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**CLOSING DATE FOR APRIL EDITION
25 MARCH 2024**

Lent Message from Canon Paul Greenwell, Vicar of Holy Angels Hoar Cross with Newchurch

The word Lent is Old English for Springtime. The days lengthen as the Northern hemisphere turns towards the sun, the source of life, and winter turns to spring. In Hebrew, the word for repentance is 'to turn' – like the turning of the earth to the sun; like the turning over the soil before planting.

Even now, says the Lord, turn back to me with all your hearts. Sin means separation, cutting ourselves off. We are called to turn from our separate selves, from our selfishness and sin, to come together in community. Self denial is the way we express our repentance as we turn away from sin and death. In the lengthening brightness from Ash Wednesday until Maundy Thursday afternoon, our holy Lent, we turn to God as our source of life.

We show our self denial in 3 ways:

We PRAY: Go into your room says Jesus, close your door and pray to your Father in private.

We FAST: No one must know you are fasting except your Father

We GIVE ALMS: Keep your deeds of mercy secret and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Self denial is a workout, an exercise, a getting into shape. Through the Lenten exercise of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we spring clean our lives, sharpen our senses, put tomorrow in its place and treasure the day at hand. We pattern ourselves after the Lord Jesus. Jesus prayed and taught us to pray. Jesus fasted and we do likewise. Jesus gave alms and we are asked to give our very lives for each other.

PRAYER

Lent is a season of needs, of emptiness, of limitation. When we realise just how empty we are and see our limitations, Lenten

prayer begins. It's a habit. We reserve time each day for it – the best time we can.

We begin by tracing the sign of the Cross on our bodies – the sign of defeat but also the sign of victory. For the cross which marked us at baptism, continues to mark our lives as we struggle with our weakness and yearn for the victory of love and justice.

FASTING

Fasting is specially associated with Lent. Foodstores in early Spring are at their lowest. Animals are calving or laying eggs. Lenten fasting has its origin in these rhythms of nature. For 40 days we remind ourselves that the earth is like Noah's ark and all creatures depend on each other. We are all one family. Lenten fasting is a share in the new birth of this season.

St John Chrysostom calls fasting a medicine which makes people healthy. Lenten hunger purifies our bodies, limits our consumption of the world's resources, generates less waste and allows silence and restraint to replace gratification. Fasting also slows us down, lowers blood pressure and cleanses our system. We give up unnecessary things and focus and so our minds are purified.



ALMSGIVING

All year long we see injustice in our society and community – people hungry, homeless, lonely, sad and left behind, crying out for love. Yet baptism demands our intolerance of evil. Lent challenges us to do something about our giving, our time,



money, action – to feed the hungry, visit the lonely, restore dignity and justice to lives warped by human evil. We want to change society and we ourselves want to change and become a new creation – less selfish – more reaching out to others with the love of Christ – denying ourselves so others can benefit, putting our money where our mouth is.

St Augustine says that prayer need two wings to fly – fasting and almsgiving. So let's get cracking and use these tools of our trade this Lent.

Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are the necessary first course in the banquet of God's reign.

We are on a 40 day journey – a good Biblical number. It took 40 days for sinfulness to drown under the flood before a new creation could inherit the earth; 40 years for the generation of slaves to die before the freeborn could enter the Promised Land. For 40 days Moses, Elijah and Jesus fasted and prayed to prepare themselves for their life's work. 40 is symbolic of a journey of people moving to deeper faith and love in Jesus; from slavery to freedom; winter to spring; death to life. 40 days is just over a tenth of the year – we tithe our holy 40 days to God as an offering.

People are preparing to put these words into flesh by baptism at Easter. We Christians join them as we also turn from sin to a new life of holiness and rediscover the meaning of baptism in our own lives. Through Lent, we journey to the holy font together and renew our baptism vows.


We keep Lent together – we turn together as a parish, as a Church of so much diversity, ages and ways of life. We put aside our business as usual to support each other in prayer and fasting and almsgiving. We turn to God to enlighten us and purify us throughout the lengthening brightness of our holy Lent. For now is the acceptable time! Now is the day of salvation.

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Cheers to Gift Cards

Discover every treasure Hoar Cross Hall has to offer this Christmas, through our range of luxury gift cards and e-vouchers, all holding an extended 18 month expiry date. With an array of monetary, dining and experience gift cards, your loved ones can rest assured knowing their dream evening escape or pampering spa day will come to fruition, with the tab already settled.

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CHURCH OF THE HOLY ANGELS, HOAR CROSS WITH NEWCHURCH

SERVICES DURING MARCH 2024

SUNDAYS—PARISH MASS, 10.00 a.m. **Canon Paul Greenwell, Parish Priest**

3 March—3rd Sunday of Lent

10 March— 4th Sunday of Lent

Pontifical Mass with Blessing of Flowers for Mothering
Sunday with + Paul of Oswestry

(Each Sunday of Lent 10.00 a.m. Mass followed by short
Lent course 11.15—11.45 in Lady Chapel)

17 March—5th Sunday of Lent, **Passion Sunday**

11.15-11.45 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
and Benediction

Tuesday 19 March—St Joseph 11.00 a.m.
Mass at High Altar

24 March—**Palm Sunday** Palm Procession and
Reading of the Passion Gospel

29 March—**Good Friday** 2pm Solemn Liturgy of the Day
with Veneration of the Cross

30 March—**Easter Eve Saturday** 6pm Easter Vigil and
First Mass of Easter

31 March—**EASTER SUNDAY** The Queen of Feasts and
Day of Days 10am

Procession and Festal Mass with blessing of Easter eggs

**Easter Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,
Saturday** – each day Mass at the High Altar at 11.00 a.m.
as we keep the Sacred Easter Octave.

Diary Dates for March 2024

Sunday 3 March 10am Lent 3 Parish Mass followed by Lent
Course 11.15-11.45 on How to make our confession

Sunday 10 March Lent 4 10am Pontifical Mass with blessing of
flowers for Mothering Sunday with Bishop Paul of Oswestry

This mid-Lent Sunday is named Laetare – Rejoice Sunday as
Lent is half way over! Pink vestments and frontals are worn to
celebrate!

That day at 11.15-11.45 Stations of the Cross using our exquis-
itely fine set around the walls from Antwerp and coloured and
gilded by Emily Meynell Ingram herself.

Canon Paul is on a Lent retreat at the Shrine of Our Lady of
Walsingham Monday to Thursday this week

Sunday 17 March Lent 5 Passion Sunday 10am Parish Mass
followed at 11.15-11.45 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and
Benediction

Tuesday 19 March St Joseph 11am Mass at the High Altar

Sunday 24 March Palm Sunday 10am Palm Procession and
Parish Mass of the Day with reading of the Passion Gospel

11.15-1pm and 4.30 to 6pm Confessions are heard in the Lady
Chapel Confessional. Please tick the list at the back of Church to
indicate when you will come. A spiritual chat is fine too. Please
come and make a new start in preparation for Easter.

Monday 25 March Chrism Mass 11am at Lichfield Cathedral with
Bishop Paul of Oswestry followed by activities for all the family
until 3pm – everyone welcome!

Maundy Thursday 28 March 6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper,
Stripping of the Altars and Watch of the Passion til 7.30pm

Good Friday 29 March – day of fasting and abstinence – one
meal without meat/ non-alcoholic drinks and snacks allowed.

11am Children's Stations of the Cross, hot cross buns and building the Easter Garden

2pm Solemn Liturgy of the Day with Veneration of the Cross.

Easter Eve Saturday 30 March 6pm Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter

Easter Sunday 31 March The Queen of Feasts and Day of Days

10am Procession and Festal Mass with blessing of Easter eggs.

3.30 At Lichfield Cathedral: Procession and Festal Evensong

Easter Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday – each day Mass at the High Altar at 11.00 a.m. as we keep the Sacred Easter Octave.

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TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE

EMERGENCY CLOSURE

Newchurch Road Hoar Cross

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Staffordshire County Council being the highway authority responsible for the repair and maintenance of Newchurch Road in Hoar Cross are satisfied that it is necessary to close to all vehicular traffic that length of Newchurch Road from the junction of Becks Lane to the junction of Lower Hoar Cross Road for a period of 21 days from the date of this Notice because of the likelihood of danger to the public following weather-related flooding, signage installation placed by Staffordshire County Council. An alternative route for traffic is available and will be signed on site. <https://one.network/?tm=137685035>

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE CLOSURE WILL BE IN PLACE BETWEEN 12:59 HOURS ON 21st February 2024 AND 23:59 HOURS ON 13th March 2024.

Keeping Holy Week and Easter at Hoar Cross

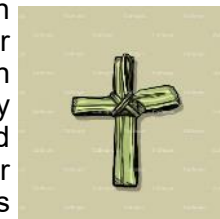
Holy Angels

Palm Sunday 10am Church yard and Parish Mass in Church

Today we begin the most sacred week of the year. The Church celebrates anew the great drama of salvation in the suffering, dying and rising of Jesus the Lord, and every Christian will want to share fully in the sacred liturgies. We enact the saving events so that they become living realities among us as individuals and a community here in Hoar Cross and Newchurch.

Let us all truly take up our cross with Jesus and die with him, that the great Easter Feast of Feasts will find us risen and renewed, and filled with his light and life.

Today we have our palms blessed in the Church yard at the Halifax Cross then take up our procession round the outside of the Church building in honour of Christ the King. A donkey leads us as we sing praises to the Messiah Lord and welcome him again to our community. Our joy and celebration continue as we process around our Church singing the *Gloria, laus et honor/All glory, laud and hounour* specially written for this liturgy, and sung by Christians here and across the face of the earth since the 9th century.



Today, we open our Church doors welcoming Christ our Lord and King into our midst. We pray that we may see his face in all who come through them.

The Passion Gospel is read dramatically and we all take our part. Our selfishness and sin led Jesus to the Cross and all its shame. Our sharing fully in this story of his suffering and death for all people stirs us to respond lovingly and generously in all our relationships and encounters.

There is a full programme of services in the week ahead – please play your part and be faithful in attending these sacred days.

Thursday at 6 pm, Friday at 2 pm, and Saturday at 6pm are the three most important celebrations, and everyone young and old without exception is invited to be present. Come and bring your family and friends. God wants his house to be full and so do we.

Maundy Thursday 6pm Mass of the Lord's Supper with stripping of the Altars and Watch of the Passion

We celebrate tonight as if for the first time, the Eucharist of the Lord's Supper, when anciently the feet of twelve people are washed. In this beautiful ceremony, we copy Jesus in serving one another. He poured out his life as an example for his followers in every age. Again from ancient times, Christians at this service bring up their gifts for the poor – please give very generously – your Lenten alms and money saved from self-denial can be placed on the collection plates and brought up to the Altar as part of our sacrifice.

At the end of our celebration tonight, the Blessed Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood is taken in procession round the Church to the Altar of Repose, and we watch with Jesus just as he asks us. Please make some space and time to watch and pray for as long or short as you can and make his prayer your own – "Your will be done". Silent prayer will continue until 7.30pm but you are welcome to come and go and perhaps return later in the evening. The Altar is decorated with leaves and flowers – it represents the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed in agony and asked his friends to be close with him.



This reserved Sacrament consecrated tonight is used to give Holy Communion on Good Friday.

Also tonight, the Altars of the Church are stripped completely bare, just as Jesus was. The darkness and emptiness express powerfully our sense of desolation and mourning for our King of Love, who gives his life so we can live for him.

Good Friday 11am Stations of the Cross followed by hot cross buns and building the Easter Garden – children and families are very welcome to this short service as we walk with Jesus the way to his cross and tomb.

2pm Solemn Liturgy

Today we come to the cross of Jesus, the tree of life which brings healing and salvation. We see the full extent of God's deep love for the human race. Before the Solemn Liturgy, the Clergy fall

prostrate and silent before the bare Altar, and sacraments are not celebrated until Easter.

On this most sacred day we need to find time to be still and realise what the Lord has done for us, and what our sin and lack of love have cost him.

What can we do as a sign of love for him? What will be our response be as Jesus opens wide his arms on the cross to embrace the whole human race?



The Passion of Christ according to John is proclaimed today following ancient Christian custom.

The Cross is carried in and unveiled in 3 stages.

We kiss/ touch the Cross as a sign of our adoration and deep thanks, then receive his Body and Blood in the Holy Sacrament consecrated the night before, as a sign of our

commitment to him and one another.

Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter – Saturday 6pm

From earliest times Christians have gathered through the night of Easter to recall the story of God's saving work, from creation through to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. However, the Easter Liturgy is not merely a presentation of God's work. It is meant to be a real experience of new life for the worshipper; a passing from darkness to light which offers hope to all the faithful. It is therefore important that the preparation be prayerful and thorough. This is the most sacred night of all the year.

The Easter Vigil marks the end of the emptiness of Holy Saturday, and leads into the celebration of Christ's resurrection. First we light and bless the new fire – all over the world, the darkness of this night gives way to a new light and from this fire we light up the massive Easter Candle, the beautiful symbol of the Risen Lord, conqueror of death and light of the world. By the light of the Easter candle we read the Scriptures which the Risen Lord fulfils. The whole Church is filled with his Easter light. The singing of the Exultet, the ancient hymn of triumph and rejoicing, links this night of our Christian redemption to the Passover night of Israel's redemption out of Egypt. Christian

baptism is a participation in the death and resurrection of Christ, a dying to sin in order to be reborn in him, and the Easter Vigil was from early Christian times a preferred occasion for baptism. It is fittingly a time when those who are already Christians may repeat with renewed commitment the promises of their own baptism, and strengthen their sense of incorporation into the royal and priestly ministry of the whole people of God. The Easter Gospel is proclaimed with all the joy and splendour that the church can find.



The Easter Eucharist follows immediately on the Vigil. All the resources of the church - flowers, bells, colours, incense, water - are used to celebrate Christ's resurrection. The 'Alleluia', which has been silent throughout Lent, returns.

Our new Easter Garden in the North Transept is blessed and remains displayed throughout Eastertide as a celebration of Jesus' victory over death and the grave.

*Now the queen of seasons, bright
with the day of splendour,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render.*

(John of Damascus)

This service is the queen and mother of all vigils, the most powerful and dramatic of the whole year. Please make every effort to be present and bring your family and friends to share our Easter joy!

Easter Day 10am Procession and Festal Mass

For nearly 150 years, the Easter message has resounded from this place. As we proclaim the truth that Jesus lives, we join our voices together with all who have lived out the Easter faith here in Hoar Cross and Newchurch

This is our Queen of Feasts. The Easter candle lit last night has continued to burn through the hours of darkness, a beautiful symbol of the Risen Lord. The Church is at its most glorious – every sign of joy and celebration is used to celebrate this most

high day as Alleluias ring out across the face of the earth. For even death cannot hold our Jesus or his people. His Easter victory is our victory and heaven and earth are bursting with joy at the fact. There is freedom after the slavery of sin, light after darkness, life after death and hope after despair.

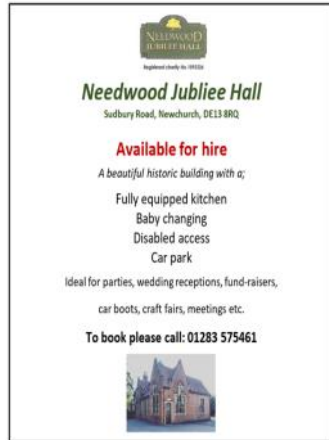


Our lives as Christians must witness to the Resurrection of Jesus. When people see us they see he is alive – they notice the power of his life surging in us and realise that he is at the centre of all we are and do. When people see lives and attitudes transformed by Jesus and his love, they will know he lives and reigns.

The ancient Processional Hymn for Easter Day goes back as far as the Fourth Century and the words would have been well known and loved by those who have gone before us. They are sharing with us in our worship in their beloved Church. In these hallowed walls, we join our song with theirs and ask the prayers of all who have gone before on their pilgrimage. We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song.

Let us live that life and sing a new song to the Lord who takes us by the hand that we might rise with him. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!





How to report Flooding Issues

Over the past few weeks, there has been a wide area affected by flooding due to the exceptionally wet weather.

For information, flooding of highways can be reported on the report it system – [Report a fault online - Staffordshire County Council](#) or alternatively on the emergency number at SCC 24hour contact centre on 0300 111 8000

The Landowner is responsible for ditches and watercourses and piped watercourses and culverts For information : - <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Highways/flooding/Piped-Watercourses-and-Culverts.aspx>

If the problem is a blockage on the river i.e. at a bridge, this should be reported to the Environment Agency - <https://www.gov.uk/report-flood-cause> or 0800 0807060.

A Prayer to use for Lent:

Father in heaven,
The light of your truth bestows sight to the darkness of sinful eyes.
May this season of repentance bring us the blessing of your forgiveness and the gift of your light.
We make our prayer in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen

A Prayer to use as you prepare for your confession/ self-examination before Easter

Lord, please forgive our sins and set us free from them.
We confess to the sin of pride: We have been sure of our own goodness and importance and have looked down on others.
Help us to appreciate the true worth of other people.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

We confess to the sin of envy: We have been displeased when others have been more successful or sought after than we have been. Help us to be glad when others prosper. **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

We confess to our sin of anger: We have lost our temper and nursed grievances. Help us to be patient and understanding with everyone. **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

We confess to our sin of self indulgence: We have had enough and to spare, yet we have neglected the needs of others.
Help us to deny ourselves so that others may not be in want.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

We confess to our sin of unchastity: In one way or another we have used sex, other people and ourselves wrongly and selfishly. Help us to respect ourselves and others as made in your image. Help us to create right relationships and interactions between people inside marriage and outside it. **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

We confess to our sin of anxiety: We have worried about many things. Help us to trust you to see us through. **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

We confess to our sin of laziness: We have been lukewarm Christians. Make us eager to do your will **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

Postcard from a Parishioner—The Good Life

Spring has arrived with its usual fanfare of blustery winds and stormy skies. March, the official start to this lovely season, is also giving us spells of intermittent sunny breaks and has spread a beautiful carpet of snowdrops amongst the grave-stones at Holy Angels. The days are lengthening and there is a hushed expectancy in the trees as one by one they burst into blossom or unfurl new leaves. Winter is now over and we can look forward to days spent in the garden and walks that don't require wellingtons. I hope we have seen the last of all the flooding that dogged the days of January and February. I needed weather updates on a Saturday evening, to know if the bottom of the Jacksons Bank road was under water and I'd need to go to church via Newborough!



My family and I embrace each season enjoying what it has to offer, so there have been plenty of log fires and hearty casseroles to counteract the windy walks and tending to the animals with rain often impeding the task. Hot chocolate and the chance of roasting chestnuts or toasting marshmallows, as well as long hot baths, will now give way to barbecues on the back porch and eventually an evening glass of wine as sunsets are enjoyed. How lucky we are that we can lead the good life here at Forest Lodge. However, the family do take off now and then and this term's half break in February was no different, with a skiing trip to



Andorra. They arrived home at the end of the week with that tired happiness that comes after enjoying this kind of holiday. A couple of days at home and Pete was off again. Kitesurfing in Zanzibar - another adrenaline filled time, for this thrill seeking son of mine. And

why not? You only live onceor maybe not, according to some; but past lives, if you've lived them, are not remembered. Life is a journey that should be lived to its full potential, whatever your age. Now, with me, it is armchair traveling; as I'm quite content to stay home with all the comforts



that come with this. I enjoy my house sitting when the family are away and then the photos plugged into the T.V. on their return. Trips to visit my other two boys and their families are enough for me. Living here, surrounded by T.L.C., a lovely home with beautiful views, makes Forest Lodge a holiday every day, for which I am always grateful, no matter what the season or

the weather. But

Roll on warmer days, with quiet coffee breaks in sunny sheltered spots wherever you might find them.

Raised hopes

At my local supermarket I inquired about the Easter opening hours. The reply came "we only close two days in the year – the day Jesus was born and the day he died".

"So, you're closed tomorrow", I said. "No, we open tomorrow, but closed Easter Sunday," came the puzzled reply.

Editor's Note

The closing date for the April Newsletter is 25 March 2024. Please submit any articles/photos to editor.holyangels@gmail.com.

Our thanks to all those who contributed to this edition. It is great to welcome new ideas.

TIMOTHY WARR
ANTIQUÉ RESTORATION

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Storm Henk

Message from Cllr Julia Jessel

I am writing to bring your attention to a matter of importance for the residents within your constituency who might have been impacted by the recent severe weather conditions during Storm Henk, occurring between January 2 and January 12, 2024.

The government has announced a Flood Recovery Framework offering grants to eligible residents and businesses who flooded during the storm. This is a national scheme and to apply for these grants we must meet certain criteria.

We need to know how many properties were affected by flooding from Storm Henk. So we want to check how many residents in your area were flooded to understand if we will qualify for the grant. If we are eligible then there may be funds available.



Please pass this message onto residents or businesses in your constituency that have been impacted by Storm Henk.

Impacted residents and businesses need to fill out this short online form **before 8 March 2024**. They can access this form via this link or by scanning this QR Code:
www.staffordshire.gov.uk/StormHenk

If anyone needs help with the form, they can call our customer service team on 0300 111 8000. A customer service advisor will be happy to fill out the form over the phone on their behalf. Our opening times can be found on our website: www.staffordshire.gov.uk

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**CHURCH OF THE HOLY ANGELS,
HOAR CROSS WITH NEWCHURCH**

Year's Mind during March

Harriet Pott	Eileen Belinda Mellor
Stuart Robin Young	Mary Willimot
Doris Lester	Mary Ellen Peat
Charles Mosedale	Evelyn May Rose Cook
Alice May Herbert	Gustarus William Carter
William Henry Ruddock	Albert Edward Wiggins
Doris Moss	Peter Gould
George Allcock	Frederick Meynell
Graham Degg	Emma Francis Hitchcox
Arthur Joseph Richardson	Jack Archer



***Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord
And let light perpetual shine upon
them.***

A Visit to Sheffield

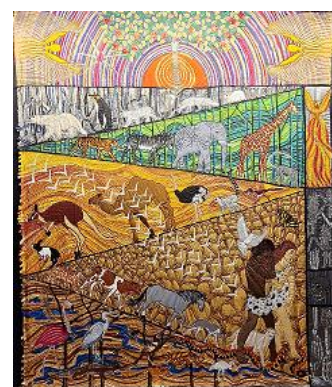
I recently visited the city of Sheffield for the first time, and was very impressed.

We began with the Winter Gardens, one of the largest temperate glass houses in the UK, which houses tropical plants and trees, and models of animals.



From there, we walked to the Peace Gardens, an open space surrounded by large old redbrick buildings. The Gardens are home to the Goodwin Fountain, dedicated to Sir Stuart and Lady Goodwin - he was the founder of a steel and toolmaking firm, and they donated a lot of money to various charities. Am not sure if they are relations or not!

In Millennium Square there are nine large Sheffield stainless steel spheres intended to suggest drops of rain. The Millennium Gallery is very interesting; there is currently an exhibition dedicated to Victorian artist and writer John Ruskin, and the Metalwork Collection is very informative as it traces the development of the steel industry in Sheffield - and seeing some of the objects brought back lots of memories.



The Cathedral is stunning and well worth a visit. Construction of the earliest section of the Cathedral dates back to 1200, with the newest construction completed in 1966. There is an exhibition on at the moment called 'Threads through Creation' which is beautiful. The exhibition consists of twelve huge hangings depicting the Creation as told in the book of Genesis. The hangings are a

colourful mix of patchwork and machine embroidery, and are stunning. The exhibition is coming to Lichfield Cathedral from 17th April to 2nd June, and I would urge you to go and see it.

Liz Goodwin

NB—Editor's note—the front cover of this Newsletter shows one of the photos that Liz took. Stunning.

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New 24/7 advice line to access hospice care

A new telephone line has been launched in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent to make it easier for patients, relatives and health care professionals to access palliative and end of life care advice.

The new number is now live and is **0300 561 2900** and is supported by specialist clinicians.

Specialist palliative care services are provided across the area by four organisations: Douglas Macmillan Hospice in Stoke-on-Trent; Katharine House Hospice in Stafford; St Giles Hospice near Lichfield, and Compton Care in Wolverhampton. They currently have four different advice-line numbers which operate at different times of the day and night.

The new number will allow patients and healthcare professionals to obtain help and advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Please note the new telephone number and share this information with your stakeholders and networks.

You can read more on the [ICB website](#).

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HOAR CROSS NURSING HOME



Hoar Cross Nursing Home is a delightful newly refurbished residence situated in the beautiful rolling countryside of Staffordshire.

Its tranquil setting is one of the main reasons our residents choose Hoar Cross, but we have far more to offer those who come to live here.



Our philosophy is 'Caring to be Better'. We assess the needs of every individual prior to admission to ensure their particular needs are met to the highest possible standard. For most, Hoar Cross will be their home, and we believe it is important to create a happy, family atmosphere in order to enhance the quality of our residents' lives. This is reflected in our excellent CSCI Inspection Reports.



Our fee structure accommodates both private and social services/NHS supported residents.

Our dedicated nursing staff are committed to providing the highest standards of care including:

Long term Elderly | Nursing | Physically disabled over and under 65 | Chronically Sick
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Registered Nursing Home Association Member

A PASTORAL MESSAGE TO THE FAITHFUL OF THE SEE OF OSWESTRY ON THE FIRST DAY OF LENT:

Beloved sons & daughters of the Church!

Lent is begun and with it the journey of the Church with her Lord toward the Hour of his glorification, and the life of resurrection that his terrible cross opens wide for we who believe.

I urge and exhort you all to immerse yourself in this holy season. Give yourselves to the keeping of Lent with all its traditional disciplines and rigour.

There are four aspects in particular of your faith and worship to which I ask you to pay renewed attention this Lent:

1. PLEASE KEEP THE EUCHARISTIC FAST. This is the discipline of not eating anything for at least one hour before Mass begins (ideally three hours before Mass). By keeping this fast from food you honour the Real Presence of Christ in his Eucharistic Mystery who satisfies every hunger.

2. PLEASE REVIEW CAREFULLY HOW YOU RECEIVE THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION. Since the pandemic all kinds of bad habits have crept in to how Communion is received. Speak to your Priest to be reminded about receiving Communion reverently. The key things to be alert to are: a) never handle the Sacrament with your fingers, b) never walk off with the Sacrament consuming the Sacred Host on your way back to your place, and c) never intinct the Host by dipping it into the Chalice. This is neither reverent nor is it hygienic. Quite the opposite, in fact. How you receive the Host expresses what (or better still, who) you believe you are receiving. We believe we are receiving Christ himself. Therefore utmost care and reverence should be taken when receiving the Most Precious Body and Most Precious Blood of the Saviour.

3. REMEMBER TO CROSS YOURSELF IN THE LITURGY. Lent is a 'back to basics' time when we revisit (and by so doing

refresh) the fundamentals. Crossing yourself at the following points in the Liturgy is not only traditional but it is good for the soul because it draws our whole person - body and soul - into the worship of almighty God.



Please cross yourselves at: a) the invocation of the Trinity, b) the absolution, c) when the Gospel is announced, d) when the Host is elevated and again when the Chalice is elevated during the Eucharistic Prayer, e) when the Priest, raising the Sacred Host and showing it to the People says 'Behold, the Lamb of God...', and f) when the Priest gives the General Blessing.

4. PLEASE GENUFLECT TO OUR LORD IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT (if your bodily strength permits you). This is another bodily gesture that needs recovering because it has slipped away. Genuflection is the most profound expression of reverence to Our Lord. We do it whenever we enter into his Sacramental Presence. This means going down on the right knee whenever approaching Christ's Body and Blood at Mass, but also when we approach or pass in front of the Tabernacle where Our Lord's Body is kept day by day. We do not only do this when others can see us, but always, because Christ is really present.

Lent affords us time for recovery of the habits and gestures which give expression to our deep devotion to Christ. Please speak to your Parish Priest and/or your Parish Deacon about these things. Do not feel self-conscious by doing so. There is no error or admonishment in any of these things, but there is a valuable opportunity which I strongly encourage you to grasp.

May Christ the Saviour renew us in worship and reverence for him this Lent, that we may be renewed in our zeal to proclaim him as the Crucified Lord, and journey with him to Calvary.

+Paul Oswestriensis

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It's a Dog's Life

Hullo, Frens

I've got some more sad news – my reelly good fren, Monty, has gone to sleep forever. Mum said he was quite old, fourteen. (I'll only be three soon!) but I'm still sad. He used to tell his hooman to come over and say hello to me. Monty and I would sniff bums and touch noses and some times he would let me lick his ears. (I likes ears – dogs and hoomans!) But then, he'd walk off and sniff the ground. I didn't mind, it was good to see him. I'd have like to have played with him but his hooman said he was a bit too old to play now. I wish I'd known him when he was younger – we could have had some fun together. Mum says now he's gone to sleep he'll be dreaming of those 'citing times he used to have.

I've been to the kennels again and they reelly looked after me. I like it there – they've got a nice place I can run around in with lots of balls to chase.

And just recently I've made a nice fren called Anna. She comes and takes me out for walks by the canal and we meet other dogs. She's also got a doggy park where I can get reelly, reelly dirty when I get there – it's such fun! But Mum doesn't seem glad to see how mucky I am—I don't understand it. Doesn't she want me to be happy?! Anyway, I know she loves me so doesn't' reelly mind—hee, hee.

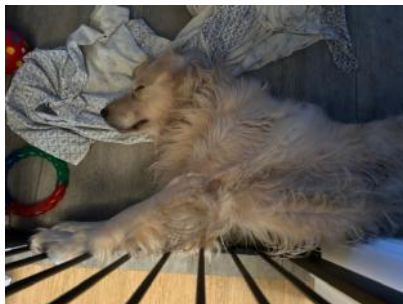
Look forward to speaking to you again soon.

TTFN

Ko-Ko

PS The photo is of me reelly tired again—it's such a hard dog's life.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-



The poster is divided into two main sections. The top section is black with a rainbow diagonal stripe on the right. It features the text 'BEST NEW SITE' in white, a photo of a brick building, 'The Publican Awards' logo, and 'SPONSORED BY HEINEKEN'. Below this, it says 'WINNER THE MEYNELL INGRAM ARMS' and '#publicanawards'. The bottom section has a green background with a photo of two hands clinking Guinness glasses. It says 'SAINT PATRICKS PARTY' in large letters, 'FRI 15TH MARCH LIVE MUSIC', and 'BOOK NOW 15 March 2024' with a calendar icon. There are also logos for 'Saint Patricks Day' and 'MEYNELL INGRAM'.

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Who was Alcuin?

Pronounced Al-kwin he was born c. 732, in or near York, Yorkshire, and died May 19, 804, Tours, France). He was an Anglo-Latin poet, educator, and cleric who, as head of the Palatine school established by Charlemagne

at Aachen, introduced the traditions of Anglo-Saxon humanism into western Europe. He made important reforms in the Catholic liturgy and left more than 300 Latin letters that have proved a valuable source on the history of his time.

Alcuin's first 50 years were spent in Yorkshire, where he was first a pupil and, after 778, headmaster of the cathedral school of York, the most renowned of its day. He wrote a long poem, probably shortly before he left York, telling of the renowned men in that city's history. In 781 he met the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne in Italy and accepted his invitation to Aachen, where the king was gathering the leading Irish, English, and Italian scholars of the age. The school, where Charlemagne himself, his family, his friends, and his friends' sons were taught, became a lively centre of discussion and exchange of knowledge. Alcuin introduced the methods of English learning into the Frankish schools, systematized the curriculum, raised the standards of scholarship, and encouraged the study of liberal arts for the better understanding of spiritual doctrine. In 796 he left the court to become abbot of the Abbey of St. Martin at Tours, where he encouraged the work of his monks on the beautiful Carolingian minuscule script, the ancestor of modern Roman typefaces.



Alcuin's formative influence in the development of Roman Catholicism in western Europe is ascribed mainly to his revision of the liturgy of the Frankish Church. The Franks were a Germanic-speaking people who invaded the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century, dominating present-day northern France, Belgium, and western Germany, the Franks established

the most powerful Christian kingdom of early medieval western Europe. Alcuin was responsible for the introduction of the Irish Northumbrian custom of singing the creed. He arranged votive masses for particular days of the week and devotions in an order still followed by Catholics, reedited the Latin bible, and wrote a number of works on education, theology, and philosophy.

Alcuin's life embodies contradictions. His leadership in church and state was remembered throughout the Middle Ages, yet he remained only a deacon. Though he was the foremost teacher in a rude age, his writings show no originality. He loved Charlemagne and enjoyed the king's esteem, but his letters reveal that his fear of him was as great as his love. Most of his poetry is mediocre. Toward the end of his life he acquired a great reputation for holiness, but he is not included in the canon of saints.

O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

Book Ends



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Neighbourhood Watch: www.owl.co.uk

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Staffordshire Highways—reporting of defects :

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<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault>)