

Prayer Calendar for April 2008

- 1 Margaret West
 2 Gemma Wheeler
 3 Rob & Tracy Wheeler & family
 4 Adrian & Ann White
 5 Peggy Whittem
6 A friend loves at all times *Proverbs 17:17*
 7 Vi Wilcox
 8 Paddy & Margaret Wilson
 9 Ivy Winkett
 10 Mike & Rosemary Wood
 11 Tim & Emily Wood & family
 12 Jim & Edna Woodcock
13 Christ...is your example. Follow in His steps *1 Peter 2:21*
 14 Marc & Kate Young & family
 15 Wesley & Muriel Adamson
 16 Peter & Sheila Allies
 17 Mary Attwood
 18 Betty Banbury
 19 Tony Beaton
20 Whoever accepts anyone I send accepts Me *John 13:20*
 21 Stan & Joan Bell
 22 Mary & Norman Bowley
 23 Nick Bridges
 24 Les Brookes
 25 Miriam Burton
 26 David & Brenda Cameron-Mitchell
27 Those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence *Proverbs 11:13*
 28 Eamonn & Kathy Canning & family
 29 Ann Chaplin
 30 Stephen & Cindy Chidlow & family

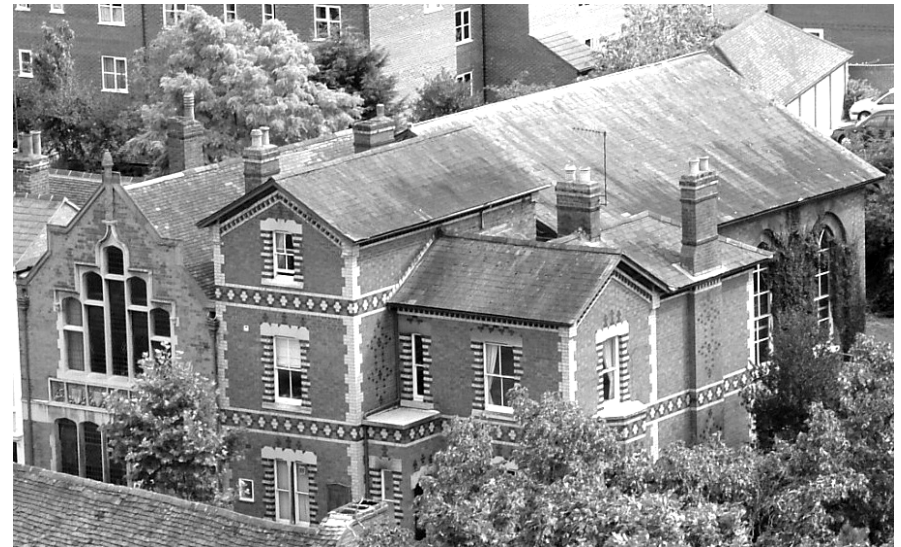
Editorial

1. Messenger material for the May edition to be in by **noon on Sunday 20 April**. Please observe this deadline.
2. If there are any serious errors/oversights, please tell me!
3. If you would prefer a larger print version of the Messenger, have a word with me.

Thanks

Mike Taylor

Pershore Baptist Church



Messenger

Broad Street, Pershore, Worcestershire

April 2008

www.pershorebaptist.org

Dear Friends

A.A.A.D.D.

Recently, I was diagnosed with AAADD (Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder).

This is how it manifests itself:

I decide to water my garden.

As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide my car needs washing.

As I start towards the garage, I notice that there is some mail on the porch table that I took from the mailbox earlier. I decide to go through it before I wash the car. I lay my car keys down on the table, put the junk mail in the garbage can under the table and notice the can is full. So, I decide to put the bills back on the table and take out the garbage first.

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the mailbox when I take out the garbage anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my cheque book off the table and see that there is only one cheque left. My extra cheques are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find a can of Coke that I had been drinking.

I'm looking for my cheques, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over. I see that the Coke is getting warm, so I decide to put it in the refrigerator to keep it cool.

As I head to the kitchen with the

Coke a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye – they need to be watered. I set the Coke down on the counter and I discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning.

I decide I had better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers.

I set the glasses down on the counter, fill a container with water and suddenly spot the TV remote. Someone left it on the kitchen table.

I realise that tonight when we go to watch TV I will be looking for the remote but won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, so I decide to put it back in the den where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back down on the table, get some towels and wipe up the spill.

Then I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day:

- The car isn't washed
- The bills aren't paid
- There is a warm can of Coke sitting on the counter
- The flowers don't have enough water
- There is still only one cheque in my cheque book

God at work in YOU...

The 5 Minute Meditation

Paul's letter to the Philippian Christians is often called his letter of joy. He thanks God every time he prays for these Christians and he prays for them with joy (1:3,4). At their conversion God 'began a good work' in them and Paul knows that God will bring this work 'to completion at the day of Jesus Christ' (1:6).

For the Philippians and for all Christians the work of salvation begins at the moment of conversion but it will continue throughout our lives. Then in Phil. 3:21 Paul speaks about the glorious hope of Christ's Second Coming when our earthly bodies will be transformed into our resurrection bodies. Our Lord will accomplish this by the 'power' or 'working' by which he will subdue all creation unto himself. That will be salvation completed, as Paul promised in the opening verses.

So in chapter 1 it is salvation begun and in chapter 3 it is salvation finished. But there is one more reference to this great work of salvation. In Phil 2:12, 13 Paul encourages these Christians to 'work out their own salvation.' This doesn't mean 'working for' our salvation but it certainly means 'working from' our salvation. All that God is doing in us by his grace and Holy Spirit is to be 'worked out' in everyday living.

And then Paul adds a wonderful word of encouragement. We are able, or rather enabled, to 'work out' this salvation because 'God is at work in you' (3:13). Just think of it! The God who began our

salvation and who promises that it will be completed is at work in each of us now! He has redeemed us! He owns us! He possesses us! And he is at work in us! He indwells us! Our little lives have become the dwelling place of the Lord God Almighty!

Time and time again in his letters Paul writes about how Christians are 'in Christ' and Christ is 'in' us. He opens this Philippian letter by writing to the saints who are 'in Christ'(1:1). Likewise the Ephesian believers are 'in Christ' (Eph. 1:1). He assures the Colossian Christians that Christ is 'in' them as the hope of glory (1:27).

Why does Christ indwell his people? Why does he send his Spirit into our hearts as he promised his disciples (John 14:17)? Paul gives us the answer in Phil. 2:13. 'God is at work in you,' he says, 'both to will and to work for his good pleasure.' Think of it! God gives us his Spirit both to make us willing and to enable us to do God's good pleasure. He initiates both the desire and the doing, the willing and the working, the aspiration and the achievement, the vision and the victory.

Without him we can do nothing but by his indwelling Spirit all his plans for us will be fulfilled. What an encouragement! God hasn't finished with us yet! He's still working in us! He has given us his Holy Spirit! And he will bring us finally to completion, to resurrection, to glory and to be with him for ever! And that is surely worth mediating on!

Dr Herbert McGonigle



APRIL FOOL!

April 1st is All Fools Day, the day when people play tricks on each other. We are not sure just how it started but one idea is that it started when in 1564 the French decreed that the New Year began on January 1st as instead of on April 1st. So that the traditional New Year gifts and cards were now sent in January. For a joke some people continued to send mock gifts and cards, silly things, on April 1st. In Scotland the April Fool is an April Noddy, a cuckoo or a gowk: the same day is Boob's Day in Spain, Fish Day in France and Doll's Day in Japan.



All round the world people are busy kidding their friends that their shoelaces are undone or someone is sent to buy a pot of striped paint - but every joke has to stop at midday. After that the joker becomes the fool.

WHAT IS IT?

There are some very strange, not to say peculiar, words in the Bible - and I'm not kidding you.

1. Is a BATH
 - a) something with bubbles, or
 - b) a liquid measure
2. Is BAANA
 - a) a mis-spelt fruit, or
 - b) an official from Megiddo?
3. Is NISSAN
 - a) the first month of the year, or
 - b) a form of transport?
4. Are OREB and ZEEB
 - a) cartoon characters used to tell modern versions of Bible stories on channel TV, or
 - b) two princes killed in battle?
5. Is KAB
 - a) a measure, or
 - b) part of a chariot?

Guess first and then look them up - answers at the bottom of this page.



Did you hear about the little girl who does bird impressions?
She eats worms.



How do you part the Red Sea?
With a sea-saw.



Answers - look them up in 1) Ezekiel 45:11; 2) 1 Kings 4:12; 3) Esther 3:7, 4) Psalm 83:11; 5) 2 Kings 6:25.

Those heralds of Spring

New plant life is always a sure sign that spring is coming, but many flowers, past and present, also have symbolic meanings.

For instance:

Anemone: the Greek symbol of sorrow and death, which comes from the legend of Adonis. He was killed by a boar and where his blood stained the earth, Venus, who loved him, made anemones grow. In Christian lore, anemones sprang up on Calvary at the crucifixion; the red spots on the flowers' petals signify Christ's blood.

Daffodil: well-known as the floral emblem of Wales, its origin as an alternative to the leek isn't clear, but St David's Day falls on 1st March, just as daffodils begin to bloom. In ancient times, it was also known as 'the flower of deceit', because of its narcotic properties.

Hawthorn: represents hope, because it heralds a new Spring. In Greek myth, it was sacred to the god of marriage. His bridal torch was made of hawthorn. At weddings Athenian girls crowned themselves with its blossom. Romans placed hawthorn leaves on the cradles of new-born babies as a charm against evil spirits.

Narcissus: symbolizes self-love and vanity. In Greek myth, the flower sprang up where Narcissus, a beautiful youth, fell in love with his reflection in a pool and drowned trying to embrace it.

- I can't find the remote
- I can't find my glasses
- I don't remember what I did with the car keys
- Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day long and I'm really tired.

I realise that this is a serious problem, and try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail.

Do me a favour, will you? Forward this message to everyone you know, because I don't remember who sent it.

Don't laugh – if this Isn't you yet, your day Is coming!

*Stormont Stepping Stone
(I think)*

Different Badminton dates

Meeting details were in February Messenger, or ask Anne Sadler (tel: 01386-860491)

April – 4th and 18th

May and June – None (exams)

July – 4th and 18th

August – 1st and 15th

September – 5th and 19th

October – 3rd and 17th

November – 7th and 21st

December – 5th and 19th

These dates are different.

Please check.

Little boy to mother after moving house: "Mum - I'm the best looking boy in our new church."
"Why Charles, who told you that?"
"Nobody, mum. Nobody told me. I just saw all the rest of them."

Social Events

Skittles evening

Please sign the sheet on the notice board in the vestibule if you would like to come along to our Skittles Evening. This will take place at The New Inn, Crophorne on Saturday April 19th at 7pm. A contribution will be asked for towards the cost of the skittles alley which will be based on the number of people attending. So the more friends you bring the cheaper it will be! Food may be ordered from the bar on the evening for an additional cost.

Other dates to make note of:

Car Treasure Hunt

Saturday May 17th

Church walk

Saturday June 14th

Barn Dance

Saturday September 13th

Mime Artist Steve Murray

October 4th and 5th

Quiz'n'Chips

Saturday November 22nd

Tracy Wheeler

It was good to hear young people singing old hymns.

*Judge on Junior Choir of the Year
Songs of Praise BBC TV*

Higher power?

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, 'We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a higher power. Can anybody tell me what it is?' One child blurted out, 'Aces!'

The squashed Sandwich Generation

Are you middle-class, middle-aged, and struggling to raise children on one hand, and care for ageing, frail parents on the other? Do you feel overburdened with taxes and rising bills? If so, you can count yourself a member of the Sandwich Generation. One thing you have in plenty: taxes. Recent figures reveal that in the past 11 years the number of people paying the top rate of income tax will have risen from two million to 3.7 million by the end of this year. That means that anyone earning more than £39,825 is paying 40p to the Exchequer for every additional pound earned. Tax thresholds have not risen with wages - which means that many are losing out on £700 a year.

You also have the longest working hours in Europe, according to TUC figures. In the UK you put in 43.5 hours a week, while the French do 38.2 hours a week, and the Germans 39.9.

So next time you feel over-worked, over-taxed and over-committed.... well, you are!

When my wife and I met a new couple at church one Sunday, we stopped to introduce ourselves and exchange pleasantries. We described the friendly area we lived in and listened sympathetically as they lamented that theirs was just the opposite.

Having said goodbye, we got into our cars and drove off. As we approached home, however, we were horrified to see our new friends turning into the drive next door.

Reader's Digest

Thursday Club

On 24th April the meeting will be led by Judy Pass and the U3A music group when "Anything Goes".

The meeting starts at 7.30pm and is held in the lower schoolroom.

All are welcome.

Woman's Own

2 Beetle Drive

16 Communion

Brian Collingbourne

Tues 22 Spring Rally – Droitwich

Rev Keith Judson

30 Joan May

Beautiful Beads

The face of Jesus must be very near our own when the thorns from his crown of suffering are pressing our brow and hurting us.

Anon

Of all the things that will surprise us in the Resurrection morning, this I believe, will surprise us most: that we did not love Christ more before we died. *J C Ryle*

No government can expect to be wholly at ease with the church since the church serves the Kingdom which is not of this world.

Bishop Mark Santer

How to lessen eating disorders

Do you have girls in your family? If so, it might be a good idea to make sure they eat with the family on a regular basis. Research has found that teenage girls who sit down to at least five family meals a week are much less likely to use diet pills, laxatives or vomiting to control their weight. Eating disorders do not seem to affect boys so badly.

The research was carried out amid concerns that family meals around a table are giving way to snacks on sofas, in front of the television. One in four homes does not have a dinner table for people to sit round.

Dear little Jesus, come to me.

Dear little Jesus, stay with me.

My heart is so small,

Thou fillest it all.

There is room for no one,

But only thee.

Dear little Jesus, come to me.

*A prayer taught by a Notre Dame nun
more than 100 years ago*

People don't go to Church,

but they feel better because it's

there.

From 'Yes, Prime Minister'

Weekly Church Events

Sundays	
10.30am	Family service with Sunday School Communion 3rd Sundays
6.00pm (5.00pm in winter)	Evening Worship Communion 1st Sundays
Mondays	
1.30pm	Little Fishes playgroup
7.30pm	House Group Middle Lane, Crothorne
7.45pm	Prayer meeting at Church
Wednesdays	
2.30pm	Women's Own – Lower Room
7.45pm	Prayer and Bible Study 21 Ganderton Court
8.00pm	Bible Study 48 Mayfield Road
Thursdays	
10.30am	Baby talk
7.45pm	Deacon's Meeting 1st and 3rd Thursdays

There is a **Monthly Communion service** on a Wednesday at 2.30pm

Impact- A generation Youth Event on 4th Sunday at 7.00pm

The **Thursday Club** meets in the Lower Room at 7.30pm on the 4th Thursday of each month.

Church Badminton is between 8-9pm on 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month in Pershore High School. Details from Anne Sadler.

The **Multiple Sclerosis Group** meet on Monday mornings in the Worship area.

The **St John's Ambulance** use the Upper and Lower Rooms on Tuesday evening.

U3A Choir uses the Upper Room on alternate Wednesdays at 2.15pm.

Going for Gold

Saja is 22 years old and lives in Kobar, a small village north of Ramallah. One of ten children, she grew up in very poor conditions and like many disabled people in the Middle East, she was neglected by society. Four years ago her life began to change as she started to attend Star Mountain Centre, an overseas partner of BibleLands.

It was here that Saja discovered she was particularly gifted at athletics. She was selected as one of only 16 sports men and women to represent Palestine at the Special Olympics in Shanghai in October 2007.

She competed against around 7,000 athletes from 167 countries in this worldwide event. The principle behind these Olympics is not so much to win, but to participate, network and share abilities on the basis of equality, inclusion and tolerance which can then be taken back to each athlete's home country. What started a dream for Saja became a reality when she won the

200-metres event and received a gold medal! Saja is now the pride of the Star Mountain Centre, her family and the whole village community. She is now at the centre of local news and a whole number of celebrations.

The Star Mountain Centre was set up in 1985 and serves around 25 local children, aged 5 - 15 years. The Vocational Training Centre offers up to 16 young adults with special needs the chance to learn practical skills. Among the villages surrounding Ramallah, the Centre serves a population of about 20,000 and helps disabled people to be integral and fully respected members of their community.

Saja's story is a powerful example of how the lives of many young people have been transformed by the Star Mountain Centre. The Star Mountain Centre is supported by BibleLands across Israel and the Occupied Territories, Egypt and Lebanon. To find out how you can support BibleLands visit

www.biblelands.org.uk

or phone 01494-897950.

With the new tax year in mind....

Money has never yet made anyone rich.

Seneca

Money is in some respects like fire; it is a very excellent servant, but a terrible master.

P T Barnum

There's no justice. If you make out your income tax correctly, you go to the poorhouse. If you don't, you go to prison.

We have one of the highest standards of living in the world. Too bad we can't afford it.

The man who saves money nowadays isn't a miser; he's a wizard.

The art of taxation consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest amount of feathers with the least possible amount of hissing.

attributed to J B Colbert.

Says it all

A man was driving to work when a lorry ran a stop sign, hit his car broadside, and knocked him out cold. Passers-by pulled him from the wreck and revived him. He began a terrific struggle and had to be tranquillised by the medics. Later, when he was calm, they asked him why he struggled so. He said, "I remember the impact, then nothing. I woke up on a concrete slab in front of a huge, flashing 'Shell' sign. And somebody was standing in front of the 'S.'"

Dawn Chorus

The dawn chorus peaks in April and early May. Our garden birds such as robins, blue-tits and blackbirds are advertising their territory boundaries and either inviting females to mate for the first time or returning to previous partners. The male's singing prowess is a signal to the choosy female.



"Easter coming so soon after Christmas has almost turned Anthony into a regular churchgoer."

DEAR GOD

I want to thank you for what you have already done in my life.

I am not going to wait until things in my life look better –

I am not going to wait until people say they are sorry –

I am not going to wait until the pain in my body disappears-

I am not going to wait until my financial situation improves-

I am not going to wait until I get the job-

I am not going to wait until the journey gets easier –

I am not going to wait until I understand every experience in my life that has caused me pain or grief;

I am thanking you right now.

I am thanking you because I am alive.

I am thanking you because I made it through the day's difficulties.

I am thanking you because I have walked around the obstacles.

I am thanking you because I have the ability and the opportunity to do more and do better.

Most of all, I'm thanking you, God...because you haven't given up on me.

With summer coming, I had to face the fact that my body was totally out of shape. So I joined a fitness club and signed up for the aerobics class. I got to the club, and there I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But by the time I got my clothes off and my sweats on, the class was over

No One Can Serve Two Masters ...

"You cannot serve God and mammon," Jesus states categorically (Matthew 6:24).

We don't want pie in the sky when you die. We want steak on the plate while you wait. That's not the point, though. Mammon in the context of those words of Jesus appears to refer to care about material things. He is concerned with the inner struggle we experience between things and God.

Loren Cunningham, the founder of Youth With A Mission (YWAM) recounts how many years ago in New Zealand he was speaking at a Youth for Christ retreat. Walking down a moonlit path one night, he had the distinct impression God was talking to him. "Loren, what do you have in your pocket?" He reached in his pocket and drew out some notes and some change. "I've got some money, Lord." So many exciting things had been happening at the conference, he was ready to do anything God told him. "Throw your money down on the ground," that voice said. Quickly he threw the money down and walked on.

Before he got very far, God spoke again. "Go and pick it up, Loren." After hesitating for a moment, he went back and felt around on the ground for the scattered coins and bills and shoved them back into his pocket. As he came into a lighted area, a figure was walking towards

him. It was the stringy-haired teenager he had been counselling earlier who was a drug addict. Again the voice said "Give all the money in your pocket to him." Loren argued, allowing the boy to pass him and disappear into the darkness. "You know this boy can't be trusted. He'll use the money on drugs." But God kept on at him. "All right, Lord," he sighed. "If this is really you, have that same boy be there when I walk back around this building." He practically fell over the stringy-haired youth as he rounded the corner and instantly gave him the money. In the light of an outdoor lantern, he watched as the youth began to cry. "I just told God I would go to that Christian drug rehab place if he would give me the money! I had some. But with this," he shook his head in wonder, fingering the bills and coins, "There's exactly enough to get there!" Smiling, the young man pumped Loren's hand and left. Loren reviewed what had just happened. He had been willing to throw the money on the ground at God's prompting. But he had clutched the money tightly when God directed him to give it to an 'unsuitable' young man. That day Loren learned that those willing to give freely, wherever the Lord leads, will see God multiply their resources to reach the world. That's YWAM's story.

Olave Snelling, is a former producer and presenter on Premier Radio in London. She is currently Chairman of the Christian Broadcasting Council

April 3 Richard of Chichester c1197 - 1253

Ever wonder where the prayer ... *'May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day'* comes from? Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13th century, wrote it. He began life as Richard de Wych of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy, and after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford, and later to Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of Church funds. After further study to become a priest, Richard was in due course made a bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and to wear clerical dress. The laity were obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary as well

as the Lord's Prayer and the Creed. Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to reopen the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died at Dover on 3 April 1253. In art, Richard of Chichester is represented with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass! One ancient English church is dedicated to him. And, of course, he is author of that famous prayer, now set to popular music, which runs in full:

'Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day.'

I come in little things,

Saith the Lord:

Not borne on the morning's wings
Of majesty, but I have set my feet
Amidst the delicate and bladed
wheat.

I come in the little things,

Saith the Lord:

Yes! On the glancing wing
Of eager birds, the softly pattering
feet

Of furred and gentle beasts.

I come in little things,

Saith the Lord.

From Immanence, by Evelyn Underhill (1875 - 1941)

Christian Basics:

What about the Resurrection?

What if Jesus had not risen from the dead? Despite having his example and teaching, the bottom would drop out of Christianity and four things would remain true:

As Paul says, 'if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins'. (1 Corinthians 15:17).

We have no hope of being raised either, and must expect to stay dead as well.

Christ is not reigning in heaven and will not return to bring history to its fulfilment and so we cannot call him Lord.

We cannot have a relationship with the living Lord, who is identical with the Jesus of the gospels. Although this Jesus might be our hero, he cannot be our Saviour.

So how should we understand the significance of Jesus' resurrection for us today? Here are some key points to consider:

It affirms that Jesus' death on the cross was not a defeat but a victory over sin, death and Satan, 'But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him' (Acts 2:24).

It confirms Jesus' identity as Son

of God, 'who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord' (Rom 1:4).

It points to our own bodily resurrection, rather than the immortality of our soul, 'The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable' (1 Cor 15: 42).

It guarantees our forgiveness, 'if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins' (1 Cor 15:17).

It ensures that we can know the reality of his risen life today, 'just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life' (Rom 6:4).

The story is told of Russia under the communist regime. A member of the communist party addressed a packed audience at length, seeking to discredit the resurrection of Christ. At the end an Orthodox priest rose and asked if he might reply. He was warned that he was only allowed five minutes. 'Five seconds is all that I require!' he said firmly.

He turned to the audience and gave the traditional Easter greeting: 'Christ is risen!'

Back with a deafening roar came the traditional reply: 'He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!'

Shopping therapy

A woman was working in her garden with her strimmer, when she accidentally cut off the tail of her cat. She ran screaming into the house for help. Her husband grabbed the car-keys. "Get the cat, and the tail, and we'll take them to Wal-Mart. NOW" he said urgently.

His wife was incredulous. "How could that possibly help?" she asked. "Well," he replied, "they're the world's largest retailer."