



Easter 2022

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Greetings

The name Violet

Fane is not very well-known. It was the 'pen name' of a writer whose real name is another that you may not recognise: Mary Montgomerie Currie. But there is something that she wrote that I am sure you will recognise. That is because she wrote a poem that contained the line 'all good things come to those who wait'. The poem was published in the late 1800s and was so popular back in the Victorian era that the phrase immediately became very popular. And it has remained as part of our language every since .

As I was preparing this Newsletter I thought of that phrase because it really feels as if, after more than two years of restrictions and doing things in unfamiliar ways, we are finally

getting things back to normal. The updates that this Newsletter brings to you are mainly focused on good things, familiar things, comforting things. And after the last two years and more of painful losses, difficult separations and increasing anxiety, it feels like we have something new to celebrate at last.

These changes come at a time when the whole Christian world, and, of course, we as a fellowship, are looking forward to one of the great celebrations in our church calendar: Easter time.

Now, in the space of a few short days we consider the triumph of Palm Sunday, the betrayal of Maundy Thursday, the suffer-

ing, pain and loss of Good Friday, the victorious and glorious resurrection of Easter Sunday.

It is right that we consider the awful sacrifice made by our Lord and Saviour, but also right that we share in the joy of his triumphant rise from the grave, conquering death and sin.

We may have much to celebrate and be thankful for in the new openness we see in our church activities but we have more, much to celebrate as we remember Jesus that is "now in heaven, exalted high. Hallelujah! What a Saviour!".

May God bless you.

James

Special points of interest:

- *Easter special*
- *Walking Day update*
- *Coffee Morning is back!*
- *A Drawing Masterclasss*

Visiting Preachers

We will continue to have only one service per week, usually alternating between evening and morning from one week to the next. The services planned for the next two months are:

April

17th am — Ron Povey*
24th pm — Lester Atherton

May

1st am—Frank Pemberton
8th pm—David Okell*
15th am—Roy Delooze*
22nd pm— Bill Hampson
29th am— Phil McDermott

19th pm— Christine Ormerod*

26th am—James Tobiasen

Morning services start at 10.45, evening services at 6.00.

June

5th pm—Dennis Roughley
12th am—Lester Atherton*

Services marked * indicate sacramental services

What's On

Although some of our mid-week meetings or activities remain on hold others are now re-starting.

So here is the latest view of what's happening at the moment but please pay attention to the weekly notices for any further updates:

Prayer Meeting & Bible Study—this takes place on a Wednesday evening from 7.30 onwards. Under normal circumstances this would be followed at approximately 8.15 with the Bible Study but for the time being there will

be a prayer meeting only, with no Bible Study until further notice.

Coffee morning— Thursday mornings from 10am—12. This will restart on May 5th and will continue weekly.

Boomerang (for school-age kids) & crèche (for little ones)—Runs as part of the Sunday morning service from 10.45 onwards till approximately 12 noon. This is resuming on Easter Sunday and then

will be run on a 'once a month' basis—with the next instances on the 15th May and 12th June.

Men's Fellowship—this will restart in the not too distant future but under a new format. Lester Atherton will provide details once things are finalised.

Women's Auxiliary— The WA usually meet every other week on Thursdays at 2.30pm and again, there are no meetings currently.

Prayer Requests

Your prayers are requested for the various members of our congregation and wider community who are ill and infirm, suffering loss and bereavement, or struggling

with hardship at the moment.

A reminder too that the charities and groups that we support — Warrington Food Bank, Room At

The Inn, Warrington Youth For Christ and its work at our local high school—all need our ongoing prayerful and financial support.

Focus

The telling in the gospels of the story of the resurrection is an interesting one.

All four writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John describe the events of that first Easter morning. And although there are some details included in one version that are not in the other and some things that are described more fully here than there, the accounts are consistent and tell broadly the same tale.

One thing that strikes me in reading through each of them is that the reactions to the empty tomb, to the angels, to the news of the resurrection itself, are largely reactions that speak of confusion, denial, bafflement and fear. All those who saw the empty tomb, who spoke to the angels, or who received the news of Jesus's resurrection reacted in a broadly negative way.

And we can imagine why. Their dear friend and master who they had seen suffer and die just three days before was supposed to be here in this tomb. They had come here to care for his dead body, to show their love and devotion to his memory. And instead they found that the body has gone.

Those who were charged with guarding it were terrified. Those who were interested were confused. What had happened? There was only news from some mysterious strangers: 'his body is not here, he is gone'. They would be traumatised, sick with worry. Shock upon shock,

Until... Yes, until one simple word changes everything. Jesus is there, but now changed beyond recognition, resplendent in his resurrection body, And He appears to one of the people there and with one word— 'Mary' He unlocks the mystery. With that name, softly spoken, with love and compassion, Jesus declares himself alive and risen.

And so it is for everyone who turns to Jesus— his softly spoken invitation, a whisper in our ear, words of love that call us to recognise Him as our Saviour. That cause us to turn from whatever grief, or sadness or pain we may be in and to know that He shares in that suffering with us.

So the question at this Easter time is simply this: do you stand by in confusion, in despair. Or maybe like the guards you are simply indif-

ferent or neglectful of Him. The truth is that Jesus wishes to make Himself known to you. To share the glorious resurrection life with you that he was won through His death and victory over the cross.

On Good Friday we considered the sacrifice He made, taking the punishment for our sins. His love for us so great that he could carry and endure all the sin of all mankind, and go willingly to a hideous death in our place.

But as He was, and is, the 'spotless Lamb of God', the punishment of death for that sin could not hold Him in death He was without sin and so death, as the punishment for that sin, held no power over Him. And that is why, on the third day, He rose again, to a new and resurrection life, an immortal and unblemished body.

And as our risen Saviour, he calls now to each and every one of us. It is the invitation of a friend, of a brother, of Almighty God, to share in his resurrection, to be born again with new life, and to walk with Him, as did Mary, in the garden, knowing Him as Lord of All.

Special Events

Easter—we will have two Easter services. On Good Friday Chris Mayes will lead us in worship, with the service starting at 11am.

On Easter Sunday Ron Povey will take the service at 10:45am and this will also be the occasion when we will have our open worship again for the first

time in over two years, our Sunday School will restart and it will also be a communion service.

Drinkies! — two updates here—first of all we will be resuming our mid-week coffee mornings on 5th May and they will then be held every Thursday from 10-12. Everybody is welcome,

and it is completely free of charge although donations in support are very welcome.

In other tea and coffee related news, we will also be reintroducing our ‘cuppa and a biscuit’ after some of our Sunday morning services—this is currently scheduled for the 1st and 29th May and 26th June

Additional Notices

Bags To Church— we will be having our annual collection of unwanted clothes, accessories, curtains, bedding etc. to raise money for church funds. The bags will be available to fill soon - please bring them along to the Sunday School room by the 14th June. If you need help transporting them please let us know. We can lend a hand.

Congratulations— wonderful news to share—Eileen has become a great-grandmother after her grand-daughter Hannah gave birth to Eva-Jayne.

Covid update—following our most recent church business meeting we've made the following changes: the one-way system and the ribbon barriers on the pews are now removed so there is no more enforced

social-distancing. In addition you will not need to wear a mask. Despite this, masks and sanitiser will still be available for anybody who would like to use them. And although we hope you will enjoy the more relaxed environment, please be mindful that some members of our congregation may still want to wear a mask—so please be considerate and remember to keep your distance wherever possible.

Your Donations—our collection currently is for the Warrington Foodbank—pretty much any foodstuff that is still in date and has a long shelf-life will be very welcome—but just in case you need some ideas... tinned fruit, tinned puddings tinned beans, soup, pasta, cream crackers, biscuits, long-life juice, will all be appreciated.

Condolences—we're sorry to hear that Eileen has lost her sister, Joan, who passed away on Sunday 10th April. We offer our love and prayers.

We have also heard that Dorothy Frankcom (who many will know by her maiden name of Dot Peake) has also died recently. Dot was a regular attendee at our church for many years before moving away when she married many years ago.

Website—a reminder that our church website is packed with useful information and has an extensive photo gallery. It also has full details on all upcoming events and services so it always worth checking,

if you can, for the latest news.

Walking Day—after two years of absence, Padgate Walking Day is back. This

year's walk will be on Saturday 25th June and due to unusual circumstances, the procession is likely to start at an earlier time than usual. The exact details are not

yet confirmed but we will provide those in due course. If you need to get into training to take part in the procession please don't leave it too late!

The Final Word

Draw Your Own Conclusion

A Sunday School teacher asked her class to draw a picture of their favourite Bible story. She was puzzled by young Alfie's picture, which showed four people sitting in an aeroplane, so she asked him which bible story it was meant to represent.'

"It's the flight to Egypt" said Alfie..

"I see ... and that must be Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus", the teacher replied "But who's the fourth person?"

"Oh, that's Pontius, the Pilot."

Celebrate the Saviour *A poem by Joann Fuchs*

On Easter morn, we celebrate our Saviour;
Whatever people seek in Him, they find.
In history, there has never

been another So holy, sacrificial, good and kind.
His resurrection makes us all immortal;
In heaven, we'll be together with our King.
Eternally we'll share in all His blessings;
Happy Easter! Jesus Christ is everything!

From the Church Notices

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Richards to come forward and lay an egg at the altar .

Overheard in Church

A little child in church watched as the ushers passed the offering plate. When they neared the pew where he sat, the youngster piped up so that everyone could hear. There's no need to pay for me, Daddy. I'm under five."

Overheard in Church

After the christening of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him what was wrong. Finally, the

boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you guys!"

All contribution and donations of articles for the Newsletter are very gratefully received

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Next Newsletter:

There is no fixed date for the next issue currently but the broad target at this point is to publish sometime during the summer.