**The Downlander.**

**The Parish Newsletter for**

**St. Laurence Church**

**Telscombe Village.**



**April and May 2025**

**Priest in Charge: Rev Jez Lowries:**

79 Ambleside Avenue

Telscombe Cliffs

BN10 7LN

Tel: 01273 584264

[Email:  j.lowries@gmail.com](mailto:Email%3A-j.lowries@gmail.com)

Friday day off

**Church  Administrator**: Tuesday and Thursday mornings at the Ascension church

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Production**  **Editor** | Margaret Wooll 01273 586398  Email: [margaretawooll@btinternet.com](mailto:margaretawooll@btinternet.com) |

**Churchwarden** Margaret Wooll (as above)

PCC Secretary Nikki Hussey 07864 848495

Email: [nikkihu@btinternet.com](mailto:nikkihu@btinternet.com)

Safe Guarding Officer Nikki Hussey 07864 848495

Email: [nikkihu@btinternet.com](mailto:nikkihu@btinternet.com)

Church Services

**Every Sunday 11.00 am**

**Holy Communion - with hymns**

**Celebrants and Lectionary Readings for April and May 2025 Year C**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Day** | **Preacher** | **Page** | **Readings** | |
| Sunday 6th April | Fifth Sunday of Lent | Judith Egar | **588** | 1st Psalm 126  2nd Philippians 3.4-14  Gospel: John 12.1-8 | |
| Sunday 13th April | Palm Sunday  Liturgy of the Passion | Jez Lowries | **591** | 1st Isaiah 50.4-9  2nd Philippians 2.5-11  Gospel: Luke 23.1-49 | |
| Sunday 20th April | Easter Day | Malcolm Elwis | **599** | 1st Acts 10.34-43  2nd 1 Corinthians 15.19-26  Gospel: John 20.1-18 | |
| Sunday 27th April | Second Sunday of Easter | Phillipp Hamilton | **603** | 1st Acts 5.27-32  2nd Revelation 1.4-8  Gospel: John 20.19-31 | |
|  |  |  |  |  | |
| Sunday 4th May | Third Sunday of Easter | Judith Egar | **607** | 1st Acts 9.1-6  2nd Revelations 5.11-14  Gospel: John 21.1-19 | |
| Sunday 11th May | Fourth Sunday of Easter | Jez Lowries | **610** | 1st Acts 9.36-43  2nd Psalm 23  Gospel: John 10.22-30 |
| Sunday 18th May | Fifth Sunday of Easter | Phillipp Hamilton | **612** | 1st Acts 11.1-18  2nd Revelations 21.1-6  Gospel: John 13.31-35 |
| Sunday 25th May | Sixth Sunday of Easter | Malcolm Elwis | **615** | 1st Acts 16.9-15  2nd Psalm 67  Gospel: John 14.23-29 |



**Our Parish Statement.**

“St Laurence is a traditional Anglican Parish.

We are Spirit led, reaching out to all.

We proclaim the Gospel of God's love in Christ,

and reverently administer the Sacraments.

A warm welcome awaits you here.”

**St Laurence Parish Prayer**

Heavenly Father,

Whose love, like the Downs, surrounds us on every side.

Bless our Parish Church and all who worship here.

Give us a VISION of all you call us to be,

COURAGE to reach out to those around us,

and the spirit of LOVE to unite all our efforts.

We ask this in the name of your Son, our Lord and Saviour,

Jesus Christ. Amen.

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the April/ May magazine. By now spring has sprung and we look forward to warmer and sunnier days. When you read this the clocks would have moved on an hour, one hour less in bed.

During February and March the lower church yard was a carpet of white Snowdrops. Now it is the turn of the Daffodils which cover the banks leading into Telscombe Village, an absolute covering of golden yellow. We are so fortunate to live in such a lovely part of Sussex, sea to the south and the Downs to the north. During Lent our charity has been Sight Savers, the jar is still at the back of the church, please donate during this time, the jar will be available until mid April when we will send our donations to Sight Savers.

During April we will be celebrating Easter a time of reflection on what Easter means to so many, not just chocolate Easter eggs but a new beginning. It is also time for the church Electoral Roll to be updated. In 2025 we have to redo the electoral roll for the church from scratch, and we also want to take this opportunity to update our contact list and church directory.  Please could you take a form from the back of the church, fill it in and give it to Margaret.  If you have any questions, do ask Nikki or Margaret who will try to help you!

**Easter Services for The Ascension and St. Laurence.**

**Ascension:** There is no Maundy Thursday event this year.

Good Friday 10.00am Family Service

2.00pm Hour at the Cross

Easter Sunday Easter Day All-age Holy Communion 10.00am

**St. Laurence:** Easter Day Holy Communion with Hymns at 11.00am

Jesus rose from the dead – so what?

The Nicene Creed, which was agreed (more or less) 1700 years ago in 325AD says this about Jesus and the resurrection:

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ…

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures….

It is a core article of the Christian faith that Jesus Christ really died, and really rose to life three days later, never to die again. The evidence that these events took place in history is very good, from the integrity of the gospel accounts to the commitment of the first apostles to this as truth (most of them went to their deaths proclaiming the resurrection, and who would die for something they knew was a lie?). I am convinced that the resurrection is a true fact, and the question that I find interesting is the next one: So what?

What does the resurrection mean? How does a man rising to new life 2000 years ago change anything about my life?

# Saved and forgiven

The book of 1 Corinthians in the Bible is a letter from the apostle Paul to a church, and he addresses various complicated problems that they have. One of the worst problems is that some people in Corinth are teaching that there is no such thing as resurrection. Paul responds by saying,

If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith….

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Corinthians 15:13-14, 17-19)

The Christian faith is only possible if Jesus was raised from the dead. If he didn’t rise again, our sins are not forgiven and all who have died are lost forever – they cannot have eternal life. The resurrection is fundamental to God’s great plan to save the world, and it gives us assurance of our forgiveness and reconciliation with God. When Jesus died on the cross, he was bearing the sin of the world; he was submitting himself to the just punishment that we deserve for rejecting God. The resurrection means that he has borne it all and has paid the debt that we owe in full. We could turn Paul’s words around and say, “Because Jesus is risen, you are no longer in your sins.” There is great freedom and peace in the resurrection. Our guilt is truly washed away and we now have power to change.

# Certain hope

Later on in the same chapter of 1 Corinthians, Paul turns to speak about the resurrection that awaits everyone who has put their faith in Jesus:

As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man. (1 Corinthians 15:48-49)

We are all born bearing the image of Adam, the ‘earthly man,’ but one day, everyone who follows Jesus will be raised to new life in a renewed and transformed heavenly body, bearing the image of the heavenly man, Jesus. If you ever wonder what eternal life will be like, read the gospel accounts of the resurrection appearances. Jesus eats, talks, walks, knows his friends and can be seen and touched by them. At the same time, he is different somehow. When Jesus returns, he will raise us up to new life that is like his new life. It will be real, physical and perfect. It will be wonderful, and his resurrection means that it must be given to us. We have a certain hope for today because Jesus rose from the dead 2000 years ago.

The last verse of a modern hymn goes like this:

For my life He bled and died,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied;  
He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life,  
He will hold me fast ‘Till our faith is turned to sight  
When He comes at last!

For those unable to get to church this Easter, here is the Collect for Easter Day and an Easter hymn.

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluya!  Our triumphant holy day, Alleluya!  Who did once, upon the Cross, Alleluya!  Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluya! | Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluya!  Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluya!  Who endured the Cross and grave, Alleluya!  Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluya! |

But the pains that he endured Alleluya!

Our salvation have procured; Alleluya!

Now above the sky he’s King, Alleluya!

Where the angels ever sing. Alleluya!

**Whether Weather?**

As a nation, or rather a polyglot of nations, the British are world famous for their attention to, fixation on, nay even obsession with all things meteorological. It is a truth universally acknowledged that a British man (or woman for that matter) whether single or in possession of a good fortune must be in want, not of a wife as Jane Austen would have us believe, but instead in desperate need of a long and involved discussion about the weather. Your average Brit. can happily fill a bus ride from Saltdean to Eastbourne with reflections in the prevailing climatic conditions. Never happier than when bemoaning the cold/wind/rain/snow/sleet/sun which currently holds sway in the firmament. Further, although they may be hazy about where they were on the day that JFK was shot, they will have absolutely no difficulty in describing the prevailing weather conditions. Natural, nay enthusiastic, enemies on the battle field and the sporting arena, the English, Irish, Scots and Welsh pull together with frightening speed when confronted by the vagaries of our weather. Even more so, should an outside nation dare to suggest their climactic conditions are in any way superior, inferior or just downright different to those experienced by Britain. Yet all this existential preoccupation with matters meteorological appears to have little practical application in the bulk standard Britisher's daily life.

Take our transport network. No I mean it! Please please anyone take our transport network. We'll even pay you to take it! It only takes the lightest dusting of the snowy stuff for the whole system to grind or possibly slither to an ignominious stop. Autumnal leaves cause chaos on railway lines. Rain fills pot holes in a way that tarmac should and sun prevents Newhaven bridge, once opened, from returning to its closed position. “Essential” roadworks are regularly extended from a couple of days to several months, occasionally several years, while wind plays havoc with all those tasteful lines of traffic cones that appear overnight and are assumed to represent the imminent arrival of workmen eager to work. NOT! Cancellations of all descriptions are invariably linked to meteorological phenomena. Trains are to be found in the wrong place at the wrong time much more reliably than being found in the right place at the right time. Buses suddenly disappearing off the electronic boards are always victims of climatic catastrophes and planes, built to fly at altitudes known for their freezing conditions, are rendered inert by a sparkly frost. Traffic wise we just cannot cope and it is not because we have fiendish weather. We don't DO weather however much we discuss it! Our continental cousins slip on snow chains and chug off to work. They smile winningly and plunge out into arctic temperatures, shovelling snow fallen in epic proportions, glide merrily across ice several metres thick and take to boats when torrents of thaw water hurtle down from the mountains whilst we wither and wilt if it snows for half an hour and then melts away.

Would a mass investment in wheel chains be the solution? I doubt it; the government would probably get the wrong sort or pay a mate or family member for chains that are not fit for purpose (does that ring a bell?) Anyway, even if they got the right chains with no shenanigans we would probably get the wrong type of snow for them to operate correctly! There would also be the mass of Health and Safety issues arising from fixing them on and the national anxiety arising from adopting strange continental customs.

Forget about transport, should we plough on by foot? Would that work? I doubt it. We Brits never seem to have the correct clothing for whatever climate is currently holding sway. For a nation (or nations) that regularly experiences four seasons' worth of weather in any average twenty-four hours, we are never dressed appropriately for the occasion. In summer, balding gentlemen will resolutely knot handkerchiefs instead of succumbing to the “foreign” habit of wearing a Panama. In winter very few Brits unstiffen their upper lips to resort to any form of protective head gear. Even babies swaddled like Egyptian Mummys regularly have their little pates exposed to the rough winds of winter. We might invest in a plastic mac with all the elegance of a bin bag but wouldn't be seen dead in the tarpaulistrength wet weather gear worn by our European brothers. Many French people carry a second umbrella in case the first should fail. The only time you see an umbrella in Britain is when it's lying forlorn and broken in the gutter. Our teenagers set off for school in mid winter wearing shirt sleeves and trainers. The young seem to enjoy exposing acres of pimply goose-bumped flesh to icy winds and lashing rain. Pelmets for skirts and cardigans that seem to have shrunk in the wash revealing blotchy thighs and mottled midriffs. Recent research has discovered that youngsters born after the Millennium have an extra pad of fat around their middles to protect vital organs from frost bite. Baby Boomers, brought up with Twiggy, recoil in anorexic horror! Even our language seems unmoved by our national obsession. Scandinavian languages have over two hundred separate words to describe different types of snow. We seem content with snow and ice and slush of course! Inhabitants of parched desert lands have vocabularies rolling in words for sun and heat whilst sierras, savannahs and steppes revel in words for winds. Perhaps we are too busy talking about the weather to spend time investing in words to describe it.

We don't have pantheons of weather gods and goddesses with which to terrify the kids and weave wonderful myths. We don't even remember, let alone celebrate, our great climatic events. How many people remember the great Tsunami of the Seventeenth century that flattened much of the West Country? Or our very own mini Ice Age that froze the Thames for weeks? Mention the Great Wind of '87 and be met with bemused confusion. Accept it, we are British. We may grumble, quibble and moan but we don't go overboard. Not even for the weather.

Joanna Wilkins

**Long Running TV Shows**

The only criteria for this quiz is that the programmes have been around for a long time. They might not be on at the moment but you can certainly find them on the repeat programmes! Good luck!

1. Pathway to regal ritual
2. Polishes off compass point
3. Victim?
4. Here and gone
5. Bad tempered bye ways
6. Girl in valley
7. Sign of life?
8. The dregs?
9. Alpha stag
10. Prior to lift off
11. Flee the bright lights?
12. Professor Hawking's idea?
13. June assassinations
14. Not much use in court!
15. Near to the river
16. Suitable for idiots & equines
17. Planet hopping
18. What's that medic's name?
19. Everything for the green fingered
20. Parent's military task force

**A Close up on Porches**

How disappointing it can be when you stop at an ancient church only to find it locked. Look around the porch, however, and you could be surprised by its historic features.

There are few early porches but only in the 14th century were they regarded as a necessity. They were built for many reasons but primarily I would think as a bad weather shelter for workers arriving from the fields before the doors were open.

Most porches are over south doorways with just a few at the north or “Devil’s Door”. They seem to be rarely over west doors and, strangely, neither of Shoreham’s Norman churches has one.

Some of the interesting features in porches locally include a cattle chain (Newick, 14th century) holy water stoup (Firle 15th century) Bell frame (Clayton) and grave slabs in Ditchling (15th century) and Steyning (15th century). Several have ancient wooden seats and there is a rare stone one in West Grinstead (14th century).

Porches with oak frames on stone bases are the most attractive. This type was only built in the 14th and 15th centuries like the one at Westmeston. Shipley has the luxury of two 14th century porches one of which doubles today as a tool shed!

Margery

**Peacehaven Horticultural Society**

The Garden Club (PHS) meet on the third Monday of each month in the Anzac room in the Community House, Meridian Centre, 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start. New members are always welcome. There is a speaker each meeting followed by questions and answers. Tea and coffee is available half way through the meeting. The Garden Club hold a coffee morning at the Meridian Centre 9am-12 noon on the Fourth Friday each month. On the 2nd Friday they hold a coffee morning in aid of the Martletts Hospice. The mini market will be open in the main hall. Please come and support us. For more information call Alison on 01273589502.

SWT article – Flying Colours

Let’s get the smug bit out of the way. This January I visited an incredible bird watching and conservation organisation in the Western Ghats, India, run by highly skilled and welcoming environmentalists, spotting 75 remarkable bird species, many endemic to this region.

A notable feature of these tropical species is their astonishing colour palette; vivid reds, brilliant pinks, and intense greens. There are a few reasons behind plumage colour. Bold colours can be flaunted as a display tactic in males to impress females and shame rivals in competition for a mate or territory. Colour can be used as a camouflage and survival technique, whether blending into surroundings or by confusing predators with reflective iridescence.

A fellow Brit commented on how our birds don’t really compare when it comes to colour, but there’s some spectacular species to prove them wrong. Back in Sussex, spring is just starting to peep in; the season where we finally experience those explosions of colour after such a long wait. Aside fro**m** an excuse to show off about my grey-escape holiday, I thought a celebration of our most colourful birds was due.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Firstly, Kingfishers. They also reside in India, but they’re too bright and beautiful to not make the cut. A wetland and reedbed regular, these fabulous fishers take blue to another level. There’s no mistaking their tiny turquoise shimmer as they dart down a watercourse, or perch stock still on a branch, ripple-peering. | C:\Users\Wooll\AppData\Local\Temp\aae82166-da9e-4e3c-a112-99619734a023_SWT_Images_March_2025.zip.023\SWT Images March 2025\Kingfisher © Claire Andrews.JPG |

A regular on feeders, Blue Tits can be overlooked. Take a moment to appreciate that lemon and azure plumage, merging with navy and tinged with green. Once another common garden staple, Bullfinches are sadly now a rare treat to see. If you spot a male, peachy-coral chest set against muted hues of grey and black, it can’t be anything else.

Although wowing crowds with their aerial acrobatics in murmuration, you could be forgiven for thinking Starlings individually are somewhat ordinary. Think again. Up close, and in the right light, Starlings are a mass of beautiful iridescent purples, greens and golden yellows.Corvids are considered a little plain, but what about an emerald Magpie tail or the sapphire flash of a Jay feather? A Jackdaw's pale iris can seem blue against dark feathers, and sometimes, in low summer sun, jet-black Rook plumage can look purple.

Who needs a Malabar Trogon or a Flame-throated Bulbul? Not me! Well... not for 11 months of the year anyway.

**SWT article April - Bluebell Hues**

Like many people, Bluebells are a blast of nostalgia for me. I remember woodland days out as a kid; clambering up trees and scrawling thrilling finds like ‘Woodpigeon’ in biro in soggy exercise books. Bluebell season always required a visit. There’s not much like the all-encompassing violet thwack of Bluebells in ancient woodland. Sickly-sweet scent in your nostrils, the hues of the rich indigo carpet somehow also hanging in the air, and the understory buzzing with busy pollinators, who, just like you, are making the most of this abundant explosion.

We love a limited edition, a special experience that we must make the most of. Like one-off characters in your cereal box, like happy hour, like Nightingales. And Bluebell fever is no different. Every April and May, Sussex woodlands erupt with millions of these vivid beauties, announcing that spring truly, finally, fabulously, has sprung. This early flowering provides a welcome bounty for struggling wildlife and allows Bluebells to make the most of the sunlight before the woodland canopy becomes too dense.

The native Bluebell, *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, has narrow leaves and tubular-bell shaped flowers of deep-violet blue which curl back at the edges. The flowers are generally down one side of the stem, which has a distinctive droop to it. The Spanish species, *Hyacinthoides hispanica,* has broader leaves and a paler blue, conical shaped flower. The stem is upright and covered with flowers on all sides. A big difference between the two is the Spanish has no scent, whilst the native Bluebell smells sweet.

The idea of plants ‘escaping’ your garden invokes notions of under-the-cover-of-darkness creeping, but it’s easier than you think for non-native species to go astray. Uncovered cuttings and garden waste can easily blow into communal areas or can be carried by animals, to proliferate in new, wild areas. If choosing to plant Bluebells in your garden, it’s best to choose the UK species for this reason. In a small way you could be supporting our native species to recolonise our wild woodlands, and to keep them smelling sweet.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Like many of our native wildflowers, the British Bluebell is up against it. At risk from habitat loss of precious ancient woodland, and threatened by a changing climate, the plant is also in competition with an interloper; the Spanish Bluebell. A non-native species, the Spanish Bluebell tends to outcompete its native counterpart for resources such as light and space. It can also hybridise with our native species, diluting the native Bluebell’s characteristics. So how can you tell these two species apart? | C:\Users\Wooll\AppData\Local\Temp\a94673b0-69b2-49b0-b71c-876987550682_SWT_Images_April_25.zip.682\Bluebell woodland © Roger Wilmshurst.jpg  RogerWilmshurst |

Kerry Williams: Communications Officer – Conservation

We rely on the support of our members. Please consider joining us. Your membership will help us challenge decisions that threaten wildlife, care for more than 30 nature reserves, and inspire the next generation about the wonders of the natural world. It’s easy to join online at

**sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join**

**Answers to Long Running Programmes Quiz**

1. Coronation Street
2. East Enders
3. Casualty
4. Home & Away
5. Crossroads
6. Emmerdale
7. Heartbeat
8. Lost of the Summer Wine
9. Monarch of the Glens
10. Countdown
11. Escape to the Country
12. Big Bang Theory
13. Midsomer Murders
14. Silent Witness
15. Brookside
16. Only fools and Horses
17. Star Trek
18. Doctor Who
19. Gardener's World
20. Dad's Army