



Across

- 1 Law of old practical cat? (11)
- 6 The ___ is my shepherd (4)
- 7 Found by the Nile (5)
- 12 Kept by Judas Iscariot (5)
- 13 Mary ___, first witness to the Resurrection (9)

Down

- 1 Holy Family's transport (6)
- 2 Paul's son in the Faith (7)
- 3 ___ screen, separating nave from chancel (4)
- 4 Began to rebuild the Temple (8)
- 5 MU lady uniquely in St. Mark's window (4, 6)

Answers to last month's crossword



- 8 First martyr (7)
- 9 In short supply at the inn (4)
- 10 What the Psalmist called an atheist (4)
- 11 Goliath was very ___ (3)
- 12 Perhaps you're using one (3)

Answers in next month's issue.

Editorial

Hopefully, by the time that you read this, we'll be seeing daffodils everywhere. What the *trouvères* (medieval French poets) called the *reverdie* — the “getting green again” — is underway. We haven't got any Old French love poetry in this issue, but we hope that you enjoy the articles and crossword!

David M. Sargent

From Fr Simon

Dear all

Walking from the vicarage to church I now have to duck down low. On one of our snowy days, a branch got so heavily weighed down with snow that it couldn't cope under the weight and half broke. It's now stuck like that. Why did that branch break, when so many others were fine? Part of the answer might be that this is an evergreen tree.

I'm very lucky to have the large vicarage garden (despite its demands) and whoever planted it some years ago, did a good job, because in the winter there is still some green. A number of the trees and shrubs hold on to their leaves throughout the winter, which brighten up the garden in these cold and dark months.

Most of the trees are brown and bare, seemingly lifeless until spring, but the evergreens are bright and green and joyful.

This comes at a cost. The bare trees are able to shed the snow. Yes, some snow builds up (and they look quite beautiful with it), but the leafy branches collect so much more snow, and get even more weighed down, just like that branch near my gate which eventually got so heavy that it gave way.

I'd like to be the evergreen tree, bringing beauty and life all the time. But that is quite a challenge and it's easy to get weighed down. Things build up, demands grow, and our expectations of ourselves create a troublesome burden.

[continued on page 3]

For All the Saints

by Mother Janet, Associate Priest

There are plenty of saints who are celebrated in March. I suppose you might have been expecting either St Patrick or St David but instead let's think about the often-overlooked member of the Holy Family – St Joseph, foster father of Jesus.

Joseph came from a royal lineage; he was descended from David, the greatest king of Israel. The angel who first speaks to Joseph greets him as "son of David," a royal title used also for Jesus.

The Bible tells us that when he found Mary, his betrothed, was pregnant with a child who was not his, instead of having her publicly humiliated as the law allowed, he had intended to set aside the betrothal quietly.

Then, of course, God sent the angel and Joseph married Mary and took care of both her and Jesus, escaping into Egypt with them away from Herod.

We learn a lot about Joseph's character from all this. He must have been both kind and generous, and he was able to trust in God and to accept that God was prepared to use him to take care of the Messiah.

The last mention of Joseph in the Bible is in Luke's Gospel when Jesus remained in the Temple in Jerusalem, instead of returning home with His parents. There is a legend that Joseph died before Jesus began His ministry.

Joseph is the patron of the dying, as he died with Jesus and Mary close to him. Joseph is also patron of the universal Church, fathers, carpenters, social justice, and house hunters.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 22nd March: Lent Book Zoom discussion at 7.30pm. Meeting ID: 892 6518 4881 — or use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89265184881/>

Sunday 28th March: The clocks go forward. It's also Palm Sunday, marking the beginning of Holy Week.

Sunday 4th April: Easter Sunday

From Fr Simon [continued from page 1]

Sometimes we carry burdens without really knowing it, we stoop and bend over (sometimes physically) not realising how much we are carrying. Yet even when we become aware, we still want to hold on.

This world pressures us to be ever-green: always wonderful, always brilliant, always better than average.

Lent is a good time to follow the wisdom of the deciduous trees and to let go.

The leafless tree is not dead, it has let go and is waiting ... waiting for life to come.

Why not try to let something go this Lent? Ask God what could be taken from you, for a season.

Lent started back in February, but that's ok, why not start now or aim to make March a month of freed moments?

Two things might help with this. Firstly, the clergy have devised daily reflections and devotions all through lent. These may help you to pause, to reconsider, re-evaluate. Secondly, I've chosen for our Lent book this year, "Entertaining Saints", comprising of short, touching stories from St George's Crypt. Each day you could read a story and then pause for moment to let go.

A bit of stillness or silence can feel like death in this world of ever-green demands, but it may help us to shed some of our load, to unbend our lives and be all the more resilient and prepared to greet the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday.

God Bless

Notices

The Lent devotions are available from Fr Simon, online and from the back of church.

The Lent Book is called *Entertaining Saints, Tales from St George's Crypt* by Roger Quick and costs about £10. If you want to borrow a copy ask Fr Simon.

During lockdown, Sunday services are live-streamed from the vicarage at 10am, followed by Zoom coffee (contact the vicar if you want help accessing these).

St Mark's Longwood is usually open for private prayer on Wednesdays 11am-12pm.

We do not know yet when services in church will resume, or what we will do for Holy Week and Easter, but we will post updates on our websites and facebook pages, and we will do our best to let you know.