



THE BULLETIN

keeping you informed and up to date with activities and developments
at St Margaret's Church, Leigh on Sea.

Vol 2 No 3

March 2018

Share a bit of Easter 'foolishness'



When was the last time you shared a bit of good old-fashioned Christian 'foolishness'?

Many early Christians eagerly embraced the label 'foolishness' for the good news they shared about Jesus. They didn't think the Gospel was nonsense, though. They simply saw that, by the usual standards of the world, the story of the cross and resurrection was 'foolishness'. Today, in a world obsessed with material success, the cross has lost none of its 'foolishness'. Today, in a time when hope seems in desperately short supply, the 'foolishness' of the resurrection remains as powerful as ever.

So, this Easter, I want to challenge all of us to rediscover, celebrate – and most importantly – *share* the delicious 'foolishness' of the cross and resurrection with those around us.

The cross is 'foolishness' because it is a sign of complete failure by the usual standards. Things looked different when Jesus arrived triumphantly at Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, however. As he was heralded by great crowds, Jesus seems to be the epitome of success. But that was one day at the start of a very long week.

As the days went by, success disintegrated and faltered into Good Friday, when Jesus's death on the cross was to redefine the depth of worldly failure. He seemed a failure through the betrayal and denial of his closest friends, a failure in his

condemnation by the political and religious authorities and the crowds, a failure in the anguish and humiliation of his public torture, a failure in his pathetic criminal's death on a cross - suffocated by the weight of his own broken body. Truly, from the foot of the cross the sign above his head, 'The King of the Jews', seemed so foolish as to be laughable.

At Easter we discover that this 'foolishness' shouldn't be accompanied by the laughter of derision, however, but rather by the laughter of great joy: the laughter of hope fulfilled beyond any expectation. The 'foolishness' of the resurrection is that the terrifying absence of Jesus's body from the tomb tells of the eternal presence of the risen Christ! At *that* moment, the 'failure' of the cross is revealed to be God's great triumph – a success beyond our imaginings.

If we share this 'foolishness', we become beacons of resurrection hope in a world paralysed by fear of failure. If we cherish this 'foolishness', we are liberated to be disciples who know that whether we succeed or fail by the world's standards, the risen Christ is present with us. In our triumphs and joys, our disappointments and disasters, and even in our death, the risen Christ is there. He is with us because in the cross and resurrection the world's greatest failure was shown to be the eternal triumph of God's love. *That* is a 'foolishness' that world needs to hear in every generation. So let's share it.

+ Stephen Chelmsford

Church Services in March

Friday 2nd World Day of Prayer for Women

19.30 at St Margaret's

11th Mothering Sunday (combined 10.00 Mass) with Uniformed organisations, children, and presentation of flowers.

Sunday 25TH Palm Sunday

08.00 Said Mass

9.45 Sung Mass with procession (from Fairview Gardens)

Monday 26th 19.30 - 20.30

MU Stations of the Cross and Communion

Tuesday & Wednesday

Said Mass with address 19.30-20.00

Maundy Thursday

19.30 Parish Sung Mass with foot washing and procession to "The Garden of Gethsemane"

21.00-00.00 Vigil Watch

Good Friday

10.30 - Stations of the Cross - all ages

13.30 -15.00 -The Liturgy of the Lord's Death

Holy Saturday

08.00 Morning prayer

09.00 - 1200 Preparation of the church for Easter

18.00 Evening prayer

Easter Day April 1st

05.30 The dawn Vigil Mass followed by Parish Breakfast.

10.00 Combined Sung Easter Mass.



Mothers' Union

INVITES ALL CHILDREN who will enjoy giving flowers to their Mums on Mothering Sunday to come to the church **between 10am and 12 noon on the Saturday 10th March**

to have fun making up the bunches that will be distributed at the services on **Sunday 11th.**

We will be having a retiring collection after the service, as usual, collecting for the MU **'Make a Mother's Day'**.

The money collected goes to help support the valuable work that the MU does all over the world, helping with literacy, and empowering mothers to bring up their children in healthy conditions and knowing God's love for us all.

MU will be reading the Stations of the Cross **Monday March 26th at 7.30pm** It is of course a devotion for all the congregation and those of you who would like to read with us will be welcome - please let Sheila know.

If you are interested in joining MU, please contact Sheila 554044 or Angela 477126



We have been supporters of HARP for many years and will be continuing our donations of Food and Goods. In March we are particularly collecting **Tinned Vegetables: Carrots Sweetcorn Beans Potatoes - or any others you can think of.**

All donations can be left in a box in the porch for delivery

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### Chrism Mass

The Bishop of Richborough will celebrate his Chrism Mass in Chelmsford Cathedral on the Monday of Holy Week, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. This is a beautiful and spiritually uplifting service during which the priests and deacons present renew their vows and the Holy Oils are blessed for use in the parishes of the diocese during the ensuing year . At the end of the service, refreshments are served in the Chapter House. I would encourage members of St. Margaret's to attend. If you require any further information, please contact me on 01702 216401 or 07758 177195. PETER FISHER.

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CELL OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Our March meeting will be on **Wednesday, March 7th at St James Church 7.30pm** for Mass. It is informal and very friendly. Everyone is invited, whether or not a member. If you require any further information, please contact me by telephone (01702 216401) or by email (K2phf@blueyonder.co.uk). Peter Fisher

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### Social Events in March

**4th - Communita 4pm**

**10th - Church cleaning 9.30 - 11.30**  
following 9 am Mass  
Refreshments provided.

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Easter Lilies and Flowers

If you would like to remember a loved one at Easter with a lily or white flowers in church, please put



your contribution into an envelope with the name(s) of those to be remembered and your

flower preference then hand it to Sheila Moore or one of the Church Wardens **by Palm Sunday** at the latest. Names of those to be remembered are displayed on Easter Sunday on the High Altar.

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### Our Pilgrimage to The Holy Land

#### Day 3

Bob and I were up early today to watch the sunrise. I know it rises in exactly the same place every day but today it was special being over the Sea of Galilee, and we were amazed at the speed at which the sun came up over the Golan Heights on the other side of the valley.

Having breakfasted we were on the coach by 8am and set off for Mount

Tabor, the place of the Transfiguration. We were taken up the mountain by taxis and attended our own short service in a secluded area, after which we were able to explore the plateau and the beautiful church built on the top and visible for miles around. We concluded it must have taken Jesus and his disciples at least one day, if not more, of walking to get to the top of Mount Tabor.

The coach then took us to Nazareth. Not the Nazareth of our childhood pictures but a very overcrowded, rather dismal town. Here we walked to the Anglican church of Christchurch, where communion was celebrated. We walked down the hill past shops and stalls to a cafe where we enjoyed a lunch of falafel and then retraced our steps to the Basilica of the Annunciation. (Remember - "it was in this area, do not



become fixed on a definite place"). The Basilica is a beautiful airy building with interesting depictions of the Virgin Mary from churches all over the world and a fascinating

mosaic labyrinth outside.

From there we drove to Cana of Galilee, the place of the first miracle of Jesus. Here we were to renew our marriage vows and as Bob and I had been married the longest of all those in the chapel, we were chosen to renew vows on behalf of everyone else. Fr David Tudor skilfully included those whose partners

are no longer with us. It was a very moving service and reminded us of how lucky we have been over the past 45 years.

Moving on from here our last visit of the day was to the River Jordon where we held a short service to renew our Baptismal vows. This site was very crowded with many people from other parties opting for full immersion in the rather dubiously green coloured river. It was here we indulged in our first ice-creams of the holiday!

Dinner was shared with our fellow pilgrims and we all retired to bed ready for a very early start the next day.

Barbara Southward (To be continued)

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Some Significant Days in March 2018

- 1st** St David.
Patron Saint of Wales
- 11th** Mothering Sunday
- 17th** St Patrick -
Patron Saint of Ireland
- 19th** St Joseph of Nazareth
- 25th** Palm Sunday
'Lady Day' The Annunciation
of our Lord to the Blessed
Virgin Mary
- 29th** Maundy Thursday
- 30th** Good Friday

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The final date for items to be included  
in the March Bulletin is  
**Wednesday 21st March**  
barbara@ravenglade.co.uk

## Corella Cornish

Corella was born in Southend on 14th. May 1926 and lived in a large house on Victoria Avenue which was eventually demolished to form part of the gardens leading to the Civic Centre. The family then moved to a house overlooking the seafront which again was pulled down, this time to make way for the Cliffs Pavilion, before moving into her beloved bungalow in Flemming Avenue. After leaving school she and her mother ran a haberdashers/wool shop for many years.

Having lived in Southend all of her life Corella had seen all the changes that had occurred over the years and had vivid memories of what happened to the town during World War 2. She was privileged to have lived during an age full of mind boggling changes.

Corella never married and looked after her mother for forty years until she died aged 97. From her early years Corella held fond memories of exotic European holidays. However her fondest memories were of her trips to the Holy Land where she visited Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Corella had many beautiful things in her bungalow which showed her love of animals and butterflies. She adored her garden, the birds and even foxes which she loved feeding, not forgetting her oak trees and flowers there in.

Her association with St Margaret's spanned at least 40 years, where she was a most faithful member of the congregation who rarely missed a Sunday or day of obligation. You could be forgiven not noticing her as that was her way. Corella was a very quiet and gentle person who you could say did not seek the limelight. She was a sweetie.

Corella will always be remembered as the 'Flower Lady'. Most of us have no trouble recalling her displays especially those at Easter which were mind blowing. Many brides will have permanent memories of her floral displays.

Her pride and joy was her B-reg gold with vinyl roof Ford Cortina which she retained to the end. It was a sad day for her to give up driving because of her failing eyesight which got progressively worse culminating in blindness.

The last few years for Corella were difficult with failing ill health, loss of sight and many stays in hospital, not the least being confined to bed but her friends and her faith in the Lord gave her great comfort and strength.

She is now at rest God Bless her.

John & Pru May

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Father Richard Law

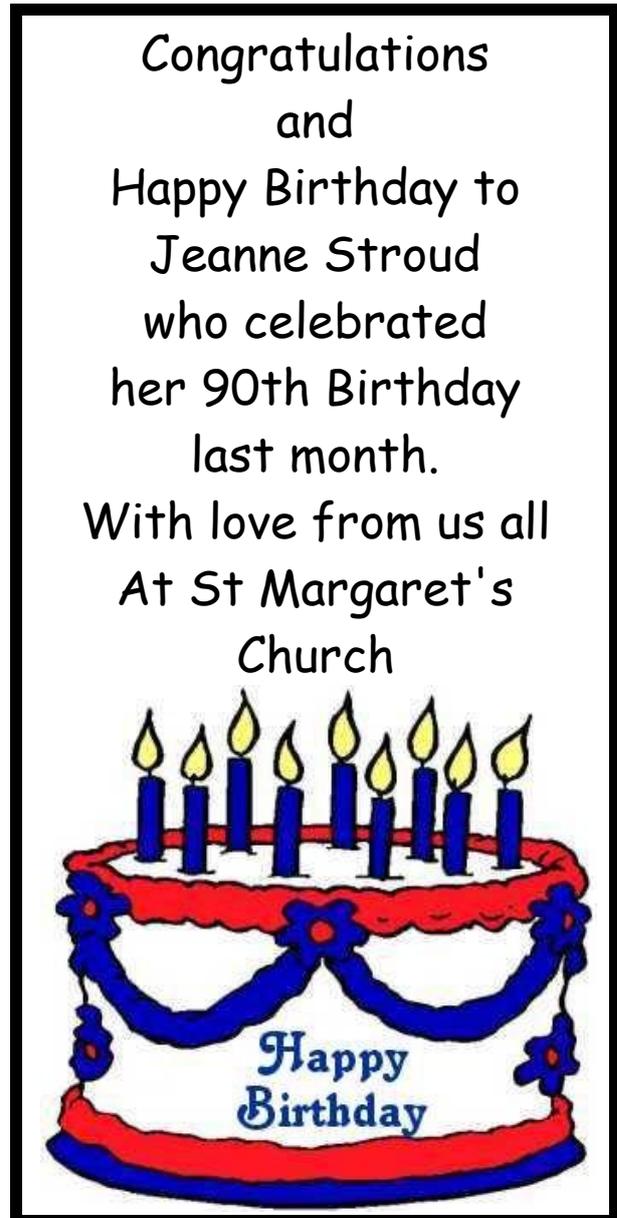
Priest at St Margaret's Church for almost nine years in the 1980s.

Father Richard was a man of prayer, contemplative prayer. He had been a member of the Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer for some years before coming to St Margaret's. The monthly contemplative prayer group gathered together a small group of folk who were drawn into the silent, still way of prayer, and who found a new experience of a deepening relationship with their Lord. Christine, his wife, was always supportive of him in this ministry.

Father Richard was a quiet and gentle pastor, confessor and spiritual guide, except of course when there was a need for strong words! He also took risks with anyone who had a particular need of help or healing, and would prepare a special time of prayer, or a Mass for them. It was Father who taught myself and the other members of the group about this way of prayer. The only way of prayer in which "He can really get to you".

May Father Richard rest in peace and in his Lord's time rise to meet Him, face to face.

Margaret Royce.



And finally -

British Summer Time

March 25th
the clocks
go forward
one hour

