April 2016

According to the Scriptures...
The Vicar writes:

Christ rose from the dead ‘according to the scriptures’.

This phrase often comes up in the gospels and epistles when they preach the crucifixion and resurrection. Things happened, we are told, ‘according to the scriptures’. As when Paul writes: ‘Christ died for our sins...and was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures’ (1 Corinthians 15.4). There often follows a reference to a verse from the psalms or one of the prophets; the connection often seems a bit unlikely.

When preaching on the day of Pentecost, Peter finds verses of the psalms which seem to fit with the theme of death and resurrection. (Acts 2.24-31).

The gospel writers do this to show that Jesus’ death and resurrection are part of a tradition of faith. The people of Israel had experienced God’s power through a turbulent history, involving slavery in Egypt, exile in Babylon, and not least, destruction of their holy places by the Romans. As they thought and prayed, they discovered that God did not desert them but came to them offering new beginnings, new hope and new life.

The death of Jesus on the Cross brought back to their minds all those painful episodes of loss and defeat in their history. His resurrection fitted in and recalled the offering of new beginnings. The people of Israel came to the realisation of what God was like, and they saw this fulfilled on the cross and in the garden of Gethsemane.

This means that the crucifixion and resurrection are not one-off events in history. They are part of our experience - and make sense of our past, help us to live in the present and give us hope for the future.

The Old Testament, with its message of freedom from slavery, and hope for refugees and exiles, fits with our own time. The problems which face our human family are frightening and often seem beyond our ability to respond. The resurrection proclaims the faith and makes the promise that God is always present. Christ came among us to share the life of his people and to show us the way to live in faith. ‘According to the scriptures’ roots the act of God in resurrection firmly in the acts of us and each other in history.

Christ is risen. Alleluia.
**Book Of The Month**

**Being Human**  
by Atul Gawande

**The Vicar writes:**

Atul Gawande was born in India and now lives and works in the USA, a Boston surgeon, staff writer for the New Yorker, and 2014 choice for the BBC Reith lectures. This book reflects on his experience of caring for those who are elderly, infirm or suffering from serious illnesses. Gawande introduces us to some of his patients and discusses the issues raised by being old, disabled or seriously ill. Throughout he is committed to the quality of life – and not just how to prolong it. He raises the paradox that innovation-driven, individual-orientated societies have evolved medical technologies and therapeutics so advanced that people are kept alive for longer than ever before, but those same societies are not set up to care for people who become dependent through old age. He visits experiments in supported living as an alternative to residential care and discusses the care provided by hospices. He considers what to ask people facing fatal diseases and how to respond. These are urgent questions facing our society as we become more able to treat illness and live longer. His approach is refreshing and relevant. We will be discussing this book at two sessions this month. The book is coming to our GSM shop. (It’s not essential to have read the book to enjoy and learn from our study sessions – but it might help.)

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**Syrian Refugees Properties Needed in Cambridge**

Cambridge Refugee Resettlement Campaign welcomes refugees and those seeking asylum. As volunteers, we work with the Cambridge City Council through the government’s resettlement scheme. The biggest needs at the moment are housing for refugees and foster parents for unaccompanied minors.

The Home Office has the following rules about housing for resettled refugees:
- The property has to be family-sized in Cambridge City area and has to have a separate entrance
- The property must be available for a minimum of two years, with a preference for three years.
- The rent paid to the landlord will correspond to the Local Housing Allowance Rate.

If you wish to consider housing a refugee, please email John Richard Lloyd: john-richard@hotmail.co.uk or contactcrrc@gmail.com.

**Fostering refugee children** Refugee children who are orphaned or have been separated from parents and families need a loving and caring foster family to help them rebuild their devastated lives. If you wish to find out more about becoming a foster parent - or other support you can provide to these children, please contact adrian.matthews1@ntlworld.com

Alternatively, go to www.cambridgerefugees.org
PCC Meeting of 7th March

- The Council welcomed the suggestion of quadrant monitors – regular members of the congregation who undertake to watch out for those who sit near them in church as a way to increase awareness of illness and possible pastoral needs.
- It was noted that a “Quiet Day” had been arranged for Saturday, 24th September at Clare Priory.
- The Heritage Education Project would produce for sale a 30-minute DVD on monarchs associated with the church. Evaluation and the final report of the project would be available in May.
- The Council endorsed suggestions for the Easter envelope collections for (a) The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Jordan and (b) Romsey Mill, Cambridge which helps local families, including people on the autism spectrum, and refugees from Syria.
- A new amplifier had been installed to improve the sound system.
- The tower income had nearly doubled, as had those from the residential lettings. The amount of Parish Share to the Diocese had been confirmed at £74,498. The last part of the loan from the Diocese would be repaid shortly.
- Patrick Brooke would be standing down from being churchwarden at the APCM, but was prepared to continue on the PCC.
- GSM was working with the director of the Office for Post-Doctoral Affairs to develop the Chaplaincy to University Staff.
- GSM continues to explore the five levers for mission described in the diocesan document, “People Fully Alive 2025”, and it was suggested that it might be helpful for a small group to look at the material, discuss with the clergy and report to the PCC. Details were available on the diocesan website.

Michaelhouse

Rosemary Barrett had been appointed Manager. Grants were sought for the post of Chaplain. Meanwhile Erica Bowler was working part-time until September. The weathervane at Michaelhouse had been removed for safety. Repair work was under way but to replace the weathervane, an extra £9,500 would need to be raised.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting is planned for Sunday, 24th April after Parish Communion.

Climate Change
From Rosemary Watson

A conference on climate change organised by the Vellore Link Support Group of Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council will be held on 18th June 2016 at St. Ives Free Church from 10am-4pm. Cost: £10 (includes lunch) Speakers: Vellore Diocese, India Christian Aid, Anglian Water and Local farmers.

Jesus said “...you know how to interpret the appearance of the sky but you cannot interpret the signs of the times” Matthew 16:2-3

What do we need to know about climate change? Is there a Christian approach to it? How can churches respond to it? Come and find out about one of the greatest challenges facing the world today.

Contact: lilywhymer@gmail.com
Tel: 01638 507576
### DIARY APRIL 2016

**GREAT ST MARYS AND MICHAELHOUSE**

#### Regular Sunday Services
- 8.00am  Holy Communion (BCP)
- 9.30am  Parish Communion (CW)
- 11.15am Choral Mattins
- 5.30pm  Choral Evensong

#### SERVICES IN APRIL

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<td><strong>Mondays</strong></td>
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<td>9.15am (GSM)</td>
<td>Holy Communion</td>
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<td>9.15am (MH)</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<td>10.30am (MH)</td>
<td>Ark</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesdays</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9.00am (MHFH)</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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#### SUNDAYS IN APRIL

- **Sunday 3 April** - Second Sunday of Easter
  11.15am and 5.30pm, The Cathedral Chamber Choir will sing at Choral Mattins and Evensong. 6.30pm Prayer vigil for Pakistan following the bombs at Easter in Lahore.

- **Sunday 17 April**
  9.30am All age Eucharist. The choirs return from their Easter holiday

- **Sunday 24 April**
  11am Annual Parochial Church Meeting at Michaelhouse, followed by a bring-and-share lunch (no service of Choral Mattins).

#### Looking ahead, Sunday 1 May
- University Sermon by Professor Robin Kirkpatrick, Fellow of Robinson College.