked, that you cover him,
And not hide yourself from your own flesh?*



Homelessness is something that is very close to my heart as I spent 11 years in that very situation. It wasn't something I chose, but at the age of 19 I lost both my parents. Unable to cope with their deaths and lacking the skills needed to maintain a house or just looking after myself without their support I found myself slipping further and further away from everyday society. Sleeping rough or living in hostels, each day it became a little harder to get out of the situation I was in. Isolation, fear, shame and worthlessness led me down the roads of addiction to survive the pain that I was in. Each road led me further into an abyss of darkness. Moving from place to place each new location I would make a decision that it would be a new start, but as much as I tried I couldn't break the cycle. Doing things to survive that were against my nature just continued to reinforce the worthlessness I felt. People walking past me every day telling me to sort my life out, get a job, calling me unrepeatable names, just pushing that knife deeper and deeper in my heart. Drink and suicide were never far from me.

Praise God after 11 years God led me to people that helped me get out of the homeless trap. Unfortunately not many of the people I met along the way in the same situation did. Statistics below are taken from a report compiled by the homeless charity **CRISIS**.

- The average age of death of a homeless person is 47 years old and even lower for homeless women at just 43, compared to 77 for the general population.
- Drug and alcohol abuse are particularly common causes of death amongst the homeless population, accounting for just over a third of all deaths.
- Homeless people are over 9 times more likely to commit suicide than the general population
- Deaths as a result of traffic accidents are 3 times as likely, infections twice as likely and falls over 3 times as likely.
- Being homeless is incredibly difficult both physically and mentally and has significant impacts on people's health and wellbeing.

Ultimately, homelessness kills.

I have for the past 8 years worked for various organisations that are trying to address the problem of homelessness and yet the problem is rising year after year.

It is clear that our world is heading into further economic difficulties. This in turn brings greater unemployment and with the slow dismantlement of the welfare system homelessness is going to keep rising and it's no longer those who society have expected to be homeless, but it's happening to people and families who have till recent times lived quite comfortably and needed not to worry about their security. With times getting harder it's only going to increase.

There are many government funded services out there that seemingly offer solutions to some of the problems that people present with, but in my experience most of these services at best offer a Band Aid solution, which last for a short while but soon become unstuck.

My experience of working and living within these government funded services have been more about gathering short term statistics to justify funding, initiatives that are failing due to workers filling in mountains of paperwork rather than working with clients to bring about effective change, but as with all government programs the need to be politically correct and socially acceptable actually creates environments where change is impossible due to the everything is permissible policies they implement.

As with most government policies Christian principles are being discouraged and secular principles are being encouraged. Even long term Christian associations have signed up to these programs and have been forced to adopt the secular principles which are destroying lives.

I believe whole heartedly that the only real answer to homelessness is Jesus Christ working through his church.

My life didn't change overnight, it took years of discipleship, sadly one of the reasons it took so long was that churches weren't able to deal with me. They had no understanding of homelessness and the effects that it has on a person. I once went into a church and was told that I was dirtying the seats. Another just refused to allow me into their services. It has taken me many years to become a member of a church, as my experience of church were so negative. Not all churches thankfully, I have met many great people in churches, full of the love of God. But I had enough bad experiences to leave me feeling that I didn't belong there either.

I believe this is changing today. There as in recent years been a great moving in the church to being the solution to homelessness, with many finding ways of housing those whose lives have been afflicted in this manner.

One such organisation is called Green Pastures, I came across them a few years ago and below is a brief outline of their vision and history taken from their website www.greenpastures.net My prayer is that it will inspire all who read this to become a part of the solution to homelessness in our society.

My life is very different today and that is due to Christ saving me and becoming the centre of my life and my heart's desire is to be a vessel of love to those who are broken, I can't do it on my own it is going to take the entire body of Christ working together.

God bless Kevin

(Download from Parish Window an online resource)



Lord, hear our prayer for all women and men, boys and girls who are homeless this day.
For those sleeping under bridges, on park benches, in doorways or bus stations.
For those who can only find shelter for the night but must wander in the daytime.
For families broken because they could not afford to pay the rent.
For those who have no relatives or friends who can take them in.



A View From My Pew

We have weathered quite a few storms over the last few months – all with names. When did that start? In my day it used to just be weather ... winter weather – rain and wind and snow/sleet and hail. People in shops used to comment that it was a “fresh” or there was a “stiff wind” as they were blown under a parked car, but that was about it. Over the years I have noticed other things that have been made more of than perhaps they should. Take for example the growth of dog grooming which is now an industry!

With Crufts finally over and the winner declared (a fairly sombre looking wire-haired dachshund called Maisie who was hilariously caught short on the way to the podium), I was interested to read that the market for pet grooming has exploded in recent years. The cost to prepare a dog for a show costs about £90 a time. This includes all manner of products and procedures to ensure the pooch looks perfect on the day. This is in addition to the ridiculous outfits – doggy onesies - that they now wear to keep all their newly coiffured fur nicely intact. Seriously – whatever happened to a brush?

I like to think that such ridiculousness is not tolerated in the feline world. For a very good start we cats pride ourselves on being able to ensure meticulous and effective self-grooming – I have never felt the need for a blueberry facial scrub or a hydrating guava and mangosteen butter mask (total cost £35 - favoured by Indi, an American cocker spaniel who was runner up at this years Crufts).

Dogs on the other hand have always needed ‘management’ ... just a cursory glance on Facebook will confirm that all breeds seem incapable of getting from A to B without their owners having to towel dry them, wash the mud off etc. I shall obviously decline to comment on the videos of unfortunate cats caught



on camera in less than elegant situations. (Glad I was free to use up some of my 9 lives without the glare of social media following my every move).

Having consulted The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy (GCCF) who run The Supreme Cat Show (the feline version of Crufts if you will) I confirmed my suspicions that none of us need grooming at all – possibly older aged, long haired types might welcome a brush now and again as it all gets a bit much - but that’s about it. In fact, one website notes that owners who decide their cat needs grooming are risking injury to themselves and/or their cat. This may well explain the Facebook cats ... trying to escape lunatic owners who are bored and seeking activity due to being unable to leave the house as Storm Harriet has just hit.

Just a thought

**Keep the faith
William**

Hot Cross Buns



For the buns

- 300ml full-fat milk
- 1 egg
- 50g butter
- 500g strong bread flour
- 75g caster sugar
- 1 tbsp sunflower oil
- 7g sachet fast-action yeast
- 75g sultanas
- 50g mixed peel
- zest of 1 orange
- 1 finely chopped apple
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon

For the cross

- 75g plain flour, plus extra for dusting

For the glaze

- 3 tbsp apricot jam

Method

1. Bring 300ml full-fat milk to the boil and remove from the heat, then add 50g butter. Leave to cool. Put 500g strong bread flour, 75g caster sugar and 7g sachet fast-action yeast into a bowl. Make a well in the centre. Pour in the warm milk and butter mixture, and add 1 beaten egg. Using a wooden spoon, mix well, then bring everything together with your hands until you have a sticky dough.
2. Tip on to a lightly floured surface and knead by holding the dough with one hand and stretching it with the heel of the other hand, then folding it back on itself. Repeat for 5 mins until smooth and elastic. Put the dough in a lightly oiled bowl. Cover with oiled cling film and leave to rise in a warm place for about an hour or until doubled in size and a finger pressed into it leaves a dent.
3. With the dough still in the bowl, add 75g sultanas, 50g mixed peel, zest of 1 orange, 1 finely chopped apple and 1 tsp ground cinnamon. Knead into the dough, making sure everything is well distributed. Leave to rise for another hour, again covered by some well-oiled cling film.
4. Divide the dough into 15 even pieces (about 75g per piece). Roll each piece into a smooth ball on a lightly floured work surface. Arrange the buns on one or two baking trays lined with parchment, leaving enough space for the dough to expand. Cover (but don't wrap) with more oiled cling film, or a clean tea towel, then set aside to prove for about an hour.
5. Heat oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Mix 75g plain flour with about 5 tbsp water to make the paste for the cross - add the water 1 tbsp at a time, so you add just enough for a thick paste. Spoon into a piping bag with a small nozzle. Pipe a line along each row of buns, then repeat in the other direction to create crosses. Bake for 20 mins on the middle shelf of the oven, until golden brown.
6. Gently heat 3 tbsp apricot jam to melt, then sieve to get rid of any chunks. While the jam is still warm, brush over the top of the warm buns and leave to cool.

LENT



LENT IS A TIME FOR QUIET REFLECTION AND CONTEMPLATION



IT IS A SEASON OF ABSTINENCE AND FASTING



SOME CHRISTIANS GIVE SOMETHING UP DURING LENT



OTHERS CHOOSE TO CARRY OUT ACTS OF PENANCE

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OCCASIONAL ATTENDERS

EXAMPLES OF 'TWICE A YEAR' CHURCHGOERS

WE ONLY GO AT CHRISTMAS AND EASTER - FOR THE KIDS MAINLY



WE GO WHEN IT IS A PARADE SERVICE - MOTHER'S DAY AND REMEMBRANCE USUALLY



WE TEND TO GO ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY AND THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY - I DON'T KNOW WHY REALLY - IT'S JUST A HABIT WE'VE GOT INTO

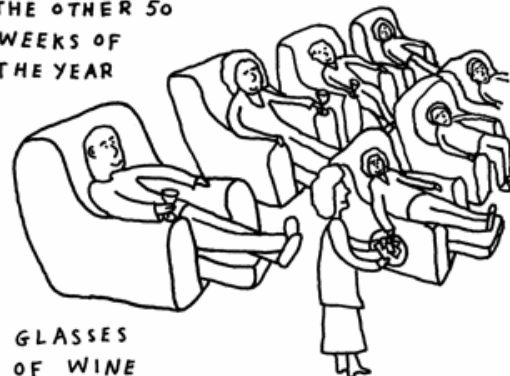


CartoonChurch.com

HOW TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO COME TO CHURCH A BIT MORE OFTEN

TELL THEM ABOUT THE GREAT TIMES WE HAVE DURING SERVICES FOR THE OTHER 50 WEEKS OF THE YEAR

WE REPLACE THE PEWS WITH RECLINING ARMCHAIRS



GLASSES OF WINE ARE SERVED

AND THE MONEY IS GIVEN OUT RATHER THAN BEING COLLECTED IN

SERVICES

Date	DAY	SERVICE	TIME
22 March	Mothering Sunday	Eucharist & <i>Children's Church</i>	10.30 am
29 March	Sunday	Eucharist Evensong	10.30 am 5.15pm
5 April	Palm Sunday	Palm Sunday Eucharist & <i>Children's Church</i> <i>Thirsting after Righteousness at the Original</i> Evensong	10.30 am Noon 5.15pm
9 April	Maundy Thursday	Maundy Thursday Service	7pm
10 April	Good Friday	Good Friday Devotion	12-3pm
12 April	Easter Sunday	Easter Sunday Eucharist <i>Easter egg hunt after the service</i>	10.30 am
19 April	Sunday	Eucharist Evensong	10.30 am 5.15pm
26 April	Sunday	Eucharist Evensong	10.30 am 5.15pm
3 May	Sunday	Eucharist & <i>Children's Church</i> <i>Thirsting after Righteousness at the Original</i> Evensong	10.30 am Noon 5.15pm
10 May	Sunday	Eucharist Evensong	10.30 am 5.15pm
17 May	Sunday	Eucharist & <i>Children's Church</i> Evensong	10.30 am 5.15pm
24 May	Sunday	Eucharist Evensong	10.30 am 5.15pm
31 May	Sunday	Eucharist & <i>Children's Church</i> Evensong	10.30 am 5.15pm
7 June	Sunday	Eucharist <i>Thirsting after Righteousness at the Original</i> Evensong	10.30 am Noon 5.15pm
14 June	Sunday	Eucharist & <i>Children's Church</i> Evensong	10.30 am 5.15pm
21 June	Sunday	Eucharist Evensong	10.30 am 5.15pm
28 June	Sunday	Eucharist & <i>Children's Church</i> Evensong	10.30 am 5.15pm
5 July	Sunday	Eucharist <i>Thirsting after Righteousness at the Original</i> Evensong	10.30 am Noon 5.15pm

WHO'S WHO AT ST. MATTHEW'S	
Ministry team	
Revd Dr Joe Roulston <i>Priest in Charge</i>	0131 654 1068
Harry Stoddart <i>Lay Reader</i>	-
Vestry	
James Cardwell Moore <i>Chair of Vestry</i>	0131 448 1935
Mike Fitchett <i>Vestry Secretary</i>	0131 440 4569
Ian McLeish <i>Treasurer</i>	0131 667 6561
Doris Nelson <i>People's Warden</i>	-
Harry Stoddart <i>Lay Representative</i>	-
Shonagh Toulouse <i>Priest's Warden</i>	0131 629 9020
Belle Dieckfoss <i>Alternate Lay Representative</i>	0131 440 2824
Jo Barrow	0131 440 2136
Joy Norridge	0131 440 2826
Roger Whait	07593 641724
Jill Black <i>Sacristan</i>	0131 443 2116
Domhnull Dean <i>Sacristan</i>	0754 0657 360
Jacqui Roulston <i>Grapevine editor</i>	0131 654 1068
Rosemary Buchanan <i>Flowers</i>	0131 440 0952
Rosslyn Chapel Trust	0131 440 2159