

Press Release for Barthomley WI following the March Meeting

A pleasant hint of Spring, as we arrived at Barthomley Village Hall for our Meeting – it was light!

We welcomed John, our speaker for the evening. He is a volunteer for the Mid-Cheshire Samaritans and he began his talk with a little of the charity's history. Apparently it was founded in 1953 by the Rev Varah, a Church of England vicar who presided over the funeral of a fourteen year old girl who had committed suicide as a result of having no one to talk to. So moved by this Varah began to set up the charity by posting a newspaper advert encouraging people to volunteer at his church as listeners for people in distress or contemplating suicide. From this modest, caring start, The Samaritans has now developed into a much wider movement.

John stressed the on-going need for new volunteers and emphasised the specialist training and ongoing support offered. Samaritans can be found in many places of work and organisations now. He also stressed that Samaritans are not just for those contemplating suicide but are always there and ready to help all who need it.

As a complete contrast our speaker next month is Pat Henshaw. The title of her talk is 'Colour Me Beautiful'. We haven't been asked to take along our paint brushes so it doesn't sound too messy! I believe we will have the opportunity to discover what colours we should be wearing to enhance our natural beauty! I certainly need that. We will meet in Barthomley Village Hall at 7 pm on 2nd April. You are more than welcome to join us.



April Flower of the Month

The name Daisy is given to many flowering plants in the family Asteraceae. *Bellis perennis* is the most commonly known daisy which is also known as the lawn daisy or English daisy.

These small flowering plants have rounded, spoon-shaped leaves that form in rosettes close to the ground. The flower heads reach approximately 2-3 cm in diameter and have white ray flowers surrounding tiny yellow disk flowers.

This make-up means that daisies are not actually single flowers, but in fact what's known as a capitulum.

In a capitulum, each individual "petal" is an individual flower. These are grouped together around the tiny yellow disk flowers in the centre, to form a single flower-like structure.

This same phenomenon also occurs in Sunflowers!

The Daisy



From The Rectory

One of the best inventions must be antibiotics developed by Alexander Fleming in 1928 which have saved thousands of lives. It was an invention which might never have happened. Fleming left a dish of bacteria on a bench in his laboratory while he went on holiday. When he returned, he noticed it had grown a mysterious mould which killed the bacteria.

That mould turned out to be penicillin, and it went on to be developed into the antibiotics so vital to modern medicine. Fleming's response to the initial discovery was

"That's funny."

We are not told what Peter and John said to each other as they left the empty tomb on that first Easter Day, but "That's funny" might have been appropriate. There had been a stone door, now there wasn't. There had been a body, now there wasn't. It was an event even more extraordinary than Fleming's discovery – a moment in history that changed everything. As the Gospel tells us "as yet they did not understand the scripture that he must rise from the dead."

They were preparing themselves for a future without Jesus. The choice facing them – try to carry on the mission without him, or go back to their former lives? The disappearance of the stone and the body were odd, nothing more.

Resurrection did not enter their minds.

It took Mary to realise. In the absolute depths of despair, as she looked for someone to help, that she found him. He said her name, just as he had always done. She didn't respond, "That's funny" though it was. Instead she said, "Rabbouni"

recognising the master she had followed and loved.

Jesus was not dead, Mary went and told, and the world was changed. There was no fanfare, no armies of angels. It didn't happen in the full glare of the day for all to see. In the darkness, hidden away, quietly, something funny happened, a stone in the wrong place, an empty bench.

Fleming's discovery wasn't really an accident. It was a lucky break, but he had been working for years on trying to find a way to stop people dying from infections. Nor was the resurrection an accident for it had been planned from the beginning of time by God whose intention was not merely to postpone death, but to defeat it entirely. At the heart of this story lies the determination of not just a scientist but of a Creator who will not let created beings languish in the grave, but will do whatever it takes to give them life. Antibiotics may keep us alive longer, but through this other mysterious, odd, quiet event, we are saved from death for all eternity.

Every Blessing This Easter
Rev Peter

Isn't it good to see the awakening of nature and fruitfulness of spring as we now move into British Summer Time? However, with the improving weather comes much to do in our gardens and so too in the churchyard. Of course, the daffodils and magnolia play their splendid role, but we are very grateful for the efforts of all the volunteers who give their time to maintain 'God's Acre'.

They ensure that in the run-up to festivals such as this early Easter, the church grounds look their best and remain well-kept onwards throughout the year, not just for those who remember loved ones there, but as a constant refuge of peace and sanctuary from the bustle of daily life.

So, I'd like to thank those volunteers; Sandy and Alistair, Chris, John and Kaye, Steve and others who look after the areas surrounding the graves of those dear to them.

St. Bertoline's and the Church Bank are a sacred and special place, and the commitment and hard work of volunteers is vital in maintaining it as such, especially as outsourcing this maintenance is largely unaffordable.

Wishing you all a happy springtime,

Simon Gresty Church Warden

Introductory Flower Demonstration

2pm Saturday 13th April' 24

In St. Bertoline's Church.

This event is an introduction into floral art for St. Bertoline's Church.

It is for complete beginners to people with some interested knowledge.

For sometime the number of participants on the flower rota have declined, this gap creates the opportunity for enthusiastic new people to join the team and enrich St. Bertoline's celebratory artistry.

So, don't be shy, come and try, you could be another Constance Spry.

For more details and reservations contact Jackie Marshall tel 07746190292.



We love our wildlife, especially the pheasants which have scarified my lawn! However, when the cock pheasant which controlled the church drive got too cocky and started pecking and attacking people, even drawing blood, we had to have him moved to a new home.

John Beasley has played the church organ for many years but due to failing eyesight, he decided to call it a day on his recent birthday. We do thank him and hope to see him on occasions.

The March Tea Set had a special speaker, our very own Rev Peter Ennion - no, he didn't preach a sermon but gave an amusing summary of his early life up until his arrival in Barthomley. The next Tea Set on April 16th is entitled "Nantwich on Fire", all are welcome between 2-4pm in the Village Hall.

If you are looking for diary dates the Strawberry Tea will be held on Sunday 21st July in the Rectory Garden and on Sunday 7th July at 3:00pm there will be a Harp Concert in church, details to follow but your support is much appreciated.

Thanks to the Chattertons and their extended family for running the successful Easter Egg Hunt and Coffee Morning. Finally, Chris Richards is to be congratulated on producing the Parish News and getting sponsorship for each edition. Thank you to those who sponsor the Parish News, and those who produce articles and those who deliver it.

Enjoy your Easter Eggs!

Chris Bailey Church Warden

The Tea Set

Tuesday 16th April
2pm in Barthomley Village Hall
Afternoon tea @3pm (included in price of £3)
Raffle
Graham Dodd talking about 'Nantwich on Fire'
An exceptionally knowledgeable speaker, returning with another interesting talk.

All welcome, we hope to see you there.