

A dramatic sunset over a snowy landscape. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that illuminates the sky and the snow. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and a large, dark cross is silhouetted against the bright sun in the distance. The foreground is a vast, flat, snow-covered field. The overall mood is solemn and contemplative.

**SAINT  
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CLARKSFIELD**

**April 2020**

**[medlockhead.co.uk](http://medlockhead.co.uk)**

## Services at St Barnabas' Church

Sunday	9:30 am	Parish Worship
Monday	2:30 pm	Prayers in the vestry
Tuesday	10:00 am	Holy Communion (said)

**First Tuesday of each month: Service of Holy Communion at Moor Haven Nursing Home on Ripponden Road, starting at 2:00 pm.**

**Baptisms and marriages by arrangement with the Vicar.**

**Please submit items for the April 2020 magazine by 15 March.  
Please e-mail files to paulmonk111@gmail.com**

## People at St Barnabas' Church

### Vicar

**The Revd Dr Paul Monk**  
St Barnabas' Vicarage, Arundel Street, Clarksfield, Oldham OL4 1NL  
Tel: (0161) 624 7708

### Assistant Curates

**The Revd Denise Owen (and Vicar of St Thomas' Church Moorside)**  
Tel: (0161) 652 0292 and E: therevd.dowen@yahoo.co.uk  
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### Lay Reader and Warden

Mr Peter Haslam (0161) 345 0215

Administrator Miss Sarah Gura (07708) 714 813

Treasurer Ms Gisele Onwumere

Parish Hall bookings The Vicar (0161) 624 7708

# Letter from the Vicar

Spring started officially on 21 March, and the clocks changed later that same month. Suddenly the evenings are lighter and the air somehow seems more transparent, letting through more precious light. Undeniably, everything is brighter: even my mood feels lighter.

Modern science shows that sunlight has powerful effects on the human body. It produces vitamins in the skin and mood-enhancing chemicals in the brain. Light can be amazingly powerful even at low intensity. Think of a laser.

At this time of year, the Church directs our attention to another light of greater power. Light was the first thing God ever made (Genesis 1:1). During Lent, we allowed God to shine His light of love into the gloom and dust of our innermost souls. And, like all forms of light, we ask him to drive away the darkness.

The most potent illustration of light beating back darkness occurs as we celebrate Easter. We rejoice at the way Jesus showed himself to be the original inextinguishable light when he came back to life. No wonder that Jesus describes himself as the 'light of the world'.

So as we see the evenings become lighter and enjoy the greater transparency of the spring air, remember that they point toward God.

Wishing you great joy as we celebrate the living light of Christ:

PAUL

# Church and Parish news

## Coronavirus

The Church of England has prohibited all services and gatherings in its Churches and buildings. Accordingly, all services are cancelled until further notice.

Please consult the Church webpage [medlockhead.co.uk/virus](http://medlockhead.co.uk/virus) for advice, updates, and resources.

Each week, we will produce at least two detailed services as downloadable files. These files will include links to Youtube hymns, Bible readings, prayers, and a full sermon transcript.

Please share these resources widely. Thank you.

## Hope Singers

The Hope Singers will join us for a concert on Saturday 23 May. Tickets cost £7.50. We will operate Cabaret seating. You may bring your own drinks. The concert is of course subject to the lifting of the Coronavirus

## Easter

**“We do not know ... how can we know the way?”**

**Courageous master of the awkward question,  
You spoke the words the others dared not say  
And cut through their evasion and abstraction.**

**Oh doubting Thomas, father of my faith,**

**You put your finger on the nub of things**

**We cannot love some disembodied wraith,**

**But flesh and blood must be our king of kings.**

**Your teaching is to touch, embrace, anoint,**

**Feel after Him and find Him in the flesh.**

**Because He loved your awkward counter-point**

**The Word has heard and granted you your wish.**

**Oh place my hands with yours, help me divine**

**The wounded God whose wounds are healing mine.**

Malcolm Guite

# 2020 dates for your diary

No services will occur in the Church until further notice owing to the Coronavirus. The dates below are subject to cancellation as a result of the virus. Hopefully most will be allowed to go ahead.

Saturday 23 May	7:30: <b>Concert</b> with the Hope Singers.
Monday 25 June	7:00 pm: <b>Archdeacon's Visitation</b> at Shaw Church.
Sunday 31 May	<b>Whit Sunday</b> : service at 9:30 am and the annual event at 2:00 pm.
Sunday 14 June	9:30 am: service to celebrate <b>St Barnabas' Day</b> , which includes our <b>Annual Gift Day</b> .
Friday 19 June	7:00 pm: <b>Annual Confirmation service</b> at Holy Trinity Church.

# From the Parish Registers

## Christian funeral

28 February	Olwen Fish at Waterhead Church followed by a committal at Hollinwood Cemetery
3 March	Sheila Walton at Waterhead Church followed by a committal at Hollinwood Cemetery.

**When you attack the roots of sin,  
fix your thoughts more on the God you  
desire than on the sin you abhor.**

St Teresa of Avila

# Bible readings for April

## Sunday 5 April

### Palm Sunday

First: Matthew 21:1-11

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:1-2, 17-30

## Sunday 12 April

### Easter Sunday

First: Acts 10:34-43

Epistle: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: John 20:1-18

## Sunday 19 April

### Low Sunday

First: Acts 2:14a,22-32

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-29

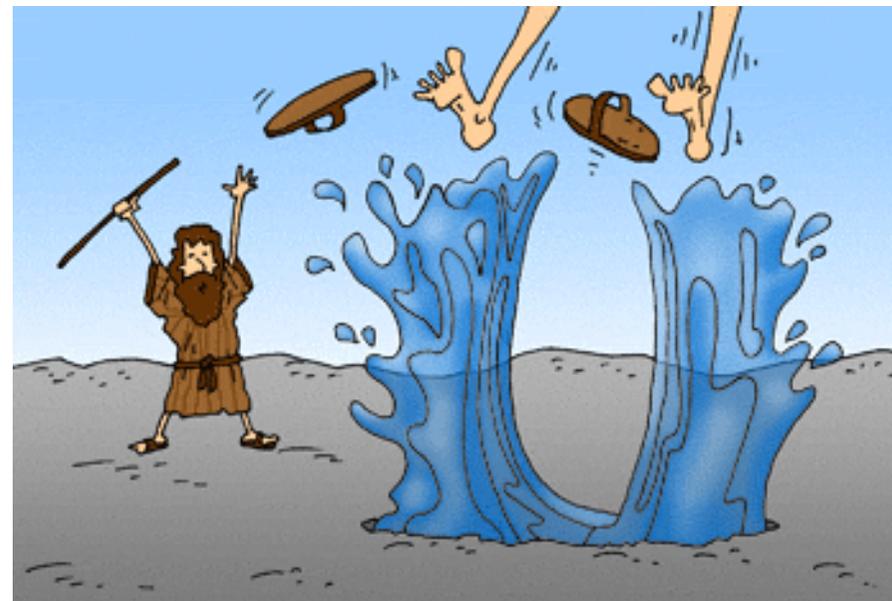
## Sunday 26 April

### Third Sunday of Easter

First: Acts 2:14a,36-41

Epistle: 1 Peter 1:17-23

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35



Moses pranks St Peter

£5

including  
supper

Holy  
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# Quiz

Saturday 16 May @ 7:00 for 7:30 pm

Includes supper

[www.holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk](http://www.holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk)

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## Thinking about judgement

One of the main themes behind all faiths (including Christianity) is the way we will be judged when we die. Will God find us acceptable or not?

The second major theme is the way that Jesus took away our sins on the Cross. Becoming sinless through Jesus means the judgement of 'Not Guilty' becomes a certainty for those who live in Him. That's why Christians celebrate at Easter and why Easter is the foremost Christian festival.

Several ideas and activities about judgment occur on pages 8–11.

### Answers

Page 8: Blasphemy, idolatry, murder, stealing, swearing, thieving

Page 9: In fact, there is no hierarchy. The Bible says that all sin is sin.

Page 10: The highlighted word is **AFTERLIFE**

Page 11: Jesus is the **judge**; the barrister for the defence is the Holy **Spirit** and the barrister for the prosecution is **Satan**. And we are the **defendant** in the dock.



God is good.  
All things which proceed  
from God are good.  
Hildegard of Bingen



At the evening of life  
we shall be judged on our love  
St John of the Cross

## A delicate balancing act



### Jesus will judge everyone when they die

Some people think they will be judged using scales like these,

Rearrange these anagrams to reveal some of the sins mentioned in the Bible

Satin Gel

Earn wigs

Lambs hype

Lady Riot

Give hint

Red rum

## Bad, badder, baddest ...

Look at the following sins, and rank them from the worst (=1) to least important (=10).

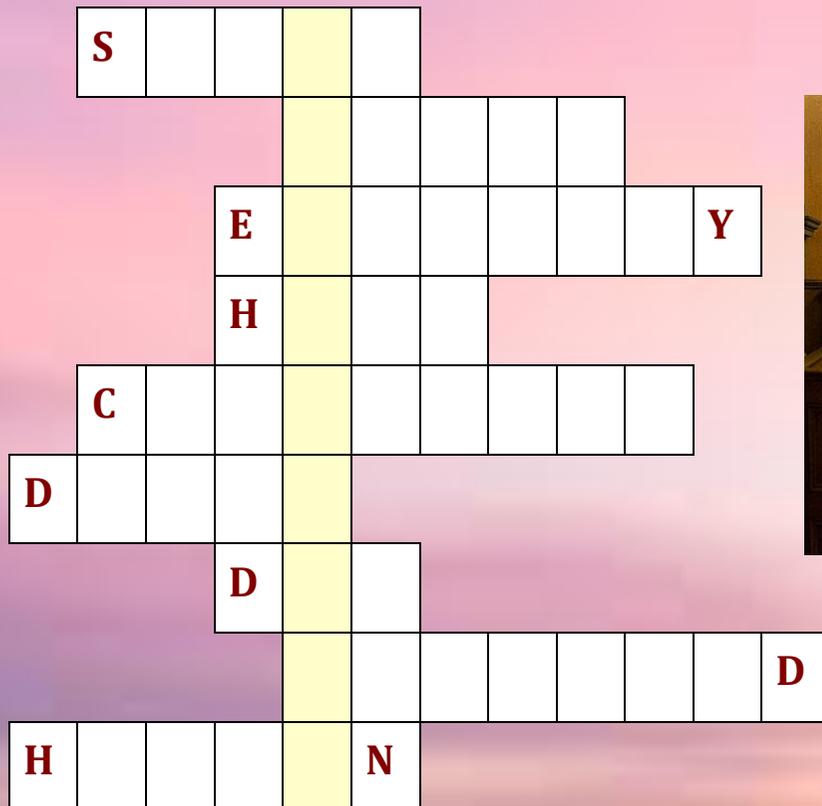
Draw an arrow between each sin and the score you think it deserves.

Killing someone	1
Stealing	2
Lying	3
Driving through a red light	4
Being nasty at school	5
Pretending not to follow God	6
Hitting animals	7
Polluting the environment	8
Child abuse	9
Other (please state what )	10

# What happens when we die?

Fill the grid with the following words, and work out the shaded word.

DEVIL HEAVEN FEAST HELL COURTROOM  
DIE ETERNITY SATAN FINISHED



# Judgement

Everyone is judged when they die

Jesus sits as \_\_\_\_\_  
(e.g. 2 Timothy 4:1).

We sit in the dock:  
we are the \_\_\_\_\_



The devil acts as the barrister for the \_\_\_\_\_.  
('Satan' is Hebrew for 'accuser',  
e.g. see Job 2:1-7).

The Holy Spirit acts as our  
barrister — the attorney for the  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 8:26, 27).

Hildegard of Bingen was also known as Saint Hildegard and 'the Sibyl of the Rhine'. She was a German Benedictine abbess, writer, composer, philosopher, Christian mystic, visionary, and polymath. She is one of the best-known composers of sacred monophony of her era.

Hildegard was born around the year 1098 into a family from the lower nobility. She was sickly from birth and was the youngest and tenth child.

Hildegard began having visions at a very young age — probably from about three years of age. She soon realised that these 'luminous visions' were abnormal and so hid them for quite some time.

When Hildegard was eight years of age, her parents offered her as an oblate to the nearest Benedictine monastery, where she excelled. She achieved such status that she was designated the group's next superior when only 38 years of age. Her visions persisted all this time and, two years later, the Church ordered her to write down her visions. These visions caused her to see humans as 'living sparks of God's love'.

Hildegard was brilliant. At a time when women carried little official authority, Hildegard was consulted by and advised bishops, popes, and kings. She was considered the founder of scientific and natural history in Germany and wrote treatises on the medicinal uses of plants. She was a composer and founded a community in which her musical plays were performed. And she left one of the largest bodies of letters (nearly 400) to survive from the Middle Ages. We also have records of many of her sermons from the 1160s and 70s; two volumes of material on natural medicine and cures; an invented language; and minor works, including a gospel commentary and two major works of hagiography.

She died on 17 September 1179. Hildegard was one of the first people for whom the canonisation process was officially applied but the

process took so long that four attempts at canonisation were never completed. She was finally canonised in 2012.

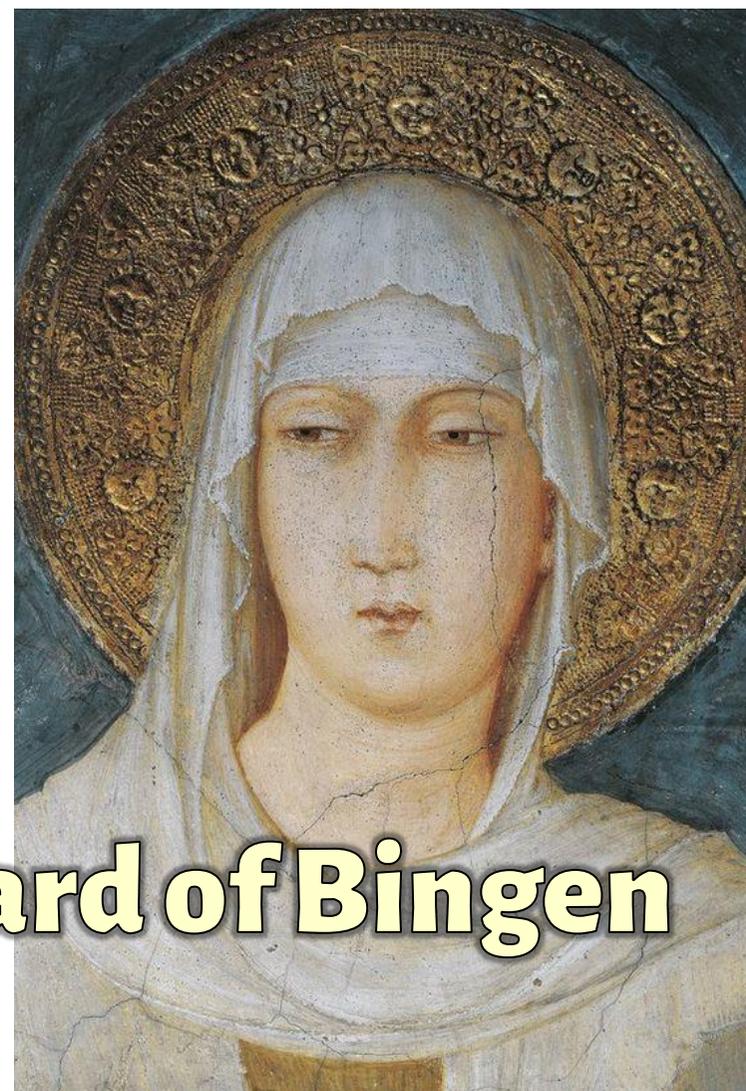
In recent years, Hildegard has been of great interest to feminist writers. They note how Hildegard often referred to herself as 'an unlearned woman' and 'incapable' of Biblical exegesis. These statements worked to her advantage because they made her statements (that her writings and music came from visions of the Divine) more believable. They gave Hildegard the authority to speak in a time and place where few women were permitted a voice. Two popes gave her permission to preach in public against the Cathar Movement and challenges facing the Church: at that time such permission was usually only given to men.

Hildegard spoke out against many forms of corruption such as simony — the buying of rank and position.

Recordings and performances of Hildegard's music have gained increasing critical praise and popularity since about 1980.

**For more information, please visit the following sites:**

<https://www.fuller.edu/next-faithful-step/resources/women-mystics>  
[https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/13-powerful-women-mystics-who-helped-shape-christianity\\_n\\_55f9a53ce4b0d6492d63e7c7?ri18n=true](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/13-powerful-women-mystics-who-helped-shape-christianity_n_55f9a53ce4b0d6492d63e7c7?ri18n=true)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hildegard\\_of\\_Bingen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hildegard_of_Bingen)



# Hildegard of Bingen

Coronavirus (Covid-19)

# Advice and resources



Many of us will be inside our homes during the Coronavirus crisis. We'll feel very alone and wanting more spiritual content than usual, because we can't go to Church. The list below cites many potential resources.

## Our own website

Each week, we will produce at least two detailed services as downloadable files. These files will include links to Youtube hymns, Bible readings, prayers, and a full sermon transcript. We will also post links to a growing number of resources. Go to [www.medlockhead.co.uk/virus](http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/virus)

## Lectionary readings

Page 7 of this magazine lists all the lectionary readings for the Sunday services in April.

## Roots for Churches

The Roots strapline is 'Worship and learning resources for the whole Church'. It's a web-based resource with useful links for those at home. Go to <https://www.rootsontheweb.com>

## Church services

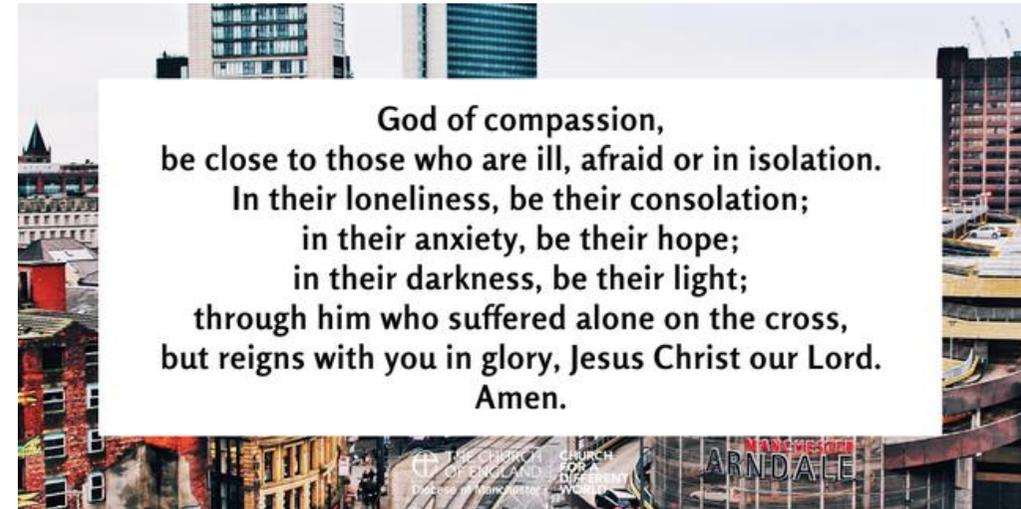
The BBC is planning to broadcast one live service each Sunday. Please look at your TV listings for more details.

## Magnificat

Magnificat is a Roman Catholic website that offers videoclips and prayers. It's free at the moment. Access requires your email address and inventing a password. Go to <https://us.magnificat.net/free>

## Poetry

The well-known actor Samuel West is reading a poem a day during the crisis. He's broadcasting each reading through Twitter. His handle is [@exitthelemming](https://twitter.com/exitthelemming)



When it came to breaking bread, he was the best in the business.

# Some of the names we use over Easter

## Compline

Many Churches hold a service of Compline each evening of Holy Week. And in a monastery, the monks and nuns say seven services (or 'offices') each day. The very last of these service is called 'Night Prayer' or 'Compline'.

The word derives from the Latin *completorium* ('complete') because Compline completes the working day. The monks and nuns would say Compline and then go to bed.

## Maundy Thursday

Most scholars agree the English word *Maundy* comes from the Latin word *mandatum*. Jesus washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper. He gave them his New Commandment as a response to their alarm and horror at him doing such a menial task. In Latin, he said, '*Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos*' ('A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you'), as recorded in the Gospel of John 13:34. So 'Maundy' derives from the first word of the New Commandment.

## Good Friday

At first sight, 'Good' seems the very last word we would choose for a day commemorating the politically-motivated murder of Jesus. The day is 'good' because of its consequences: Jesus took our sins on the Cross and thereby enabled our forgiveness.

## Easter

The origin of the name is very obscure. The most widely accepted explanation of where the word *Easter* comes from suggests it is a German name for the ancient Celtic goddess, *Ēastre* or *Ēostre*. The earliest mention of this theory comes from the Venerable Bede who wrote in the seventh-century. He said that *Ēosturmōnaþ* was an English

month (corresponding to April) that was named 'after a goddess of the ancient Britons named *Ēostre*, in whose honour feasts were celebrated in that month'. The idea may or may not be true. We don't know.

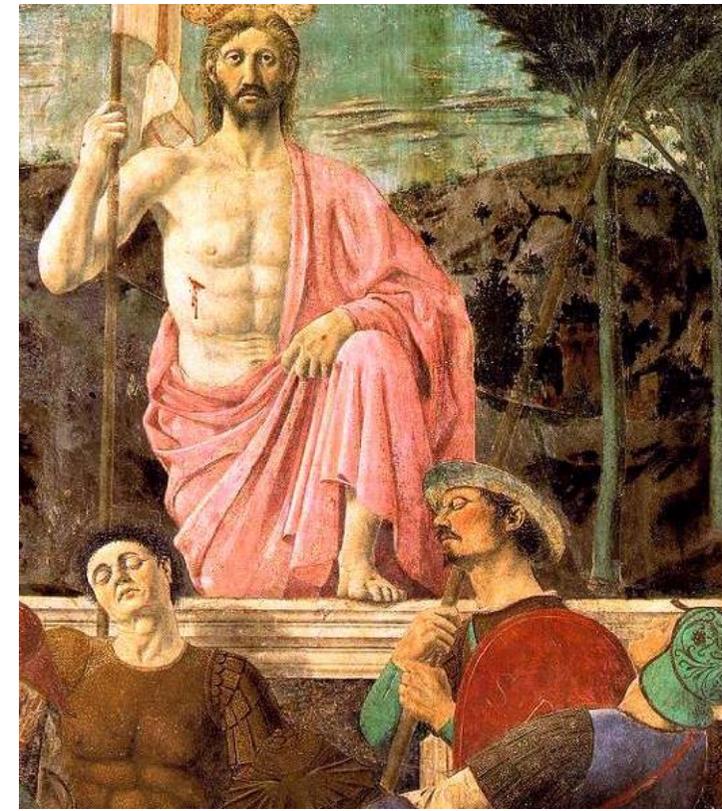
## Low Sunday

The first Sunday following Easter is traditionally called 'Low Sunday'. We don't know the exact cause of this name, but we have two likely causes.

Firstly, the Sunday contrasts so dramatically with the high theatre of Easter Day the preceding week that it acquired an ironic name. It was lowly and altogether less dramatic.

Conversely, the word 'low' could be a corruption of the Latin *Laudes* meaning the first word of a sequence, itself pointing to the sequence of the named Sundays in the Church calendar between Easter and Trinity.

*Resurrection*  
Piero della  
Francesca  
(c. 1458)





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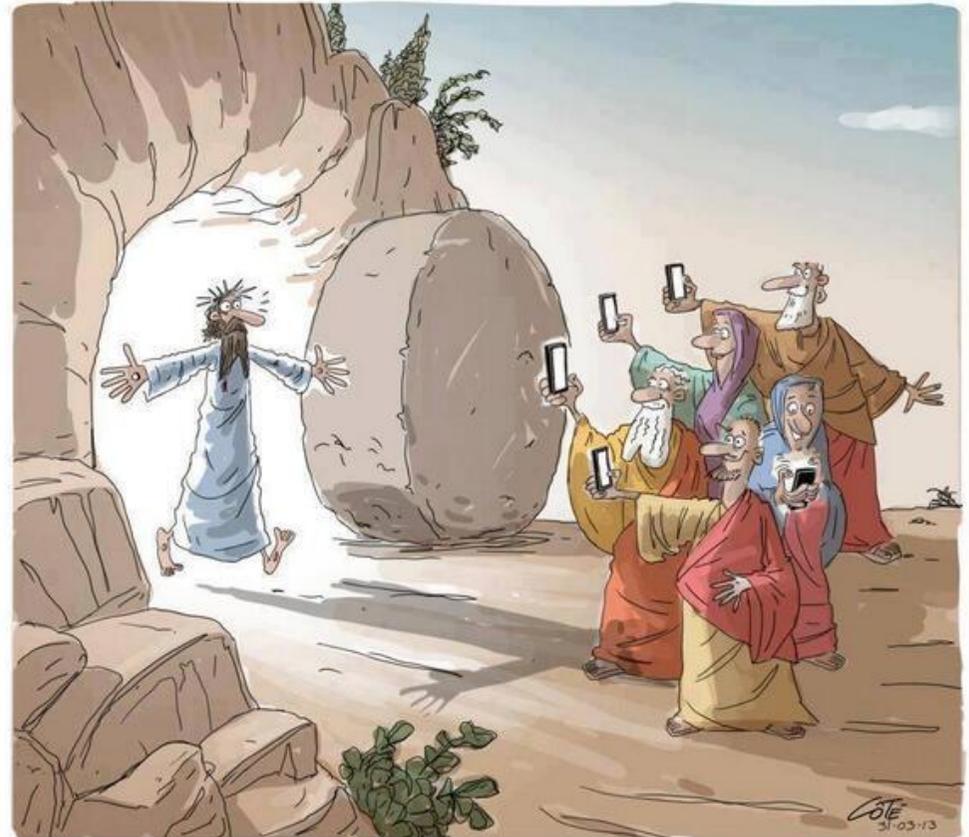


## Church diary

Owing to the Coronovirus, we anticipate the ban on all services and events in the Church extending to at least the end of April.

Please consult the Church website

[www.medlockhead.co.uk/barnabas](http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/barnabas) for up-to-date details.





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