

MINISTER'S LETTER



Having good, sound foundations on which to build something is important. Without good, sound foundations, anything built subsequently is liable to fail or fall. Foundations are put in place in order to provide a solid base from which to build. It is important then that any foundations laid are good and sound.

We know this to be true from our own lives and world, of course.

If my garage had had good, sound foundations, it wouldn't have started to fall down and I then wouldn't've been without one for six months whilst it was being demolished and rebuilt.

If we are attempting to build an argument for or against something, it's important that we build our argument on good foundations for without a sound underlying principle or base, an argument will ultimately fail and fall. Again then, having a good foundation is important.

And Governments too know this all too well. We will discover soon enough whether our Coalition Government is built on better foundations than its 'we need to sell off our forests' policy (sorry, "consultation"), but elsewhere in the world - in such places as Bahrain, Libya, Yemen and Iran - we are seeing governments and rulers coming under pressure precisely because the people in these countries do not believe their governments to have been built on good, sound foundations and, taking heart from what's happened in Tunisia and Egypt, are pushing to knock down the power-bases that their rulers have created for themselves.

Having good, sound foundations on which to build something is important. We know this to be true from our own lives and world. And the Apostle Paul knew it too.

Like us, he was in the business of church-building. For Paul this was a new business with no real blueprint to follow and it was fraught with difficulties - not least because church communities are made up of

human beings and human beings make mistakes.

This was certainly the case in Corinth where arguments and disputes emerged over such matters as sexual immorality and where rival groups were jockeying for control. Understanding that this church was in real danger of being torn apart, he wrote to (what Mark Tranvik calls) 'this distracted church' reminding its people to remember that "no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 3: 11).

For Paul, the only foundation worth building a church community on was Jesus Christ.

The Church of today is in many ways so far removed from those early church communities with which Paul dealt: 2000 years of Church history have seen to that. But some things remain the same it seems. We still become distracted all too easily. We still get bogged down with such issues as authority - and who does or doesn't have it. We continue to argue about sex - and who can or can't have it. We too experience rival factions jockeying for control. And, despite having two thousand years of church history to look back on, it still feels most of the time like 'we're making it up as we're going along'. And guess what - surprise, surprise, shock, horror - we are still making mistakes.

In a sense all of this is inevitable. The Church today is as it has always been - a community made up of human beings. And human beings will always make mistakes. But Paul would be surprised I think, or if not surprised then more than a tad disappointed, to learn that, all these years later, the Church is still making pretty much the same mistakes as the people in the Church in Corinth.

If it is true that the Church as a body is still making the same mistakes as it did all those years ago, it is probably also true of us as individuals. How many of us can honestly say that Christ is the foundation on which our lives are built? If we are honest, isn't it more often the case that we get so caught up in the living of our own daily lives that we only turn to Christ in moments of crisis, when we recognise our need of help?

Paul understood Christ to be the very source and foundation from which we live our lives. If this is not yet the case for us, we have a choice: to carry on as we are or to rebuild our lives on the foundation of Christ.

As people around the world are discovering as they seek to overthrow their governments and replace them with something better, and (on a more mundane level) as I know from the experience with my garage, knocking something down that has been there a long time can be a messy and painful business. So messy and painful in fact that one might question the wisdom of making such a change.

Paul is certain that rebuilding our lives - and through them our church communities - on the foundation of Christ is essential if we are to be the people God intended us to be, if we are to be a Church capable of bringing about the revolution of Christ.

Let us take the time that Lent affords to examine our own foundations, both as individuals and as a church community.

With every blessing

Paul

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“Be joyful, and keep your faith and creed. Do the little things that you have seen me do and heard about.”

These are the words of Saint David’s last sermon to his monks before he died in 589. Dewi Sant is the patron saint of Wales and his influence amongst the Welsh is shown in the number of churches dedicated to him and the celebrations each St David’s day on the 1st March.



David was a great church leader, a prophet, a teacher, a man of prayer and a miracle worker. He believed that monks should live simply, and he prescribed a harsh life for his followers. He himself had a sparse diet, too, eating only vegetables and bread, and having only milk and water to drink. The monks rose at dawn for prayer, and then worked in the monastery and the fields around it. David would not allow them to make animals work for them, but made them pull the plough themselves, saying, "every man his own ox."

Facts about St David:

It wasn't until the 18th century that St David's Day was declared a national day of celebration in Wales.

St David is typically depicted holding a dove, which symbolises the Holy Spirit that gave David the gift of eloquence as he preached the Good News of Christianity. His symbol is the leek.

In 2007 Tony Blair rejected calls for St David's Day to become a Welsh national holiday, despite a poll saying that 87% of Welsh people wanted a March 1st holiday.

A Welsh stew, named Cawl and containing lamb and leeks, is traditionally consumed on St David's Day.



Across Wales on the 1st March St David's Day parades take place, and in bigger cities food festivals, concerts and street parties also occur.

2009 saw the inaugural St David's Week festival in Swansea, a week-long event featuring music, sporting and cultural events.

X Factor finalist Rhydian Roberts will perform in Swansea alongside the Chamber Orchestra of Wales and the Morryston Orpheus Choir to celebrate St David's Day.

Disney's Mickey and Minnie will turn Welsh this week when the St David's Welsh Festival at Disneyland Paris begins.

Despite the fact that St David abstained from drinking and advised others to do the same, a number of Welsh breweries make special St David's Day ales. Cardiff brewers Brains describe theirs as 'a light, daffodil coloured ale, dry hopped with Styrian Goldings to create a thirst quenching spring ale with a refreshing bite and dry hop aroma.'



I well remember during my childhood St David's day being special when we had leek and potato soup, rarely any meat for dinner, welsh cakes and bara brith as a treat for tea. On this one day of the year, children were allowed to go to school dressed in the national costume and celebrate with a concert of singing, reciting and dramas depicting the life of our patron saint. It was customary to wear the Daffodil Cenhinen Pedr literally translated Peter's leek.

In London the Welsh still celebrate the event in various ways. On the last Sunday of February or the first Sunday in March the Welsh Churches together in London join in a united Service to commemorate St David at St Benet Paul's Wharf Church. There will be many sumptuous meals with a guest speaker as well as entertainment. During the meal which invariably will have a meat dish, there will be a toast to the health and honour of St David. Since St David was a vegetarian and drank only water, a slice of bread heated and browned seems to me the most appropriate way to remember our patron saint.

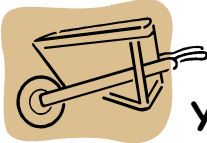
Wilfred Wilson states "To be born Welsh is to be born privileged. Not with a silver spoon in your mouth, but music in your blood and poetry in your soul". I would add that to be born Welsh is to also be proud of our christian heritage and to remember St David's words to be joyful, to keep the faith and do the little things. Jesus did not want his followers to be sad. Reading the Bible, prayer and worship will help us keep the faith. Some people think that it is the big things that are

important in life. But, Jesus said that we are to be faithful in the smallest things, and did not one of the prophets also say, Whosoever despised the day of small things, will rejoice.?

Like the sound of many waters
Let the Church's anthems rise
For our father, great Saint David,
Throned above the starlit skies;
As on earth he sang God's glory,
Guided by his Holy Dove,
Still his voice in worship mingles
With angelic songs above.

Happy St David's Day

Gwen Wildman



"HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?"



Would you like your garden tidied and cleared without having to do the hard work yourself?

A local gardener is available for grass and hedge cutting, weeding, pruning, turfing, planting and general maintenance.

Reasonable rates. All garden rubbish cleared.
References available. Fully insured.

Free estimates. For further details, please ring Terry Austen
on **020 8254 9415**

For those who do not know Terry, he is the son-in-law of Joyce Boxall (from Raynes Park Methodist Church) and he used to garden regularly for Jacqui and Rob Frost before Jacqui left the area and Bill Cox.



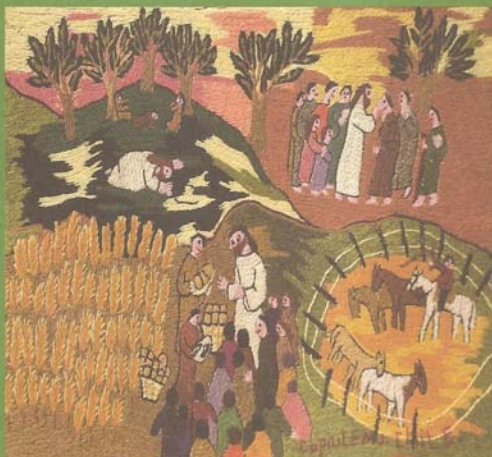
Praying for Chile



Friday
4th March
2011

Women's World Day of
Prayer

www.wwdp-natcomm.org



How many loaves have you?

11am

St Mary's Church

Church Rd, Wimbledon

Speaker: Sister Ita Conlan

and

8.00pm

St Saviours Church

Grand Drive, Raynes Park

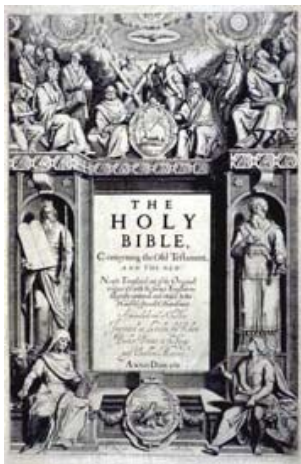
Speaker: Rev. Arnold Page

Coffee and Tea served after each service

All are welcome - men, women and young people

The Bible in voice and verse a special concert of words and music

The King James Bible



In 1604, King James I of England convened the Hampton Court Conference where a new English version of the Bible was conceived in response to the perceived problems of the earlier translations. The translation was by 47 scholars, all of whom were members of the Church of England, working in six teams. The New Testament was translated from the original Greek and the Old Testament from the Hebrew, as well as keeping the best of earlier English versions. The Authorized King James Version was completed in 1611 and first printed by the King's Printer, Robert Barker.

The text has made a huge impact on our daily speech. Whenever we put words into someone's mouth, see the writing on the wall, go from strength to strength, fight the good fight, read the signs of the times, find a fly in the ointment or eat, drink and be merry we are quoting the King James Bible.

In Voice and Verse Concert

2011 is the 400th Anniversary of its publication and to mark the event “In Voice and Verse” have created a unique presentation. The concert aims to celebrate the impact of the Bible in words and music. Lance recites key passages from the Bible interspersed with performances of famous pieces of music which those words inspired, performed by Belinda and Heather. The music will include excerpts from Haydn's ‘Creation’, Handel's ‘Messiah’ and SS Wesley's ‘Blessed be the God and Father’ amongst many others.

The Choice of Music and Bible Passages

How did we choose the words and music you will hear? We started by

mapping out the mountain peaks of the Bible: in the Old Testament, creation and fall, Noah, Moses and soon; in the New, Jesus' birth, life, death, resurrection and all that flowed from them. That guided us to the passages we speak or sing. Then we looked for musical settings of these great moments. At first we thought we should keep to settings of the King James Version only: that gave us Handel's Messiah, 'a for the wings of a dove', the Lord's Prayer spiritual and a few others, but not all that we wanted. There were settings of the Bible text in more modern versions like Taize's Gethsemane and Rutter's 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You'. Other musical treasures, from old classics like Haydn's Creation and the plainsong 'Come, Holy Ghost' to modern carols like 'The Angel Gabriel' and 'Mary's Magnificat', were retellings of the story or responses to it in the manner of a Bach cantata. Ah, Bach ... how could we find room for him? We had almost given up when we found a translation of his secular aria, 'Sheep May Safely Graze', designed to fit the biblical language of Psalm 23 and John 10. We hope you like our choice.

March Tour Dates

SATURDAY 12th MARCH - 7:30pm

St Mary's Church, Stoke D'Abernon, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 3PX.

MONDAY 14th MARCH - 7:30pm - (Short Version)

St Barnabas Church, Pitshanger Lane, Ealing, W5 1QG

THURSDAY 17th MARCH - 8:00pm - Churches Together

St Mary's Church, Church Street, Charlbury, Oxfordshire OX7 3PR

FRIDAY 18th MARCH - 7:30pm

St Mark's Church, Barton Road, Newnham, Cambridge CB3 9JZ

SATURDAY 19th MARCH - 7:30pm

Church of St Aidan, Radcliffe Street, Skelmanthorpe, HD8 9AF

WEDNESDAY 23rd MARCH - 7:30pm

Durham Cathedral, Durham DH1 3EH

For more information about these concerts or to find out more about

In Voice and Verse

visit www.invoiceandverse.co.uk or write to them at

48 Peterborough Road, London SW6 3EB or phone on 020 7731 0544

PATMOS and the Cave of the Apocalypse

We have just been pulling together the script for another forthcoming Film show in aid of Biblelands. This one will be entitled “Mainland Greece and the call of her Islands”, tell how our love affair with Greece began way back in 1979.

We visited the island of Patmos in 1983 and were taken to the sacred cave that sheltered Saint John after he was exiled here around 95AD.

It was here that God revealed to Saint John and through him to the whole world “the things which are and the things which shall be hereafter” (revelation Chapter1, verse 19). This magnificent yet terrifying vision of God was accompanied by the exceptional physical and supernatural phenomena where the rock divided into three parts.

We now off you the experience for yourselves as described by Archimandrite Evthymios Koutsanellos.

Mary and Derek Heaton

Dear Visitor



The place which you have just entered is sacred. This small cave some two thousand years ago gave shelter to the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ, St John the Evangelist, who around the year 95 A.D. was exiled to Patmos by the Roman Emperor Domitian' on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ' (Rev. 1:9).

A continuous tradition, extending across nineteen centuries, has preserved for us vivid traces of the Apostle's stay in this place. We can see the recess in the rock, close to the ground, where he laid his head when resting, another recess to the right a little higher up where he supported



his hands when he knelt to pray, and a more or less level place in the rock which was used as a desk by his companion and secretary Prochoros.

This is a holy but also an awe-inspiring place, for here - as once on Mount Sinai - God came down in all His glory and majesty, to reveal to John

and through him to the whole world 'the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter' (Rev. 1: 19). This magnificent yet terrifying vision of God is described in Revelation, chapter 1, verses 12-16, and is also depicted by a painter of the 16th century in one of the icons on the screen in the Holy Cave. We can also gain a sense of what that vision meant by looking at the crack produced in the rock by the exceptional physical and supernatural phenomena that accompanied the vision. This fissure extends across the upper part of the cave from east to west, dividing the rock into three parts and thus serving as a continual reminder of the Trinitarian nature of God.

Your coming to this holy place is not a chance event in your life. God, who 'wishes all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth' (1 Tim. 2:4), who directs all things for man's spiritual benefit, has guided you here for you to listen, deep within yourself, to the secret echo of the words that were spoken to St John and to the seven Churches of Asia Minor - whose light, alas, has been extinguished because their faith in God grew cold - and for you to see with your mind's eye the heavenly vision revealed to



the Apostle.

At a time when religious faith has become weak and eternal values have been cast aside, after two world wars whose unhappy effects continue up to now in local outbreaks of bloodshed - all of which is a consequence of man's dis-orientation and his turning aside to Antichrist - it is necessary for your own good that you should call God to mind. Think of Him who is the all-powerful Creator, Lord of the world, Alpha and Omega, as the Book of Revelation terms Him, the beginning and the end of all things, the impartial judge, the final victor in the struggle against Antichrist and his tools.

In this cave, where the highest truths were revealed in the most dramatic fashion, you are given the opportunity to reflect inwardly and to ask yourself whether you are on the side of Christ or of Antichrist. At this moment Christ stands at the door of your soul and knocks on it. 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will eat with him, and he with me' (Rev. 3:20). Whoever you are, Greek or foreigner, Orthodox Christian or a member of some other Church, believer or unbeliever, do not forget that God is the eternal father of all human-kind. What will you do, brother? Will you open your soul to Christ or will you keep it closed, condemning yourself to fatal isolation?

Archimandrite Evthymios Koutsanellos
Superior of the Holy Cave of the Apocalypse

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BIBLELAND Gifts for Easter

With Easter time drawing near, we now draw your attention to the variety of Easter Cards, Candles and Palm Crosses offered in the Bibleland Catalogue. The ceramic gifts also offers a varied collection from which you can choose if looking for a gift for a loved one.

Every item purchased will help Biblelands to assist their mission to deliver health, education and community development opportunities to vulnerable and disadvantaged people in the lands of the Bible.

For more information about the catalogue speak Mary or Derek Heaton.



Putting Jesus back into Easter

It's hard to believe that, out of the whopping 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, not one of them mentions Jesus on the box. Until now that is.

The Real Easter Egg is the first and only Fairtrade chocolate Easter Egg to explain the Christian understanding of Easter on the box. It also supports charity and development projects - buying everything from medical equipment for new mums

here at home, to chickens and securing fresh water for farmers in Africa.

The Real Easter Egg is made by The Meaningful Chocolate Company Ltd. In 2008 one of our co-founders, with a ten year record of promoting ethical trading and even longer working for the faith and voluntary sector, came up with the idea of The Real Easter Egg.

The Meaningful Chocolate Company Ltd developed the egg and with the help of bishops, schools and parents it was launched to a warm welcome in September 2010. The 125g high quality Fairtrade milk chocolate egg costs £3.99 each (which includes VAT and charitable donation) plus 51p for delivery – total £4.50.

For more information visit the website at www.realeasteregg.co.uk

The Real Easter Egg gives consumers their first ever chance to buy an Easter egg that not only tastes good but does good, bringing to light the Easter themes of hope and new life. I believe there will be widespread support for the product from the faith community and wider afield with many millions likely to be interested. The Real Easter Egg is a chance to educate and do good – giving money to charitable projects.

Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu

**CHURCH
DIARY**



Tue	1	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	2	7.45pm	Midways Group - <i>Derek & Mary Heaton</i> - Revisiting Greece
Fri	4	11.00am	Women's Day of Prayer service at St Mary's
		12.30pm	Luncheon Club
		8.00pm	Women's Day of Prayer service at St Saviours
Sun	6	10.30am	All Age Worship with Tony Loft
		6.00pm	Circuit Service at Raynes Park - <i>Celebrate the Bible</i>
Tue	8	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00 pm	Time for Prayer
Sat	12	10.00am	Big Brunch
Sun	13	10.30am	Morning Service led by David Eagle
		6.30pm	Communion Service led by Rev Liz Richardson
Tue	15	10-12noon	Coffee and Chat
		7.30pm	Men's Supper Club - <i>Rev Margaret Adams</i> - Care Uganda
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Weds	16	7.45pm	Midways Group - <i>Norman Plaistow</i> - The Windmill
Fri	18	12.30pm	Luncheon Club
Sun	20	10.30am	Morning Service led by Brenda Cannon
Tue	22	10.30am-noon	Coffee and Chat
		8.00pm	Time for Prayer
Sun	27	10.30am	Communion Service led by Rev Margaret Adams

Sun 27	12.30pm	Carvery Meal - proceeds to Spring Harvest cost (further details will be in the weekly notices)
Weds 30	7.45pm	Midways Group - <i>Inspector Steve Cheeseman</i> - Police Air Support Avenue
	8.00pm	Church Council Meeting with Rev Margaret Adams

*Please refer to the Website (www.martinway.org.uk)
or Weekly Notice Sheet for any additional information*

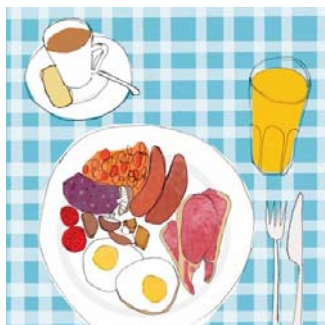
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We wish all of those who celebrate a birthday
in March a very

Happy Birthday



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BIG BRUNCH

Our final Big Brunch event before September is on **Saturday 12th March** from 10am until 1pm. To help us take the young people to Spring Harvest (a Christian festival held over Easter at Butlins Minehead) we have been fund raising by providing people with cooked breakfast at Big Brunch events.

It is a friendly and relaxed atmosphere where people can come along for breakfast, brunch or lunch, so if you haven't been before why not give it a try and join us. Come along for a full cooked breakfast, a sandwich or if you just fancy some tea and toast. We will be happy to serve you.

Thanks to all those who have been along and continue to support us. Also Thank you to all those who help provide the cooked breakfast - from the cooks Mike and Tony, Scott who keeps us all organised and all the young people who help serve and clean up.



Calling for a Helping Hand

We are in urgent need of help with the Sunday Club. This has been an ongoing issue for a while but this has been helped with the assistance of

Rebecca Timmis. Unfortunately she will not be available from the end of February for three months. So as you can see this is when our problem will increase.

The Sunday Clubs are an important part of our church, who need each and every one to think seriously if you can help in any way.

Please speak to any of the Sunday Club leaders if you are willing to assist or need more information.

Thank you, Geraldine, Sue, Tim, Rebecca and Abby

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PRAYER

P = pause for a moment in your busy life and talk to God

R = be reassured that God is with you

A = ask in Jesus' name and God will answer

Y = God knows you better than you realise

E = God loves to hear your every request

R = remember that God loves you and His Spirit is with you always

Items for the **April Newsletter** should be with Andrew Fox,
(email: roife@hotmail.co.uk) by **Sunday 20th March** at the latest