



Christ Church Mount Pellon

in the power of the Spirit...



Price 35p

*a loving, nurturing fellowship which,
in the power of the Spirit,
awakens all people to the love of Jesus
and spreads the Gospel through words and actions.*

www.christchurchpellon.org.uk

Church Address: Church Lane, Mount Pellon, Halifax, HX2 0EF

Christ Church

Regular events

Sunday Club

Children are welcome at all our services! There is always a crèche available for younger children at every 10.45 service, and age-appropriate groups at all 10.45 services except Parade Sundays and holiday times. Just turn up for a fun morning discovering more about God's love for you. For more details contact Liz Dingsdale (**834439**).

House Groups

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 7.30 p.m. alternate weeks

Get together with others to explore fellowship, faith and prayer to help you in your daily discipleship. For more details and dates contact Karen Hellewell (**365027**)

Uniformed Groups

Mondays 6.00 – 7.00 p.m. Rainbows (for ages 5 - 7)

Contact: Jane Webster **380950**

Mondays 6.30 – 8.00 p.m. Brownies (for ages 7 - 10)

Contact: Tracey Jagger **248365**

Mondays 7.30 – 9.00 p.m. Guides (for ages 10 - 15)

Contact: Ann Cockerill **363892**

Wednesdays 7.30 – 9.00 p.m. Rangers (for ages 14+)

(alternate) Contact: Pam Robinson **345258**

Lunchbox

A monthly chance to worship together, followed by a chance to chat over lunch. Mondays, 11.45 a.m. For dates and more details contact Pam Higgs (**320554**)

Chatterbox

Our parent & toddler group meets every **Monday, 1.00 – 3.00 p.m.** – all are welcome! Just turn up for a chance to have a coffee and a chat while the children play, do craft, sing and have a story and lots of fun! For more details, contact John (**365027**).

From the Vicar

Papering Over the Cracks

Dear Reader,

If any of you have been in the vicarage kitchen recently and just happened to glance up at the ceiling, you will have noticed the three or four bits of bare plaster in one part of the ceiling. These are the results of some work that was done a while ago which meant the plumber had to make some holes in the ceiling to get at some pipework underneath the shower which wasn't draining properly.

Afterwards, he filled the holes and plastered over them, and then promised to come back and smooth them down and then paint over them, and we would never know the difference. Or so he said.

Apart from the fact that he's not been back yet, I do wonder at whether we'd really be able to tell the difference or not. Perhaps it's because having had to move so many times in our married life (8 times in 20 years) I've so often spent time around the moves decorating our new home – ripping off old wallpaper, filling cracks in walls and ceilings, painting over the fills. And I guess that in most cases I've only been partially successful.

For a while, the repair looks good, and unless you knew I'd done the filling, you might think everything was smooth and fine. But filling the cracks doesn't solve the cause of the cracks – it only masks the problem. It doesn't ask the questions of what caused the cracks in the first place. Are they the result of the ground settling and general outside pressures on the whole building? Are the materials getting old? Or is it something else that I couldn't possibly know about?

Whatever the cause, I always hope that it is now in the past. The cracks have been filled, and once I've sanded them down and painted over the whole thing, you won't even know there were any there at all. It will all be as good as new.

But will it? That's my hope, but what if the root cause of the cracks hasn't been dealt with? Unless the problem has mysteriously gone away, in a few months the cracks usually begin to reappear again. Of course, they aren't usually as bad as before – at least not at first. But unless the root cause is dealt with, then I'm really fighting a losing battle.

And maybe my life is sometimes like that as well. All seems well for a

while, and then I start noticing the cracks - maybe others see them even before I do!

Perhaps it's just the general pressure of everyday living in our society today. Maybe it's the stresses of relationships going wrong - people drifting apart or falling out, families at each others throats for whatever reason. It could just be a general feeling that there must be more to life than the daily round of work, eat, travel, sleep day after day. Or it might be the knowledge of something that we've done that we wish we'd never done, or something we know we really ought to have done.

Most of us, most of the time, are pretty good at 'papering over the cracks' so that things look good on the surface. 'How are you?' we are asked, and we answer without thinking, 'Fine' when we know deep down that things are anything but right.

We may even be able to keep this up for quite some time, but the problem is that the underlying cause of our disharmony has not been dealt with. Indeed, there is a real sense in which we are not even equipped to deal with it in any fundamental way.

What my ceiling needs really is to be taken down, reboarded and re-plastered so that instead of being fixed up, it is made new again. And that's what our lives need - not sticking plaster solutions that only hide the real problem, but a deep-seated change that tackles the causes at root.

That's where Easter comes in. For when Jesus died on the cross that very first Good Friday, it wasn't just a good man unjustly condemned to die. Here was God himself in human form dying for me and for you, taking away all the hurt, all the pain, all the wrongdoing, all the sin that affects our lives - taking it away by bearing it himself. All of it.

But it didn't end there, for three days later, on the first Easter Sunday, Jesus was raised from death to everlasting life - the first of the new creation - the new ceiling, if you like. And the really good thing is that he doesn't keep this new life to himself, but wants to pour it into my life and your life!

That's what Easter is all about - that's why it is the most important event in history: we can be made new!

All the things of the past, the hurt, the anger, the guilt can be taken away and replaced with God's infinite love. That's what's on offer this Easter for you. Will you accept it, and discover a whole new life.

I only wish repairing my ceiling was that simple!

John Hellewell

Parish Noticeboard for March

10.30 a.m.

Apr 1st PALM SUNDAY

Philippians 2.5 – 11; Luke 19.28 – 40

Preacher David Ramanauskas

Reader Paul Newman

Prayer Iain Lawson

Sidespeople Douglas Drake

Coffee Patricia & Paul

Bread Margaret & Eddie Beaton

Chalice David & Christine

6.30 p.m.



2 Corinthians 3.12 – 18

John Hellewell

Dave Fawcett

David Ramanauskas

Apr 8th EASTER SUNDAY

1 Corinthians 15.19 – 26; John 20.1 – 18 **Luke 24.1 – 12**

Preacher John Hellewell

John Hellewell

Reader Dave Fawcett

Rosemary Power-O'Mahony

Prayer Janet Abel

Ann Cockerill

Sidespeople Christine Buckley

Coffee Freda, Tess & Pam

Bread Barrie Kitchen

Chalice Christine & Rosemary

Apr 15th THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 5.27 – 32

Isaiah 52.13 – 53.12; Luke 24.13 – 35

Preacher David Ramanauskas

John Hellewell

Reader Trevor Greenwood

Sue Heptinstall

Prayer Jane Webster

Sue Heptinstall

Sidespeople Marion Hunter

Coffee Susan & Hazel

Bread June & Brian Lockwood

Chalice Rosemary & June

10.30 a.m.

6.30 p.m.

Apr 22nd THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Luke 5.17 – 26

Colossians 2.6 – 15

Preacher John Hellewell

John Hellewell

Reader Guides

John White

Prayer Guides

John White

Sidespeople Barrie Kitchen

Coffee Ann, Steve & Kit

Apr 29th THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER: VOCATIONS SUNDAY

Acts 9.36 – end; John 10.22 – 30

Luke 24.36 – 49

Preacher John Hellewell

John Hellewell

Reader Kath Sharman

Paul Newman

Prayer Karen Helliwell

John Hellewell

Sidespeople Audrey Mitchell

Coffee Kathleen, Katie & Sarah

Bread Dorothy Faller

Chalice June & Graeme

May 6th THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 11.1 – 18; John 13.31 – 35

Mark 15.46 – 16.8

Preacher John Hellewell

John Hellewell

Reader Karen Hellewell

Dave Fawcett

Prayer Caroline Spencer

David Ramanauskas

Sidespeople Paul Newman

Coffee tbc

Bread Ann & Michael Cockerill

Chalice Graeme & David

PCC Meeting Wednesday 28th February 2007

As usual the meeting opened with a bible reading, followed by singing two hymns.

Some apologies were read. It was noted and discussed that the attendance at PCC meetings over the last year have been very disappointing to say the least.

A letter was read from Bishop Tony regarding our decreasing parish share payments. The diocese as a whole received 92% of its payments, and we are not alone in not meeting our share, and the letter had no doubt been sent to many parishes.



John reminded everyone that Michael Noakes would be giving a talk in church on Saturday 10th March at 9.30a.m. This would be about nurture and healthy relationships, a good attendance would be appreciated.

Some members of the PCC felt that the person giving the sermon should be named in the magazine as it was the only name missing from the rotas. It went to a vote and was passed.

A discussion was held regarding the monthly magazine, who was it for, who was reading it, should changes be made, etc. John was asked why he did not address his letters to anyone, and after some discussion 'Dear Reader' was suggested and agreed.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting ended with the grace.

Next meeting is the AGM on Sunday 29th April.

PARISH CALENDAR

APRIL 2007

SUNDAY 1ST APRIL: PALM SUNDAY

10.45 a.m. Family Communion

6.30 p.m. Evening Worship

Monday 2nd April

7.30 p.m. Holy Week Holy Communion
at Christ Church

Tuesday 3rd April

10.30 a.m. Asquith Court

7.30 p.m. Holy Week Holy Communion
at Christ Church

Wednesday 4th April

7.30 p.m. Holy Week Holy Communion
at Christ Church

Thursday 5th April

7.30 p.m. Maundy Thursday service
at Highgate Methodist

Friday 6th April

11.00 a.m. Good Friday Service
at Pellon Baptist

7.30 p.m. Good Friday Service
at Christ Church

SUNDAY 8TH APRIL: EASTER SUNDAY

6.15 a.m. Sunrise Holy Communion
followed by breakfast

10.45 a.m. Easter Communion

6.30 p.m. Easter Worship

SUNDAY 15TH APRIL: THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.30 a.m. No Service

10.45 a.m. Family Communion

6.30 p.m. Evening Worship

Monday 16th April

11.45 a.m. Holy Communion
followed by LunchBox

SUNDAY 22ND APRIL: THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.00 a.m. Holy Communion

10.45 a.m. Parade Service

12.45 p.m. Baptisms

6.30 p.m. Celebration

SUNDAY 29TH APRIL: THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.45 a.m. Family Communion

12.00 p.m. Annual Parochial Church
Meeting in Church

6.30 p.m. Evening Worship

MAY 2007

SUNDAY 6TH MAY: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10.45 a.m. Family Communion

6.30 p.m. Evening Worship

Remember Jesus' words, 'Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven' (Matthew 7:21).

EASTER STORY BISCUITS

Prep. Time: 20 minutes

Total Time: 1 day

Ingredients:

1 cup pecan nuts; 1 tsp. vinegar; 3 egg whites;

1 pinch salt; 1 cup sugar; large plastic bag;

wooden spoon; tape; Bible

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 300° F.

Place pecans in the plastic bag and let the children beat them with the wooden spoon to break into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested he was beaten by the Roman soldiers. Read John 19:1-3.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into mixing bowl.

Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross he was given vinegar to drink. Read John 19:28-30.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave his life to give us life. Read John 10:10-11.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin. Read Luke 23:27. So far the ingredients are not very appetizing...

Add 1 cup sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because he loves us. He wants us to know and belong to him. Read Psalm 34:8 and John 3:16.

Beat with a mixer on high speed until stiff peaks are formed. Explain that the color white represents the purity in God's eyes of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus. Read Isaiah 1:18 and John 3:1-3.

Fold in broken nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto non-stick baking parchment-covered baking sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid. Read Matthew 27:57-60.

Put the baking sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus' tomb was sealed. Read Matthew 27:65-66.

GO TO BED! Explain that they may feel sad to leave them in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers felt despair when the tomb was sealed. Read John 16:20 and 22.

On Easter morning, open the oven and give everyone a cookie. Notice the cracked surface and take a bite.

The cookies are hollow! On the first Easter Jesus' followers were amazed to find the tomb open and empty. Read Matthew 28:1-9.



The Bible according to children

- *The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple*
- *Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients*
- *Moses died before he ever reached Canada.*
- *The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with the unsympathetic Genitals*
- *In the first book of the Bible, Guinnessis, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off*
- *Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.*
- *The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him*



UNWANTED MOBILE PHONES AND USED PRINTER INK CARTRIDGES

Kit Merrill collects these items on behalf of Christian Aid. When sent for recycling each phone adds £3.50 and each cartridge about £1.33 to Christian Aid funds. Please Help. Kit would also be pleased to receive any used large padded envelopes as he recycles these to send the phones and cartridges to Christian Aid

***Please bring your items to church,
or contact Kit directly on 01274 876141***

23 April - St George's Day circa 300 AD

The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. He was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23 April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.



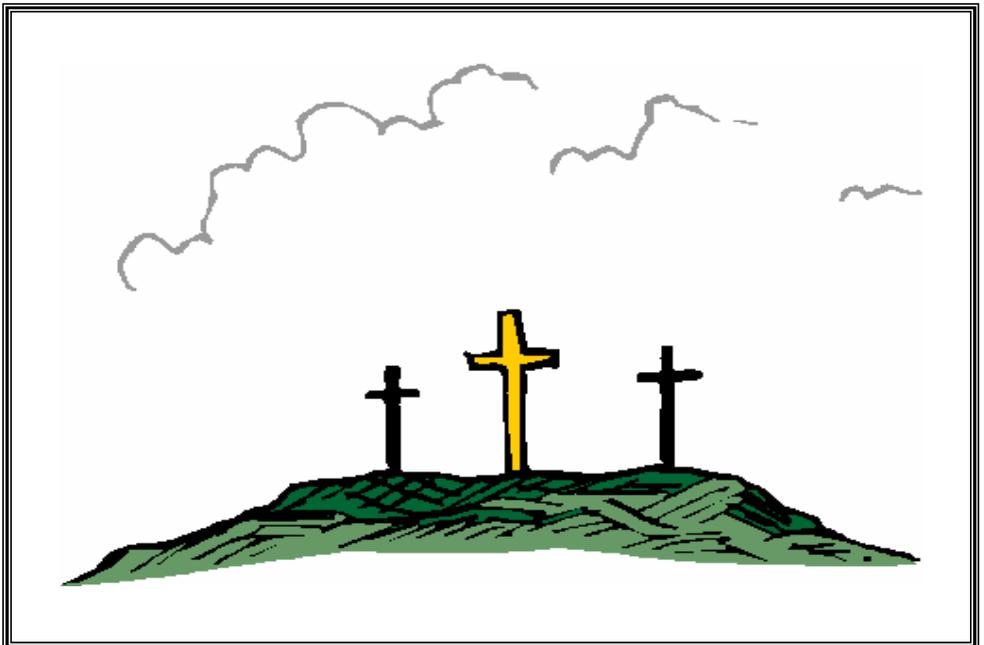
In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs thus:

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Lybia, where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. The Saint charged, and drove his spear into the gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

Then St George borrowed the Princess' girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene

herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised. It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body.

St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England put herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.



17TH CENTURY NUN'S PRAYER

*Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself
that I am growing older and someday will be old.
Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say
something on every subject on every occasion.*

*Release me from craving to straighten out
everybody's affairs.*

*Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not
bossy.*

*With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity
not to use it all, but thou knowest, Lord,
that I want a few friends at the end.*

*Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details;
give me wings to get to the point!*

*Seal my lips of my aches and pains, they are
increasing.*

*And the love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter
as the years go by.*

*Keep me reasonably sweet; but know that I do not
want to be a saint just yet -*

Some of them are so hard to live with.

*Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected
places,*

And talents in unexpected people.

And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen



*...I don't care how many kilowatts it produces...
you haven't got planning permission!!*

MAGAZINE DEADLINE

The Parish Magazine is distributed on the last Sunday of each month. The copy deadline for the May magazine is **Sunday, 15th April 2007**

Love Your Neighbour....

As yourself. Right? Absolutely. Jesus' words were, as ever, straight and to the point when one of the scribes, listening to him reasoning with the Sadducees, asked: "Which is the first commandment of all?" "The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: and You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength: this is the first commandment."

"And the second is like the first, namely this. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these."

The question came painfully. It was a beautiful day on the Western shores of Scotland. A young girl and an older friend were walking beside the sea in deep conversation. "Can you give me one good reason to stay alive?" Black despair to the point of suicide hung between them on the rich sea breeze.

The answer could have been: "Because God loves you." That was far too glib, though true. "Think of what your death would do to those who love you" is a point with which the wholly together person could wrestle. But this lovely young girl wasn't together. Quite the opposite. Torn apart. That wouldn't do either.

Words seemed superfluous. The only thing to do was to embrace the hurting person. Talking could come later – and did. The older woman took the young girl into a deep hug and prayed for the power of God to enfold her, asking him to deal with the 'now' moment, for her to press on through the 'now' moment, for the utter howling pain and despair of the 'now' moment to pass and in its place the presence, the very love of God to wash over the girl, for God to communicate his unconditional love of her, his heartbeat to hers on the wild shores.

Loving God with all your heart, your mind and your strength isn't an academic exercise. It's your heart, soul and body responding to the balm of the Holy Spirit poured into your gaping wounds through that Calvary conduit that heals you and helps bring healing to others. We comfort one another with the comfort with which we are comforted by God. For God in all his might, majesty, dominion and power loves you back - and pours his love into you and those for whom you pray.

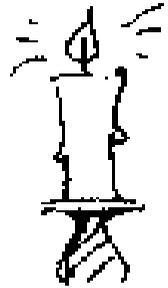




From the Registers...

BAPTISMS

None this month

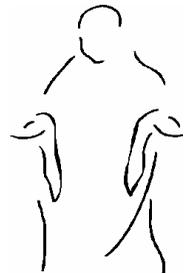


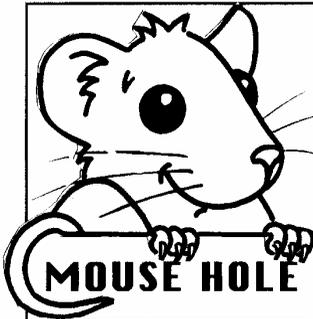
WEDDINGS

None this month

FUNERALS

None this month





Eggs are given at Easter as a symbol of the **new life** we can have with Jesus.

Speckled Eggs

Colour boiled eggs by adding a few drops of food colouring to the water just before they have finished boiling. When cool, dab on diluted food colouring with a sponge to make a speckled effect.

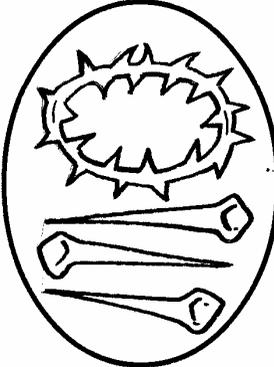
Egg Games

Decorate hardboiled eggs with friends, then roll them down a hill to see who's can roll the farthest without cracking!

Enlarge the pictures from the Easter story by 200%. • Glue on card and cut out. • Glue the words onto the other side. • String together to make a mobile.

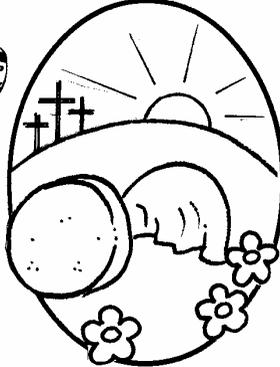
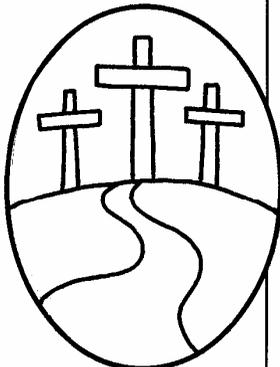
The Easter Story

On a donkey, here's God's King!
"Hosanna, Hosanna!"
the people sing.



But soon they say
*"He's telling lies,
he's not God's Son,
so he must die!"*

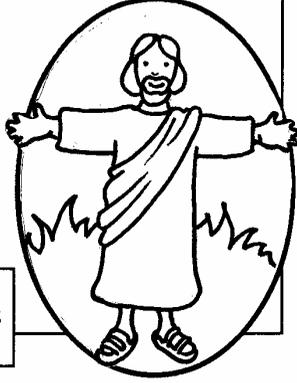
Beaten and stripped,
nailed to a cross,
He only came
to save the lost.



But three days later,
where is he?
He has risen
for all to see!

**He is God's Son,
He is our King,
"Hosanna, Hosanna"**
God's people sing!

Read the Easter story in **Matthew** chapters 21, 26, 27 and 28



A People Place

If this is not a place where tears are understood,
Where do I go to cry?

If this is not a place where my spirits can take wing,
Where do I go to fly?

If this is not a place where my questions can be asked,
Where do I go to seek?

If this is not a place where my feelings can be heard,
Where do I go to speak?

If this is not a place where you'll accept me as I am,
Where can I go to be?

If this is not a place where I can try to learn and grow,
Where can I be just me?

William J Crockett

And finally...



I decided to stop worrying about my teenage son's driving and take advantage of it. I got one of those bumper stickers that says, "How's my driving?" and put a premium number on it. At £1 a call, I've been making about £38 a week.



FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT



A wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered. The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

A young clergyman, fresh out of training, thought it would help him better understand the fears and temptations his future congregations faced if he first took a job as a policeman for several months. He passed the physical examination; then came the oral exam to test his ability to act quickly and wisely in an emergency. Among other questions he was asked, "What would you do to disperse a frenzied crowd?" He thought for a moment and then said, "I would pass an offering plate." He got the job.

COMMUNICANTS AND COLLECTANTS

	Communicants	Loose	Stewardship	Total
4 th Feb	6	249.96	347.60	597.56
11 th Feb	22	46.80	229.50	276.30
18 th Feb	10	60.61	Unavailable	60.61
25 th Feb	34	101.71	Unavailable	101.71

People Like Us (from the Old Testament!) SAUL

Saul was Israel's first king, who started off well but ended up being rejected by God (1 Samuel 15:10). The final straw came when he failed to totally destroy the Amalekites as God had commanded (vs 3). *What does this incident tell us of Saul's mistakes and how we can avoid them?*

Total Obedience

Saul's action brought grief to both Samuel and God. When Samuel challenged him, Saul was full of excuses. He blamed his soldiers for sparing the best of the animals (vs.15) and believed that he was carrying out God's instructions. Like Saul, God holds us accountable for our actions, especially when we ignore his instructions.

In what ways do we fail to put God's word into practice?

Who's honour?

When Samuel arrived, Saul was setting up a memorial to himself (vs. 12), admitting later that he was afraid of what people thought about him (vs. 24). Saul had lost a genuine desire to serve God becoming more concerned about his own reputation and status. We often face the choice of either looking good before others or honouring God.

When do we find it challenging to honour God before others?

Obedience not sacrifice

Saul argued that it was better to sacrifice the saved animals than to destroy them. However, Samuel reminded him that sacrifice was a symbol of the people's commitment to love and obey God, 'to obey is better than sacrifice' (vs. 22). For us attendance at services can never be used to offset behaviour or attitudes in the rest of life are offensive to God.

How do we make sacrifice an alternative to obedience?

John R Earnshaw

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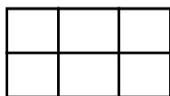
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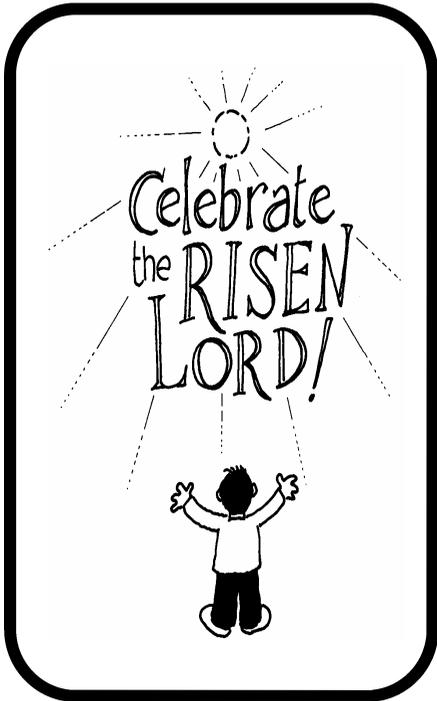
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