



# FAITH MATTERS

## Message from Georgina

We are journeying through Lent - the period in the Christian year that marks the period between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. Originally Lent was the time that those who were going to be Baptised at Easter were prepared for Baptism. The Church alongside those who were being Baptised used this time preparing themselves. It made it an important time for the whole of the Church. This gave everyone a chance to step back and examine their faith. We live in a World where we are constantly bombarded by products that we are told we should use which claims to make a difference to our health or our life. "Eat this and your live longer". "Using this product will reduce the age of your skin". Television programmes, radio and magazines are full of these claims. So what do we need for our discipleship? We hear a lot about "five-a-day" of fruit or vegetables to maintain good health. Here are five examples that we can all practice in order to make sure our spiritual life is healthy;

1 Prayer - talking with God often, not just about our wants and desires but, using the time to speak of God's greatness and majesty. Though it's important to remember prayer is a conversation and as with any conversation listening is just as important!

2 Study - taking the time to read the Bible with others or alone. Exploring the passage and asking God to show you fresh insights into the passage. Reading the Bible is one of the ways that God speaks to us and are lives are changed as we grow in our faith.

3 Confession- coming before God to ask forgiveness for the things we do wrong trusting that through Jesus we are forgiven.

4 Service - service grows out of our love for God and our desire to do God's will. We are God's hands and feet. Is there something that God is calling you to serve him in the Church, community, the World?

5 Silence - This for some can be a difficult one! Real silence comes when we allow ourselves to be still. We find space to be quiet and allow the business and rush of everything to be stilled before God.

I encourage each one of us during Lent to think about these five Spiritual Disciplines. Is there one of them that God is encouraging you to go deeper on or spend more time on? Is there one that you have neglected over time that needs reawakening. There are loads of resources available to help you to explore each of these. Please let me know if you need help to find some. Have you practiced your five a day?

The journey through Lent will take us through Holy Week, where we think about Jesus dying on the cross for us all and then three days later he rose again and we celebrate the resurrection- JESUS IS ALIVE! A time of wonder and celebration and we hear those words resounding ALLELUIA CHRIST IS RISEN! I pray that we will invest time and energy in travelling through lent well, practicing our spiritual five a day, so that we can encounter afresh the joy and wonder of Easter Sunday. Love and prayers

Georgina



*'For lo the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth: the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.*

*Song of Solomon 2:11 -12*

## What's coming up this Easter

### WB Uniting Church

Palm Sunday service 10.30am

Good Friday service 10am

Easter Sunday service 10.30am

### And elsewhere

Whaley Bridge Good Friday walk up to Eccles Pike for 5pm service

3rd—6th Easter extravaganza, music, stalls, rides 10– 5pm The Octagon, Buxton

Easter trails at Lyme Park, Crich Museum & Thornbridge Hall.

5th—21st April. Lambing at Blaze Farm

April 12th– 18th A stroll through Kate Greenaway's garden. A Buxton Crescent event

29th- 4 May 4th Joseph and his amazing technicolour dreamcoat at the Opera House. Buxton



## Whaley Bridge Uniting Church Annual Easter Egg Hunt in the park

Easter Sunday at 2pm

Entrance from  
Wheatsheaf Road.

This a free event open to all

### **What's new in the Church garden with Graham**

We are fortunate to have gardens to the front and rear of our church. The rear garden, which is based on three circular beds, was inaccessible for a time while the roof works were undertaken a couple of years ago. Since then, there has been an effort to refresh the rear garden.

Initially Rob and Rick did some heavy work to clear the overgrown bank which runs between the car park and the access pathway. Then the three beds were weeded and tidied by a gardener, funded by a generous donator. Since then, Rob and I have carried out some intermittent maintenance on the three beds and surrounding areas. (Who knew that Lady's Mantle, *Alchemilla mollis*, could be such an invasive plant! It certainly wasn't in my last garden).

There is a feeling that we now need to decide how to proceed further. The existing garden is a quiet, reflective space on a summer's afternoon and I know one or two people have used it this way. One of three beds is still planted up and it contains four memorial rose bushes around a statue and sundial. The garden is a highly visible feature to the many people who use the building but only enter via the car park into the upper hall. Some folk have commented favourably on it.

However, could we find more ways to use the garden? Would it useful to have space for a small group to meet there? Could any groups carry out any activities in the garden? Should we use it as a wildlife garden, a productive garden, concentrate on ornamentals or a balance of all three? What about maintenance?

One member of the congregation has experience of garden design and would be able to help with that aspect, but the first step is to decide what we want to use it for.

It is intended to hold a meeting to discuss the future of the garden – firstly to decide how we wish to use the space and then how to proceed. This will be announced in the notices so if you are interested, do come along.

By the way, the RSPB bird watch carried out in the garden recorded the following:

Three blackbirds, one jackdaw, one sparrow, one blue tit and two coal tits (not too sure about my identification here)

These were all recorded in the raised part of the garden which is left in a fairly natural state.

Graham Peasland

Never go to a  
Doctor whose  
plants are dying

5 new bird boxes like this one have been donated for the garden. Some with small holes for blue tits, some larger for blackbirds.



Maureen Gerrard - living life to the full! As told to Chris

Maureen was born in Portwood, Stockport. She attended the Catholic school in Edgeley and after passing not just one, but two eleven plus exams, she gained a scholarship to Greek Street High School. She was a bright pupil and her Grandad got her a job as an analytical chemist, however she wanted to work with her friends and so begins a very chequered career. She worked as a sample machinist in a factory making fur gloves using ocelot and beaver fur which she said she hated using. After a while she moved jobs to Hancock's grocers and then to work on the pumps at the Blue Star garage in Marple, in the days before self service.

For the next ten years she worked on a milk round, delivering milk at the crack of dawn from an electric float and had to get from Hillgate to Jacksons dairy at High Lane every morning for 6am.

In 1952, two days after her 19th birthday, she and Harold were married. She was then a practicing Catholic and was not allowed the organ or bells because Harold had not converted to the faith. At the ceremony the priest began - with the funeral service instead of the marriage service. Everyone found it hilarious, particularly as the priest looked like a boxer with a flat nose and had obviously indulged in a drop or two. He frequented the pub next door to the church as a regular!

By now Maureen was used to early mornings and began to make bolts at a factory starting at 6am. Her next job was as housekeeper for 9 years at Plattwood Farm, Lyme's home farm. But Maureen says that her most important job was working as Harold's plastering labourer. For 2 years she mixed plaster in a tin bath, carrying a hod up scaffolding and says that's how she came to have 2 artificial hips and 2 artificial knees.

Eventually the couple took on 'The Greenery,' a café over a fish shop in Marple precinct. It was everything she loved, - baking, a banter and laughter with the customers, lots to do. She started at 6.30am with breakfasts for firemen and policemen as they came off their shifts, then she served coffee, tea and cakes and her special dinners. Harold would call for her on his way from work and they would clean everywhere together before going home to cook the next days roast on their Calor Gas stove at home. Two old men travelled for a meal every day from Hayfield, They brought an accordion and everyone in the café would sing along. Tommy Docherty, Manager of Manchester United, and Betty Driver of Coronation St. fame, were regulars. Tommy always left a £1 tip which was very generous when a meal was £1.65 and pudding 50p. They had bought everything for the 20 seater café second hand but as the space was so small the farmer near their home let them store food in his freezer.

By now everyone knows that Maureen adores Josh Groban and she has a life size cut out of him in her bedroom with strict instructions, "When I pop my clogs, put Josh in my coffin". She followed Josh around to concerts in the UK and abroad. She even called her much loved, and late cat, Josh.

In typical Maureen style, when asked to tell me about herself, she said "I've never been to prison and I like crisps" and that's her - dry humoured and telling it like it is. She added that she liked reading murders "So if you want one committing I can do it"!! It seems she can turn her hand to most things!

We all love Maureen for her kindness, friendliness, generosity, baking skills, welcoming heart and obviously hard work needs adding to that.

At the end of our talk I thanked her and she replied "Well that's my eulogy sorted, Keith won't need to make it up now". Typical!!

#### 8 Fun facts

1. You can't see your ears without a mirror.
2. You can't breathe through your nose with your tongue out.
3. You just tried number 2.
5. When you did number 3 you realised that it was possible, but you looked like a dog.
6. You are smiling right now because you were fooled.
7. You skipped number 4
8. You just checked to see if there is a number 4





I can't believe it is a whole year since the start of Faith Matters. So it seems timely to ask for your feedback.

Please note that Faith Matters does not print weekly events or posters because these go out from Claire in the notices, in addition to this publication.

So my questions to you are:

Is there anything you would like to see in one or more issues?

Are you happy with the layout, font size or other?

Would you like to contribute a piece ( you don't have to write it if you would prefer me to talk to you and write it on your behalf).

Would you like more of some things/less?

Do you like the local history /facts?

Do you like regular columns like birds, cookery, books, walks and gardening?

Please be mindful when leaving any comments that it takes me a whole week to write each issue and I am not paid. So please be gentle!!  
Chris

Comments to [c.mellor174@icloud.com](mailto:c.mellor174@icloud.com)

One day someone is going to hug you so tight that all your broken pieces fit back together.

Unknown

They were arguing , the sun and the wind you see.The wind was boasting of his strength ,whereas the sun was explaining that there is a great power in gentleness. They spied a man on the path below. He had on a heavy coat. The wind said he would prove his strength by blowing the coat off.

He blew and blew, and the leaves fell of the trees, but the man held his coat ever more tightly about him. He would not let it go.

Eventually when the wind went quiet the sun shone warmly on the man, who grew so hot that he took off his coat himself.

There IS great power in gentleness.

Aesops Fable



March

April

3 Charlie Winterbottom	4 Ruth Gay
17 Alison Hill	6 Carol Peasland
22 Jean Jeremy	7 Eunice Baldwin
24th Pat Hudson	13 Karen Cridland
25 Nye Rowlands	15 Robert Williams
27 Joan Jackson	21 Liz Tonge
	28 Enid Winterbottom
	28 Chris Mellor

Have a lovely day!

What did God do to cure Moses headache?

Gave him 2 tablets

In our thoughts and prayers

Joyce Clayton , Bill Jackson and Jean Mellor

Enid and Brenda for a speedy recovery

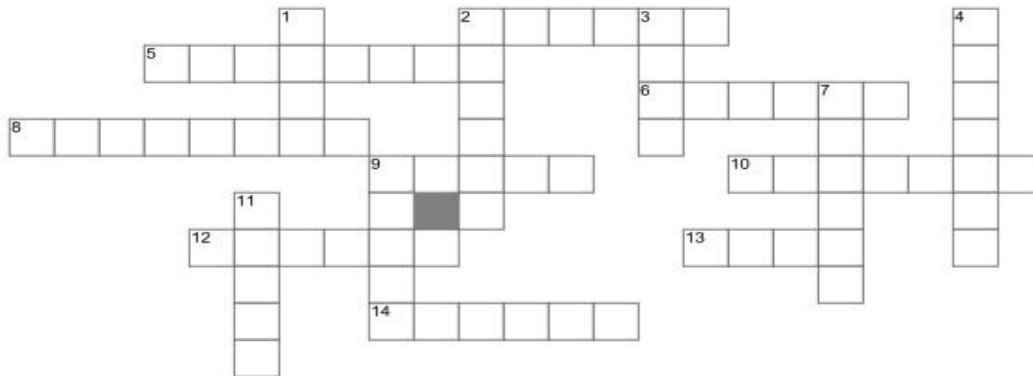
David Ross' family



Traditionally Morris Dancers danced to celebrate the arrival of spring when fertility was on the minds of maids and young men. At around the same time the Shrove Tuesday bell, known as the pancake bell, was rung at 11am in many local villages, to remind housewives it was time to mix the batter .

Valentines Day had some very strange traditions attached. Girls who didn't have sweethearts were brushed with wisps of straw by their friends. A custom known in Derbyshire as 'sweeping the girls'.

# SPRING CROSSWORD



## ACROSS

2. The act of planting seeds
5. Rain or sun protection.
6. A brief period of rain.
8. Often refers to the growth of flora.
9. First month of Spring.
10. Traditional spring-cleaning activity.
12. A small accumulation of water.
13. Flying a \_\_\_\_\_ is the perfect windy day activity.
14. The season after winter.

## DOWN

1. Springtime bird known for its cheerful song.
2. Cherry blossom Tree.
3. Where a bird lays its eggs.
4. The event that marks the start of spring.
7. The day kids hunt for eggs.
9. What snow does in Spring.
11. Garden flower associated with Spring.

DUSTING  
SPRING  
BLOOMING  
EQUINOX

MARCH  
WREN  
UMBRELLA  
MELTS

PUDDLE  
SAKURA  
SHOWER  
NEST

SOWING  
TULIP  
KITE  
EASTER

**Blueberry, Honey and Lemon cake** - a proper teatime cake that's deliciously moist and simple to make, serves 8-10 from this issues baker , Karen Cridland.

- |                         |                                       |                      |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 150g melted butter      | 175g caster sugar                     | 50g honey            |
| 150g Greek yoghurt      | Zest of 1 lemon                       | 1tsp vanilla extract |
| 225g self raising flour | 125g blueberries ,plus extra to serve |                      |

You will need a 2lb loaf tin lined with baking parchment. Heat the oven to 150 fan, gas 3. Whisk together butter, sugar, honey and yoghurt with the lemon and vanilla. Fold in the flour and blueberries. Spoon into the tin, level the surface and bake for 1hr 10 mins until cooked through. Serve with a dusting of icing sugar and extra blueberries.



Dougal was a typical Scot. His wife Janet had just died and he wanted to place the least expensive death notice .

He went into the newspaper office and wrote on the lodgement form "Janet died". The clerk explained that there was a minimum charge and he could have five words. Dougal added three more words

"Janet died, Toyota for sale".



Sadly a friend and Trustee of the Uniting Church, David Grisedale Ross from Kettlethulme has passed away. At his funeral Beryl Axcell spoke about his attachment to Kettlethulme Methodist where he and Doreen were married and eventually they bought Brookbottom Farm and began their nursery business. They raised 3 children as the nursery grew and David could pride himself as a trusted name in the plant nursery industry. He had a vast knowledge of plants and loved the countryside. He travelled to many countries to buy plants—Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and Holland and even to America. There were many amusing stories attached to his travels—in fact his eulogy was just as David would have wanted it to be I am sure. David liked to talk, at length, as we all know, but whatever he spoke about was with a knowledge and passion. He was instrumental in saving the local primary school from closure twice, and worked tirelessly to support local events such as the lantern festival. He helped the Uniting Church hugely with events we ran at Gap House. David was a very generous and kind hearted man who will be missed by many judging by his standing room only funeral. A piper played him into and out of the church, a fitting goodbye to a good friend.

### Poem review by Lou Cooper, Over the Road volunteer

My review is about a poem which can be found in many of Carol Ann Duffy's poetry books. I treasure it as it parks the materialistic romance for a more honest view of love, and a perfect valentine gift given to me from my husband many moons ago.

No sooner has the detritus of Christmas bling been wiped from shop shelves the appearance of rows upon rows of red 'romantic' displays of chocolate, hearts and red roses; marketed with their come to me allure. We all need that bit of sparkle in our lives but oh, please do not let it cheapen the priceless value of love.

It's not that we want to ignore our love for each other on Valentines Day, but we reject the conventional romantic portrayals found with club card points attached. We choose to do it justice by thinking out of the box – hence the gift to me of Carol Ann Duffy's 'Valentine'.

Carol Ann Duffy's Valentine is a striking and memorable metaphor: the onion. Throughout the poem, the onion as a central image to represent love's complexity, honesty and, at times, its potential to cause pain.

It shows both the positive and negative sides of relationships, acknowledging passion and tenderness alongside jealousy and heartbreak, it is truly relatable and thought-provoking. Such a powerful exploration of love's reality without the bling!

I treasure the part of the poem where onion blinds you with tears, which only true love can with passion in times of joy and hardship.

Let us not reserve love just for our other halves and family but share the understanding of friendship, respect and kindness to everyone we meet knowing now that the onion theory of layers can apply to all.

### VALENTINE

*Not a red rose or a satin heart.*

*I give you an onion.*

*It is a moon wrapped in brown paper.*

*It promises light like the careful undressing of love.*

*Here.*

*It will blind you with tears like a lover.*

*It will make your reflection a wobbling photo of grief.*

*I am trying to be truthful.*

*Not a cute card or a kissogram.*

*I give you an onion.*

*Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips, possessive and faithful as we are, for as long as we are.*

*Take it.*

*Its platinum loops shrink to a wedding-ring, if you like.*

*Lethal.*

*Its scent will cling to your fingers, cling to your knife.*

**Carol Ann Duffy**

# An Abecedary of the Peak District

Over the next few issues we will be taking a look at some of the really interesting facts about our area . Places and events, many forgotten and others worth revisiting. From customs and folklore to history and landscapes, to events that capture our imagination. The next five issues will look at places and events that relate to letters of the alphabet. Enjoy!

## A Arbor Low

Arbor Low resembles a clock face and dates back to the Neolithic/Bronze age , built around 2000BCE. It is formed as a large circular grassy bank and ditch with surrounding broken flat stones. Two gaps in the stones were the entrance and the exit. It isn't known if these stones were ever upright but it is known as the Stonehenge of the North and is a very important archaeological site . It has around 50 flat limestone slabs and is located on a high ridge at Middleton Dale. Later on a bronze age cairn or barrow was built. It was excavated in 1845 and was found to contain a cremation burial, flint and bone artefacts.



## Ashford Marble

Strictly speaking this isn't really marble but impure limestone impregnated with bitumen and changes from grey to black when polished. A dressed slab was found in a tumulus on Fin Cop above Monsal Dale and can be traced back to prehistoric times. Bess of Hardwick in 1580 was very loyal to local products and used Ashford marble for her Great presence chamber at Hardwick and later her Great Great Grandson, the 4th Earl of Devonshire, used it when he rebuilt Chatsworth. Ashford village home workers made most of the trinkets— jewellery, snuff boxes, obelisks and crosses marble that were sold at the Great Exhibition in London in 1851.



## B Beaker people

In 2000 BCE the Peak District was inhabited by people who came from Northern Europe and known as the Beaker people. Their burial sites can be found on Stanton Moor and in Biggin, and contained clay beakers and urns. Some also contained cremated bones, others traces of ale thought to be nourishment for the next world. The burial mound in Biggin contained beakers, tools a boars tusk and fragments of ochre and the skeleton of a man holding a quartz pebble. Two female skeletons at Over Haddon were wearing necklaces of jet beads.



## Bull and bear fighting

It was believed that baited bulls produced tender meat and Chesterfield Byelaws instructed local butchers to bait bulls before slaughter. It was considered entertainment at a wedding, and rings at Eyam, Foolow and Snitterton remain. Bonsall ring is in the parish church and was paid for by a kindly vicar in 1834 who bought the bull from his tormentors. The custom was banned by law in 1835. Two bull rings in Tideswell were used to tether bears. It was thought that a child could be cured of whooping cough if put on a bears back during the baiting. The car park at Taxal Church was known as Bear Croft due to its association with bear baiting.

## C Castles, forts and caves

Peveril castle is the only stone castle left in the Peak District. Built by William Peveril a relative of William the Conqueror in 1070/80. The keep was added 100 years later and was once used as a gaol. In the Middle Ages a man was starved here for 6 days and his right hand cut off before he was released. One of his captors was a priest.

Mam Tor was one of the earliest hill forts with earth banks and ditches built on the summit. Built over 3000 years ago by the Celts and taken over as a Roman fort around 50AD.

When the waters that covered the whole area went down natural caverns were left behind among them Treakcliff, Speedwell and Blue John, from which the famous mineral was mined. Famous for spectacular stalagmites and stalactites. Rope making was one of the local crafts in Castleton and a display is in the opening to the Devils Arse cave, - called for the noise in the caves.



## Clogs

Were worn by men, women and children after the war and the alders that grew to 30 or 40 feet around the Goyt Valley were felled to meet the demand for wood for the soles. Often found near to gunpowder works alders made the best charcoal for explosives. The gunpowder works are now under Errwood Reservoir but made the gunpowder used at the Spanish Armada.

## D Death

There are lots of customs around this. In Monyash a passing bell was tolled 3 times for a man and twice for a woman and in Earl Sterndale once for each year of the deceased life. In Youlgrave the curtains were drawn at every house and as the coffin was carried to the church villagers would put chairs outside their houses and the coffin would be rested on these as it passed. In the past it was a Derbyshire custom to take your teeth to the grave with you and they were saved in a jar until they could be buried with the body.

## The Black Death of Eyam

Eyam is a Saxon word meaning Water (EY) and Settlement (HAM). When the plague arrived in the village, carried supposedly by the fleas on rats, the people are said to have made a united decision, under the guidance of Rev. Mompesson, who lost his own wife to the plague, to isolate themselves, so isolating the disease and prevent it from spreading. No one left the village and money was left in vinegar in the wells outside the village and food was left there by neighbours. It lasted for 14 months and 76 families suffered, 260 died. Mrs Hancock buried each of her children and her husband, digging their graves herself, they can still be seen today. It became known as 'the pestilence of children' as so many died. Many thought it was the scourge of God and work on Tideswell's Cathedral of the Peak had to stop because of the shortage of stone masons.



That's all for now folks, E,F,G and H next time. Why not have a drive out this spring and find these gems!



April 23rd is St. George's day so our final prayer is dedicated to him

Lord Jesus, in the spirit of St George, we humbly seek Your mercy. Grant us the courage to face our battles with faith and integrity. May Your compassion flow through us, healing our wounds and those of others. Strengthen our resolve to stand for truth and justice, reflecting Your love in all we do. Amen