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The Spire



April and May 2022
Easter and Ascension

The Parish Magazine of
CHRIST CHURCH
— Southgate —

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Welcome!

From The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert Vicar of Christ Church Southgate

Welcome to the second Spire magazine under the new team of Freya and Imogen. It is so good to be able to give you the details of our Easter and Holy Week services. We have just had the second anniversary of the original Covid lockdown, which lost us Holy Week 2020 in church. Last year we were back but rather limited and this year the full-service pattern is back with all the glorious music. We are still not back to full “normal”, but we will be able to walk with Jesus in his passion.

Legally, the restrictions have been removed but covid has far from gone away, but thanks to the vaccination programme, hospitalisation is no longer the inevitable consequence of testing positive. I’m sure I am not the only one to feel that I know of more people that are positive than at the height of the pandemic.

As you may know, I caught it in February – at the end of a week off by the sea – and have had a long road back to full strength. (Many thanks to +Rob for stepping in for a Sunday when I was particularly lacking in energy.)

Since then, four of our immediate family have also gone down with it, in different parts of the country, with varying levels of severity. I can report that it is worth trying not to catch it!

I would encourage you to come to church a lot over Easter – not just to fill the church because we can - but to walk with Jesus on his journey. Easter Day makes so much more sense if we celebrate with him on Palm Sunday, walk the Way of the Cross on Wednesday, watch and pray with him on Maundy Thursday, venerate him on the cross on Good Friday, thrill with the new resurrection fire in the dark of Holy Saturday before the pure joy of Easter Day when the story ends with “and they all lived happily ever after” – and really means it.

You may have heard me say it many times, but Holy Saturday is still my absolute favourite service. A tiny spark of the resurrection fire leads to the outpouring of pure joy and ends with celebrating the bursting of the tomb with a glass of prosecco - which we can have again. It has everything!

We must be so thankful that we are able to mark Holy Week at all. At this time our prayers have been and will continue to be dominated by the war in Ukraine, which, at the time of writing is showing no signs of ending. The whole situation seems so unreal in this day and age and watching the terrible images on the news makes us all feel so utterly powerless. All we can do, as I have said in the weekly emails is to pray and pray again – for everyone involved from the leaders to those trapped in bombed out basements facing starvation. They all need your love and help in any way that you can.

At the end of February, there was a choir trip

to sing at Southwark Cathedral, where I found a prayer next to their candle prayer stand. I have used it in church, but here it is for your own use.

*God of strength and peace,
send your blessing on the people of Ukraine.
Sustain them in their struggles,
hold them in their fear,
protect them from all danger
and be for them the hope they desire;
for Jesus Christ's sake.
Amen.*

Every blessing,
Fr Chrichton

Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: "Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don't even recognise me."

The other donkey replied: "That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much."

Note from the Editors

Welcome to the Easter edition of the Spire!

We are delighted that Bishop Rob was kind enough to spare us some time for an interview - read about his thoughts on Easter, Christ Church and more! Thanks must go to Cathy, Sandra, Jackie, Ami and Hazel for kindly sharing highlights of the recent Women of the Passion sermon series. For the young (and young at heart) - Walker the church mouse is hiding somewhere in this magazine: see if you can find him!

We can also now confirm that the Spire is moving to a bi-monthly publication – so our next edition will cover June and July. Copy for this is due **Wednesday 18 May** - reach us on christchurchspire@gmail.com

We'd love to hear from you – anything from a couple of lines, a full article, a joke or a picture – or ideas of what you would like to see in future editions.

Wishing you and your family a joyful Easter

Freya and Imogen



DAILY HOPE a free phone line offering music, prayers and reflections as well as services from the Church of England. Available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**.

Welcoming Strangers

I am very fortunate to have been able to visit my son and his family in America, and we had a wonderful time helping our grandson celebrate his third birthday.

We returned home via Florida, exchanging thick snow for sunshine. We decided it was time to worship God in a church so we looked on-line for an Anglican one. We found the Church of St Nicholas about 30 minutes drive from where we were staying. Our experience there was heart-warmingly Christian. The church, and the hall, occupy two units on an industrial estate. It's a plain building, comparatively new, the Church having been formed less than twenty years ago. It has grown so much that there are plans for a brand new, larger, church to be built about a mile down the road.



We were politely welcomed into the very quiet Church, and we sat in companionable silence, as requested on our pew sheet, for the service to start. The American order of service is very similar to ours. The thought-provoking sermon was given by the Dean of St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral, Tallahassee.

After the service we were warmly invited to join everyone for refreshments. We got chatting to others in the queue, and quickly realised that there were four, retired, ordained priests and a deacon in the congregation.

We decided to take up the invitation to join the others for their lent study. I sat next to my new-found friend from the breakfast queue and she shared her Lenten study book with me. The leader of the group, an Assistant Professor of Theology, led us through the poems that would have been read, daily, the week before.



The next Sunday we were quietly waiting for the service to begin and I was handed my new friend's book, so that I could read the poems before the study time. I was so moved by her thoughtfulness. By the time of the study group, she had bought me my own book and had arranged for the Vicar to write in it. I was so taken aback. We were initially strangers to this congregation, but accepted as fellow Christians. We owe deep thanks to Fr. Brad Page and his congregation.

I just hope that when people visit our church, they feel their welcome to Christ Church to be as warm as ours was at St. Nicholas.

Hazel Miall



“Christ is risen!” “He is risen indeed!”

Easter Traditions

Easter has been the most important date in the religious calendar since the earliest days of Christianity. Up until about the fourth century, Easter was a night celebration - you would start after sunset on Saturday and finish before the dawn on Sunday. By the late fourth century, the mainstream church had established elaborate traditions – we read in the Apostolic Constitutions, c. 390:

“It is your duty, brethren . . . to observe the days of Easter exactly. Break your fast when it is daybreak of the first day of the week, which is the Lord's Day. From the evening until the cock crows, keep awake; assemble together in the church; watch and pray; entreat God. Baptize your catechumens and read the Gospel with fear and trembling. And from that point on [i.e., cock crowing], leave off your fasting and rejoice! Keep a festival, for Jesus Christ, the pledge of our resurrection, is risen from the dead!”

In medieval England, clergy and congregations all took part in various processions, vigils and plays over the Easter weekend.

After the long winter and 40 days of Lenten fasting, it's not surprising that many Easter traditions revolve around feasting on luxurious foods, and perhaps the most famous Easter treat in Britain (and my personal favourite!) is the hot cross bun. Brother Thomas Radcliffe, a 14th century monk in St Albans, distributed buns on Good Friday – these would have been plain, without dairy. To us used to seeing buns sold in our supermarkets practically all year round, it may come as a surprise that the

sale of these treats was strictly limited – indeed, Elizabeth I banned the sale of hot cross buns except at Christmas, Good Friday and for burials. People believed that buns baked on Good Friday would never go mouldy and could be used to treat a variety of medical complaints – they would be hung by a string in the kitchen and pieces would be broken off and soaked as and when needed.

Easter is a time of new starts – prior to the feasting, fires were extinguished, hearths strewn with fresh rushes, houses were cleaned, and flowers displayed. In the early church, converts were often baptised at Easter and wore new white clothing, and later Easter became a day for getting married. Perhaps this is why we have the traditions of dressing up in our best, making and wearing special Easter bonnets with flowers and ribbons, and holding an Easter Parade.

Of course, the most recognisable tradition of Easter is the gift of eggs – a universal symbol of new life. Eggs couldn't be eaten during the fast of Lent, so egg-giving and eating was an important part of Easter Sunday celebrations. This was especially true for the poor, for whom meat was expensive and eggs were a more affordable luxury. The tradition developed into painted and jewelled eggs - the earliest specific record of an Easter egg in England comes in 1290, when Edward I purchased 450 eggs which were decorated with colours and gold leaf and given to members of his household.

Eggs are a major part of traditional Easter games, such as egg racing (either rolled down hills or pushed across a lawn with

sticks). The custom of the Easter egg hunt was brought over from Germany by the Hanoverians - according to one tradition, they were invented by Martin Luther to give congregations a lesson about the discovery of the empty tomb, though earliest references talk of a hare bringing eggs to the children (the forerunner of the Easter Bunny). An early reference to an egg dance was at the wedding of Margaret of Austria and Philibert of Savoy on Easter Monday of 1498 – eggs are placed on the floor (which can be covered in sand to stop them rolling) and the aim is to complete the dance without breaking any. To make it extra difficult, participants can be blindfolded. I think this sounds like fun and we should give it a whirl at Christ Church!

Whatever traditions you have to celebrate Easter, I do hope you and your family enjoy them to their fullest!

Imogen Cooper

References:

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/easter/how-the-english-celebrated-easter/>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/a-moveable-feast-sacred-and-profane-traditions-at-easter>



Easter in Norwich Cathedral

Going as a visiting stranger to a cathedral service can be very relaxing and comforting. There are so many other people there, all so different, that there are no challenges and no feelings of self-consciousness. You are just one of many worshippers who have come together in that place on that day and, as long as you accept what is on offer, you are welcome, can draw strength and leave refreshed.

Several years ago, Peter and I went to Norwich for an Easter break. Our hotel was near the Cathedral, and we went to the Easter morning Service there. Norwich Cathedral is beautiful, nicely proportioned,

light, with its high vaulted nave having its famous array of carved biblical scenes along the ends and at the intersections of the ribs of the vaulted ceiling.

That winter, for me, had been difficult and I went on holiday feeling low-spirited and tired. When we entered, the nave was already quite full. The seating was on chairs, with the usual West-East aisle down the middle crossed by another processional aisle, North-South, about two-thirds of the way towards the back. We were given seats in the front row of one of the crossing aisles. This meant that the processions of choir and clergy passed very close to us, and I felt we were very much part of the worship. We enjoyed the sunlight and the peaceful atmosphere. Communion was distributed at various points, and we went to a station at the back. After the Service the Bishop and his lively young lady chaplain shook hands at the West door with everyone as they left.

It was a cheerful, joyful Service and I was greatly refreshed and comforted by the beautiful building, the Service, and the whole joy of Eastertide. In fact, I was so reluctant to walk away and sever the tie that I have become a Life Member of the Friends of Norwich Cathedral - a very distant and non-active Member, but I still value the link and cherish the memory of that Easter Service, when I needed comfort and received it in abundance.

Jill Holiday



Views from the Pews



This month we asked:

What are your favourite Easter traditions?

My favourite Easter tradition is the Vigil service on the evening of Holy Saturday when the church is in darkness for the New Fire to be lit, then the Easter candle and then all our little candles are lit from that fire. It is really very moving when the light from our little candles spreads throughout the church in a wave.

Cathy Dallman

After church ... I'm a foodie. It's about the food – chocolate, Easter eggs, roast lamb and trimmings, shared with the family.

Sandra Anderson

Our lovely Easter hymns!

Ami Li

The Easter sentences at the start of the Easter communion service in the Book of Common Prayer.

Jill Holiday

Making Father Chrichton's Easter Bonnet!

Mrs Vicarage

Greeting the dawn – a tradition my church used to do on the highest hill in the village

Matt Excell

The sunrise service on Easter morning – very early in the morning, just as it was light

Richard & Cathy Godfrey

Easter egg hunting for the children

C Godfrey

An Easter Memory

As a small child, I was chosen to take part in an Easter time play at a Baptist Chapel in the Midlands. A few days earlier an Aunt had given me a bag of tiny Easter eggs – my mother said, “John, do not eat any until Easter Sunday.” I took one out of the bag and hid it in my suit jacket pocket so I could taste it later.

I was unaware that Mother had decided to press my suit ready for the day of the play. The heat of the iron quickly melted the chocolate in the pocket. The promise of sixpence, if I acted well, melted away at the same time and was replaced by a promise of no pocket money for two weeks.

I acted as well as I could but must have looked a very sad angel.

John Clarke

Easter Thoughts

How are you faring Christ Church people?

It is incumbent on every Christian to evangelise and preach the word of our blessed saviour - our beautiful Lord Jesus who sacrificed himself for our sins. I believe in him and always have! Isn't it magnificent what Christ does for us all the time? He loves you and knows the best for you, just as St Paul wrote.

Now it is Spring, it is wonderful to be able to greet the flowers. I have a rose tree called Pretty Polly that is sensationally beautiful, and possibly new flowers have come up too – I hope so!

Why don't you look up Isaiah 7:14 and Isaiah 9:6 and consider their words?

Peace be with you, my brethren.

Lynda Corcoran



What we sing in Church

EXSULTET

(The Easter song of praise)

When I first started coming to Christ Church, which was nearly 50 years ago, the Easter Ceremonies were done in rather 'hole in the corner' way. It wasn't announced and I only found out about it when a friend told me about this wonderful service 'the highlight of the whole Christian year'. I came for the first time and was completely bowled over by the splendour and symbolism of the Easter vigil, the lighting of the New Fire and all the candles of the congregation being lit from it. I was much moved by the singing of the Exsultet (the Easter song of praise) being sung after the Pascal candle has been lit and placed in its stand.

The Exsultet has been sung in Christian churches at Easter for a very long time. There are records showing it was sung in Italy in the 4th century. St. Augustine refers to it so it may very well have been sung in North Africa. It became widely used in churches throughout Europe but was sadly lost in the English church at the Reformation along with much else. It continued to be used in Roman Catholic churches through the centuries. And now it is used in many Anglican churches.

The Exsultet will be sung at Christ Church on the evening of Holy Saturday. The New Fire will be kindled outside and the light brought in to light the Pascal Candle. The candle will be carried up the church and placed in its stand just in front of the pulpit. Meanwhile all the small candles held by the people will

be lit. So the light will spread through the church. Then Fr. Chrichton or Richard our Director of Music will go up into the pulpit to sing the Exsultet. The title comes from the opening word of the song which is translated as 'Rejoice'.

The Exsultet starts with a call for all heaven and earth to rejoice. The first verse calls on heavenly powers and choirs of Angels to rejoice. And then the World and our Mother the Church is included. Then follows a brief exchange between the cantor and congregation as at the start of the Eucharist prayer. In fact the whole of the rest of the Exsultet is like an extended Eucharist prayer in which the singer recounts the marvellous deeds of God. Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden is included and most importantly the delivery of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea is related to our delivery from sin by Jesus' death and resurrection. The Exsultet ends with a prayer that the Pascal candle may represent for us both the pillar of fire which led the Jewish people in the wilderness and also the light of Christ who has risen like the Morning Star, never to set.

Cathy Dallman

How to Help Ukraine

There are two ways you can practically help the victims of the invasion of Ukraine

Donate as much as you can to the Red Bucket appeal in church to support the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Appeal

Donate your time to help sort, pack and deliver supplies.
Contact Rev'd Julie on
rev.jcoleman@hotmail.com to volunteer

**Every evening I turn my troubles over to God.
Why not? He's going to be up all night anyway.**

Women of the Passion

During Lent, our clergy and lay readers have been delivering sermons that each focus on a different woman or group of women of the Passion. Here are some extracts of those sermons!

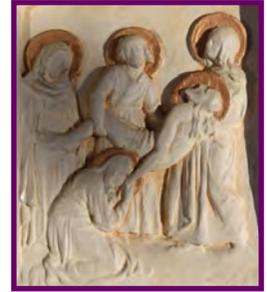
MARY MAGDALENE by Cathy Dallman

We know that Jesus healed Mary Magdalene of seven demons. In gratitude for her healing, Mary accompanied Jesus and his disciples during their mission in Galilee and supported them financially. So we think that probably she was a wealthy woman, and she probably originated from Magdala a town in Galilee. Mary's vigil at the cross with Jesus' mother and his mother's sister was an expression of her love, gratitude and devotion to Jesus. She stayed there until the end.

The risen Jesus spoke to [Mary Magdalene], asking why she was weeping. She thought he was the gardener and asked him if he knew where Jesus's body had been taken. He spoke her name and at that moment she knew him and that it really was him, and he was alive. Jesus told her to go to the disciples and tell them that she had seen him and that he had risen from the tomb.

At the time women were regarded not even as second-class citizens, but as no citizens at all. They were lumped together with slaves and children as of no account and certainly could not witness in a court of law. And yet Jesus chose this woman to take the message of his resurrection to his disciples. The early church called Mary 'the Apostle to the apostles'.

As I heard someone say 'if someone had invented this story they would have chosen someone else, a reliable man, as the first witness to the resurrection'. This story is here because it is true.



MARY WITH THE JAR OF COSTLY OINTMENT by Sandra Anderson

Mary was the sister of Martha and Lazarus, not to be confused with Mary Magdalene or any other Mary. John's gospel says 'Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them , with her hair'.

For Mary her love of Jesus was worthy of the most costly item that she possessed. She showed her love of God and shared her joy with those around her. She looked for grace and was rewarded with generosity of heart. Jesus saw her kindness and generosity of spirit and he let his approval be known.

So we too should be joyful in spirit, in all that we do and generous from the heart. Mary wasn't calculating the cost of the nard when she used it, it was the very least she could do and she'd made up her mind. In the same way, once we've made up our minds to give, whether it's of our time, or our skills, or material goods then at that stage we let go of the cost. This giving comes from the heart.

THE WOMEN FROM GALILEE by Jackie Anderson

The women of Galilee are often referred to as Jesus' female disciples. But unlike the 12, many of them are hardly known. I think if we thought carefully we could all, more or less; name Jesus' twelve male disciples. But could we name the women who also followed and served him? Well, in fact, it's

impossible to do so - because not all of them are named anyway. But the gospels tell us that included amongst them were: Mary the Mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Salome, Joanna, Susanna, Mary the wife of Clopas and Mary's Sister. The women of Galilee had a hugely significant role in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Historically, most of the attention has been placed on the Twelve, those men whom Jesus selected. But these women were equally committed and ever present in Christ's ministry. Their discipleship was bold and courageous. They committed their own lives to faithful humble service. They not only learnt His teachings but also undoubtedly will have applied them in their daily walk. In their own lives they chose to respond to the simple call and invitation that Jesus gives to all his disciples - "Follow me".

References

Margaret Ives, Women of the Passion; Linda Lesniewski, Women at the Cross; Angela Ravin-Anderson They Had Followed Him from Galilee: The Female Disciples.

THE WOMAN WHO GAVE ALL SHE HAD by Amy Li

Society is obsessed with appearances. Celebrities, fashion, oligarchs... we are surrounded by them. But God is not interested in any of that. He judges us not by what's on public display, but by what we have on the inside. If He's counting anything at all, it's how much we choose to hold back. If we give money we can easily afford and then turn away, what is our donation really worth?

Jesus watched rich people making large donations, and beside them he saw a poor widow who gave just two small copper coins. It may seem like nothing, but to Jesus it was everything – worth more than the sum of all the other donations put together.

The widow held back nothing. She trusted that God would provide for her. And she knew that no matter how tiny her donation might be He would see beyond it – to the richness of her heart. Perhaps she didn't know it, but she was building treasure for herself in Heaven!

THE WIFE OF PILATE by Hazel Miall

Pilate's wife is only mentioned once in the bible. Matthew records that while Pilate was deciding Jesus' fate she sent her husband a message, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him'.

Mrs Pilate's given name is not recorded in the bible, but as time went by she was referred to as Procula, Procla or Claudia Procla. Attitudes to Procla have varied throughout history, and some prominent theologians in the western church interpreted Procla's dream as coming from the Devil, because they saw her as someone who wished to prevent salvation.

It is likely that Procla was a woman of influence, especially with her Roman Governor husband. She may well have been aware of Jesus' popularity and charismatic influence on the ordinary people of the region of which Pilate was Governor. She might even have heard Jesus speak or watched his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We will never know.

What we do know is that, according to the Bible, she was aware that something was very wrong and had the courage to tell her husband so. She tried to save the life of a person she considered to be innocent.

The lesson we can learn from Procla is a very important one. If we perceive something to be wrong, we should have the courage to do something about it, and take our concerns to the appropriate people or authorities.

An Interview with The Rt Revd Rob Wickham Bishop of Edmonton



THE SPIRE:

So, tell us – what does a bishop actually do?

BISHOP ROB:

A Bishop is an overseer. My role is about looking out and trying to work out where God is at work across a greater area than a parish, and listening deeply to its people and clergy.

I consider things like, what do we need to do, where do we need to be building churches? How can we support our communities as best as we can? Are there new opportunities in terms of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to those around?

Then on top of that, there's a key part of the role which is about supporting clergy, supporting those in leadership, discerning new clergy, supporting new people coming forward for ordination or for licensing and filling vacancies when a clergy person is unavailable.

I also get to confirm! Most Sundays, I'll be in one or two churches confirming or licensing, which is always a great joy.

I deal with the other side of things as well. I spend time listening to complaints and journeying alongside of survivors if they've had a difficult or an abusive relationship with the church. I also try to investigate systemic issues which are taking place within a church as well, and try to make them healthier.

THE SPIRE:

What led you to become a Bishop?

BISHOP ROB:

I wasn't baptised as a baby, I've never attended Sunday School in my life! But I sang in a church choir for a little while as a child.

When I was fifteen or sixteen I felt a sense of calling to ordination, but my very wise vicar advised me to live life a little first. So I went to university and read geography, and at the end I felt again that calling.

So I went through the process of discerning that call, and was recommended for training. I worked in Newcastle, in the North East, in London, and witnessed some really desperate need.

It was a big shock when I was invited to interview in 2015, and an even bigger shock to be told I'd been appointed!

THE SPIRE:

What is your relationship with Christ Church?

BISHOP ROB:

I want to say I love Christ Church, and I think the people are absolutely fabulous! Chrichton started here just before I became a bishop, so we've been journeying together.

This church feels very similar to the church where I grew up, so I feel really at home here.

I remember before the pandemic I missed leading a regular service – you don't get much chance as a Bishop! – and Chrichton invited me to come and lead Evensong, which was really lovely.

But I think some of my happiest memories of Christ Church is when you were granted your eco award – you take wellbeing really seriously. It says to me that here is a church with a real sense of vision and real sense of desire to serve the local community.

THE SPIRE:

What is your favourite part of Easter?

BISHOP ROB:

Easter as an area Bishop is quite odd because you don't do the whole journey in one place. Easter and Christmas are the two times where my heart is aching to be a parish priest!

When I was in Hackney we used to end the Easter Vigil on a Saturday evening with a firework display from the church roof. We used to get all sorts of complaints from the neighbours!

But it told the world that something had happened, it was an opportunity to be unashamedly Christian, and that's the stuff that I really love to be part of, over Easter.

THE SPIRE:

And what is your job at Easter time?

BISHOP ROB:

I tend to be quite low key in Holy Week – I'm anticipating a phone call of someone saying 'Reverend So and So has COVID', and I'll need to step in, so I've kept my diary free, so I can provide cover and support.

But if no one comes down with anything, I might just ship up to a church and enjoy their

service! I won't tell you which one...

THE SPIRE:

What's an embarrassing thing that's happened to you during a service?

BISHOP ROB:

I was taking a wedding once, and my mobile phone went off! Thankfully the couple were very chilled about it!

THE SPIRE:

And how do you think COVID has impacted the role of the church?

BISHOP ROB:

I think the pandemic has done several things for us in church. I rejoice that we're now hybrid, because it's increased the fringe of the church.

If you've ever gone into a pub or a shop that has frosted windows, you wonder what it's really like in there. And we've now unfrosted the glass, people can see what church is like with just the click of a button. It takes that nervousness of crossing a threshold away.

I think it's also revealed the inequality that exists everywhere, and shown us where work needs to be done, to help people who previously weren't getting help.

THE SPIRE:

And lastly, can we try on your Bishop's Hat?

BISHOP ROB:

Of course!





Parish Life in Pictures

March 2022

Bishop Rob of Edmonton's visit on 6th March



Mothering Sunday



Mothering Sunday 27th March



Baptism of Sofia Carroll on 13th March



Sponsored walk for Ukraine

'Blessed be the Lord! For he has shown me his steadfast love when I was as a city besieged'

I know many readers of Spire have been praying for those caught up in the conflict in Ukraine in the words of Psalm 31. The image in verse of the psalmist as 'a city besieged' is one that haunts our hearts and imaginations.



My friend Sarah and I read Psalm 31 in bright March sunshine on the steps of St. Martin in the Fields before setting off on a walk to the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Family on Duke Street. The walk was a gesture of solidarity and prayer, and was intentionally East-West, the direction of travel for so many displaced people. We carried bunches of creamy yellow primroses, picked for us by Sarah's husband that morning, as we walked up Regent Street, past St. George's Hanover Square and past the Ukrainian Embassy.

The Cathedral, a Victorian church purchased by Ukrainian Catholics in the 1960s, is tranquil and welcoming: the lovely mosaiced porch is verdant with plants and visitors are drawn into a space at one inviting and holy. It is open for prayer daily during the week and now we have found our way there once, it is a place Sarah and I will return to.

Thank you so much to those of you who joined Sarah and me in prayer on March 19th, and thank you for your very generous donations to the Ukraine Humanitarian fund on the Just Giving page linked to our walk. At the time of writing, you have raised £1167 and we are still receiving donations. We are also especially grateful to Judith who followed our progress during the day and sent out beautifully expressed updates on Christ Church's social media.

Anna Hughes

Copyright acknowledgment: the quotation from Psalm 31 at the start is from www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/common-worship/daily-prayer/psalter/psalm-31

Children's Corner

Why was the Easter bunny upset?

He was having a bad hare day.

What is Easter Bunny's favourite kind of music?

Hip-hop, of course!



Find the mouse!

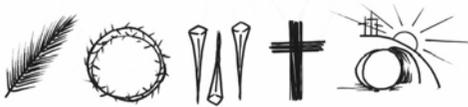
Walker, the Christ Church mouse, is hiding somewhere in this magazine

Can you find him?



Services at Christ Church - All Welcome!

Holy Week



Sunday 10th April, 10am

Palm Sunday

Procession of Palms and Eucharist
We start in the Vicarage garden and walk across the Green

Monday 11th April, 8pm

Holy Monday

Eucharist with Homily

Tuesday 12th April, 8pm

Holy Tuesday

Eucharist with Homily

Wednesday 13th April, 8pm

Holy Wednesday

The Way of the Cross – reflections by Paula Gooder

Thursday 14th April, 8pm

Maundy Thursday

Choral Eucharist with Foot Washing, followed by the Watch, concluding with Compline at Midnight

Friday 15th April, 2pm

Good Friday

The Solemn Liturgy

Saturday 16th April, 8pm

Holy Saturday

The Great Vigil, with the New Fire, renewal of Baptismal Promises and First Eucharist of Easter

Followed by Resurrection Celebration party!

Sunday 17th April, 8am, 10am and

6.30pm

Easter Sunday

Join us for a quiet start to Easter at 8am, or come at 10am for a Family Friendly Choral Eucharist and Easter Egg Hunt, or join in the evening at 6.30pm for Festal Choral Evensong



Ascension

Thursday 26th May, 8pm

Ascension Day

Sung Eucharist

Weekly Services

Sunday **8.00 am**
 10.00 am
 6.30 pm

Said Eucharist
Choral Eucharist
Evensong

Tuesday **7.30 pm**

Said Eucharist
(Healing on First & Third week)

Thursday **12.30 pm**

Said Eucharist



SRC Report

Since the March copy of Spire the war in Ukraine has caused there to be over two

million refugees on the European continent. The largest number since the Second World War. Many of the larger charities have come together and as a church we have donated £1,000 so far, through our bucket appeal, to Disasters Emergency Committee; DEC.

The Ark at St.John’s Palmers Green has become the hub for local donations of goods to be collected, sorted and dispatched to places in most need; eg Poland. Goods have been plentiful and several members of the congregation have given their time to help. At present no further goods can be received for Ukraine. Grateful thanks.



Food Bank and support other local charities feeding these families. All the usual non-perishable goods required can be left in the box on the left just inside the main doors, or we will collect from you if requested. We recently sent £200 to the St. Andrew’s Tin Bank.

The sale of cards has continued to be good and we have refreshed the book table with some new titles. Easter cards are now available.

If you have saleable goods which you would like collected, please let us know. Thank you for your continuing support.

Hilary Meur
Tel 02083602362
Email ccsoures@gmail.com



Coffee, tea and biscuits following the 10 o'clock service has restarted, and been well received. During Lent proceeds will go to the Bishop’s Lent Appeal. This year it is focusing on raising awareness around issues of mental health & well-

being for adults and young people, along with domestic abuse. Money raised through our Jar of Hope will also go to this cause. Please continue to save any spare coins or the money saved by giving up something for Lent in your jar and bring to church at Easter.

Other coffee proceeds, until the end of June, will go to Grief Encounters. This is a bereavement counselling charity in Mill Hill, from whom some parishioners have received help and who we have supported previously. <https://www.griefencounter.org.uk>

The rise in the cost of fuel and the cost of living has put more people on the poverty line. We continue to collect goods for the



Christchurch Association News

The Christchurch Association (CCA) provides a social centre for the parish and runs the “Top Step Bar”, serving soft and alcoholic drinks upstairs in Church House. We are now able to take contactless payments as well as accepting cash.

The CCA Top Step bar is once again opening early at 6 pm on the first Friday of each month, with complimentary **cheese and snacks** available through the evening. The next occasion is **6th May**.

Our Friday Foodie Evenings are generally well supported, and on **Friday 22nd April** we will be hosting a slightly early celebration of St. George's Day in the bar. This will take the form of a Fish & Chips Supper and on this occasion, orders will need to be placed either before 8:45 pm in the bar or by contacting Clive before 6 pm on the day.

We have plans to resurrect the Sunday evening Top Step Talks, and more details of these and other events will be published after our next committee meeting in early April.

The Top Step Bar is open on a regular basis as follows (except during August):

Sundays from 7:30 to 10:30 pm

Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 to 11 pm

Early opening at 6 pm on the first Friday of every month

The CCA is a Registered Club with membership open to anyone who worships at Christ Church, lives in the parish, or uses the church halls. Membership costs just £2 per year and new members are always welcome. Please contact Clive for more information or if you would like to become a member

Clive Woodhouse
Chairman, Christchurch Association



Parish Walk

A walk from Arnos Grove tube station to Oakwood tube station via Pymme's Brook Trail, Cockfosters and Trent Park is planned for **Saturday 23rd April** with options for a break in either East Barnet or Cockfosters. Total distance about 6 miles.

Those interested, please contact Ronald Lo (mobile 07789 933544 or email ronald@christchurch-southgate.org) on or before 17th April for details and registration.

Bible Study

A new Bible study group will be starting on **Monday April 25th**. It will be run fortnightly from **7pm to 8.30pm**. The group will be held at the back of church. If you are interested in joining the group or would like further information, please contact



Jackie Anderson 0208 2450305 or 07504715367 Jackie0205@aol.com or Sue Grey on 07833725791 suee.grey@btinternet.com

We would love you to join us!

News from the Committees

The Parochial Church Council (the PCC) met in the Lower Walker Hall on 15th March. As with the January meeting, the most relevant and interesting agenda items were the Vicar's report, the finance report and fabric news.

In the Vicar's Report to the PCC, Fr Chrichton made four main points. First, he expressed thanks to the new editors of *The Spire*, Imogen Cooper and Freya Carroll (it is hoped that the magazine – an important aspect of Outreach – will now settle down to an edition every two months) and to Bishop Rob (who stepped in to cover the morning services on 6th March while he was first recovering from Covid). We then heard that the first 'Big Clean' of church for a couple of years is scheduled for 9th April in readiness for Easter, and – his third point – that the Ukraine appeal had already exceeded £700 for DEC, while parishioners are also assisting Revd Julie with gifts of donations and help for the Ark and Ukraine. Finally, he reported that our former vicar Chris Foster (now retired from his position as Bishop of Portsmouth) will return to Christ Church on 3rd July to help celebrate Fr Chrichton's and the Revd Hazel's joint 10-year anniversary of ordination by preaching at the 10 o'clock service.

Eco & Care Creation: on 2nd April, the Friends of Christ Church Garden hoped to welcome neighbours – the friends and family of members – into the garden to see round and join in the work.

The PCC also heard from Plant & Fabric. The chairperson, Church Warden Kate Carroll, reported that several light bulbs have recently been replaced in the main body of the church; the organ humidifier has been serviced; plaster in the south aisle has been repaired; and the garden wall has been repaired. Work needed to repair the chancel

floor is now being actively discussed and planned; allowing time for this to go out to tender and for a faculty to be obtained from the Diocese, we are looking to a possible starting date of January 2023. Given costs, it is likely that we will also need to engage in fund-raising.

An updated Finance report was given by our Treasurer, Church Warden Clare Boulton. Very importantly, the annual accounts which will be presented to the APCM are nearly completed. Rising fuel costs, however, continue to inflate our monthly heating bills and this in turn affects our unrestricted funds (although for now we are continuing to break even). In terms of one-off expenditures, urgent repairs to our properties (notably the flats) are needed to replace leaking windows.

Finally, under items of Any Other Business, the PCC established that *cushions* could once again be distributed to those who find the pews a bit too hard for comfort.

Patricia Ashby

The Electoral Roll – An Update



We are now half way to next year's "Electoral Roll Call" – the time of year when we check all the names on our Electoral Roll to make sure the nobody is spelled incorrectly, or maybe changed their address without telling us, or – even worse – that nobody has been missed off even though they have completed an application form to be included.

In April this year, we were in a good place and congratulated ourselves on the fact that even with the pandemic and the long lockdown when church had been closed, our numbers had remained on a pretty even footing. We had no less than 220 names listed on the roll, giving us a robust total to notify to the Diocese. This total even sported

a few new names – not all newcomers to Christ Church, but regular attendees who during the pandemic had decided to complete application forms and have their names added to the list. This was great and we were delighted to be able to include them.

There are two things here that are important. First and foremost, attending ‘regularly’ does not necessarily mean that you attend Christ Church every week of the year – it could be that you are only able to join us on every first Sunday of the month, for example, or on a weekday, or for special occasions... but however infrequent, this still makes you a ‘regular’ member of our congregation.

The second thing is that since church re-opened, I have personally met a number of people that I did not know before. They attend services regularly and may even participate in the service (by reading a lesson, for example), but their names are not on the Electoral Roll. One reason that people sometimes have for not ‘joining’ is that they are already on the Electoral Roll of another parish. But this does not necessarily have to be a stumbling block. With the agreement of the incumbent, you can ‘belong’ to two parishes at the same time. (I myself belonged to two parishes in this way for many, many years – in my case, I had a ‘work’ parish and a ‘home’ parish; now retired, I only have my ‘home’ one.)

Having everyone on the Electoral Roll is actually really important for our church. Although it doesn’t affect you directly in any way, it is the means by which the Diocese judges our value in terms of whether or not we need a curate, for example – literally, does our Vicar need some extra help? (At the other extreme, are we so tiny that we are no longer viable!?) It also determines our own contribution (literally, what the Diocese asks Christ Church to pay every year) to what is called the Common Fund, so we have to be completely honest – we need to say how many people are really part of our

community; it is dishonest of us to record a membership of 220, for example, if in reality there are 500 of us!

Sadly, this year, in spite of a couple more new additions, our numbers are growing smaller. This is not just through the natural cycle of life and death, but also through people moving away from the parish to more distant locations. But I feel sure we could begin to balance this, if every single person (age 16 or over) who attends Christ Church regularly fills in an application form⁽¹⁾ and has their name added to the list. If you would like to read more about our Electoral Roll, please visit <https://www.christchurch-southgate.org/home/electoral-roll/> on our website.

I look forward to hearing from anybody who might consider ‘joining’ – thank you!

Patricia Ashby,
Electoral Roll Officer

(1) You can download an application form from <https://www.christchurch-southgate.org/css-wpdir/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020-ER-APPLICATION-FORM.pdf>, or speak to myself or a Church Warden. (My contact details are in the Directory at the back of *The Spire*.)

Used Postage Stamps



Just a reminder to please, please, never throw a used stamp in the bin again! Cut them off with a 1 cm border (just cut the corner off the whole envelope if the stamp is stuck right at the edge) and leave them at the back of church for me to collect.

Our stamps continue to provide a modest but valuable revenue for the RNIB and is much appreciated.

Patricia Ashby

Stewardship

*Mick Meur,
Stewardship Recorder*



The overall picture of donations remains fairly static with losses in one category of donation being offset with increases in others. The contactless machine is used every week for donations and sales of merchandise and gifts from the stall, Mrs Vicarage's cards proving very popular. There has also been a welcome use of donations via the Web, the link to which is on the weekly electronic notice sheet and I thank those that have used this method recently.

One of the major problems we face is, of course, the increase in the annual rate of inflation which is not only causing our expenses to rise, but will eat away at our donations. All the more reason for those in Stewardship to review their giving, especially if you have not increased it for some years.

Those of you in the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) that have elected for the annual inflationary increase will notice a larger increase than usual this year as they use the January RPI rate to calculate the change. This side of the PGS is encouraged but optional. You are given two months notice of the new payment and at that stage there are three options: if you do nothing it will automatically increase; you can advise them amend the payment to suit your own situation; or advise them to keep the payment the same. You can contact them at info@parishgiving.org.uk, phone them on 0333 0021260 or through the secure website parishgiving.org.uk If anyone feels unsure about how they can alter their gift, you'll find information on their website along with a helpful video "Giving by Direct Debit" <https://parishgiving.org.uk/donors/how-it-works>.

The new income tax year is looming and I am once again looking towards my annual appraisal of donations under our Stewardship Scheme with a view to producing my annual "thank you letters". This year I aiming to send these out a deal quicker than I have done in the last few years. You may be surprised to hear that this does not happen routinely in the Church of England, or indeed in the wider charitable sector. When I attended the initial presentation on the introduction of the Parish Giving Scheme I was rather dismayed to hear that most parishes do not send out annual letters, some stating the "old chestnut" of GDPR and privacy.

When I took over the stewardship role, I was told by my predecessor that he considered this a very important part of the job which was appreciated by many parishioners. In those days using a manual typewriter, carbon paper and foolscap, it must have been a very laborious job indeed. Thanks to computers, mail merge and Word this is now very different, once you have got around the constant Microsoft Office updates and so-called improvements to make your life easier which don't always help but confuse sometimes.

If you need any further information to help you decide how to make regular donations by joining our Stewardship scheme please let me know, my telephone contact details are in the Directory at the back of The Spire, and my email address is

mikestatistics@gmail.com

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

Please consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme now, this can be set-up easily over the telephone. All you needed to do is make one call to their dedicated helpline number 0333 002 1271.

When calling please quote our parish code 230623352
or online using the following link:

<https://www.paritygiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/southgate-christ-church-london/>

Or scan the QR code below on your smartphone or tablet



Friends of Christ Church Garden: Caring for Creation

Wildlife Update



With the advent of spring, we look forward to seeing more wildlife in the church garden. Unfortunately, we were not quick enough to take down the bird feeder when Storm Eunice struck, and it was blown down and damaged. Judith and Ronald Lo have kindly supplied a new one and have hung it from a different tree. They have placed two boxes of bird seed in the bin by the west wall of the church, near the compost bin and water butt.

The bird bath remains safe and Father Chrichton has supplied a hedgehog house, in which we hope hedgehogs will hibernate next winter. The 'bug hotel' and beehive are already well used. Wild flower seeds have been sown and we look forward to seeing them attract insects when they bloom, thus increasing pollination.

Volunteers to help with the wildlife project, such as refilling the bird feeder and bird bath are, of course, very welcome.

Margaret Gourd

April rains

The rain, though raining every day upon the just and unjust, falls chiefly on the just, because the unjust has the just's umbrella.

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Office *Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10 a.m. — 1 p.m. and 2.30—5 p.m.
Please phone beforehand if you have any special requests or needs.
N.B. Notices for the Sunday pew sheets should reach the Office no later than
10 a.m. on a Friday. If possible, please e-mail them.*

Mail 1 The Green, London N14 7EG
Phone 8886 0384
Email office@christchurch-southgate.org
Website www.christchurch-southgate.org

Clergy

Vicar The Reverend Dr Chrichton Limbert
Address 1 The Green, Southgate, London, N14 7EG
Phone 8882 0917
Email frch138@btinternet.com

Assistant Priest The Reverend Hazel Miall
Address 85 Conway Road, Southgate, London, N14 7BD
Phone 07980 740587
Email hazelhmiall@btinternet.com

Lay Readers

Cathy Dallman, 4 Greenacre Walk, Southgate, N14 7DB 8886 5918
Jackie Anderson 8245 0305
Sandra Anderson 07947 027265
Amy Li via the office

Churchwardens

Clare Boulton, 321 Gladbeck Way, Enfield, EN2 7HR 8367 5961
Kate Carroll, katecarroll1@aol.com 07974 437966

PCC

Secretary Caroline Robertson 8886 0384
office@christchurch-southgate.org
Treasurer Clare Boulton (as above)
Stewardship Michael Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET 8360 2362

Music Department

Director of Music Richard Brain 07979 850546
music@christchurch-southgate.org
Organist Kate Macpherson
Associate Organist David Hinit
Treasurer Ian Winton, 7 Foxgrove, N14 7EA 8882 3680

Sacristan	Vacancy	
Sidesmen	Judith Lo	8882 3335

Sub-committee Chairs/contacts

<i>Outreach</i>	Fr Chrichton Limbert (as above)	
<i>Plant and Fabric</i>	Kate Carroll (as above)	
<i>Social Responsibility</i>	Vacancy	
<i>Resources</i>	Ronald Lo	8882 3335

Electoral Roll Officer	Patricia Ashby	8886 2528
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Parish Magazine “The Spire”

<i>Editorial Team</i>	Freya Carroll and Imogen Cooper Copy to be sent to christchurchspire@gmail.com	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Hilary Meur, 136 Green Dragon Lane, N21 1ET	8360 2362

Flower Arrangers	Contact the Parish Office (see above)	
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Parish Centre/Church Halls

<i>Chairman</i>	Philip Miall, 85 Conway Road, N14 7BD	8882 6738
<i>Secretary</i>	Clare Boulton (see above)	
<i>Lettings</i>	christchurchparishcentre@gmail.com	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Michael Meur (as above)	

Christ Church Association Bar

<i>Contact</i>	Clive Woodhouse, 41b Osborne Road, N13 5BT	8882 0014
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Friday Coffee Morning

	<i>Every Friday morning 10.30 a.m. – 12.15 p.m. in Church</i>	
<i>Contact</i>	Hilary Meur (as above)	

Lunch Fellowship *Usually on 2nd Wednesday in the month at noon in Church*

<i>Contact</i>	Cathy Dallman (as above)	
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Scout Group	The Reverend Hazel Miall, <i>Cubs</i>	07980 740 587
	Stephen Smith, <i>Group Scout Leader</i>	8882 0991

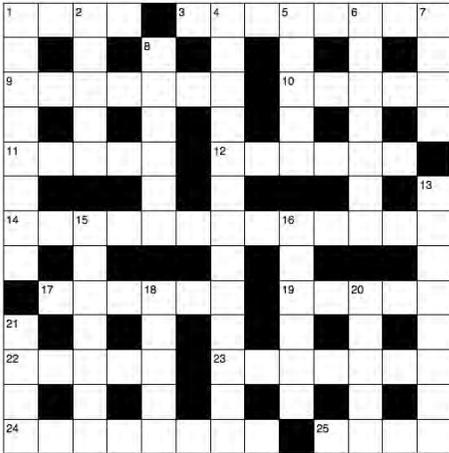
Bellringers *Practice held Wednesdays 7.30 p.m.*

<i>Captain</i>	Martin Sutcliffe, 46 Brookdale, N11 1BN	8368 1974
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Young Fogeys *For the active and retired, though you need not be either!*

<i>Contact</i>	Jean Thomas, 1 Bramford Court, N14 6DH	8882 8133
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APRIL CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 'The baby in my — leaped for joy' (Luke 1:44) (4)
- 3 A 'don't know' in matters of faith (8)
- 9 In the distant past (Jeremiah 2:20) (4,3)
- 10 Armada (1 Kings 10:22) (5)
- 11 Where Moses was confronted with the burning bush (Exodus 3:1) (5)
- 12 Hair colour indicative of skin infection (Leviticus 13:30) (6)
- 14 'The worries of this life and the — of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful' (Matthew 13:22) (13)
- 17 Expel (2 Kings 13:23) (6)
- 19 What Jesus wrapped round his waist when he washed his disciples' feet (John 13:4) (5)
- 22 The sixth plague to afflict the Egyptians (Exodus 9:9) (5)
- 23 For nine (anag.) (7)
- 24 Where there is no time (Psalm 93:2) (8)
- 25 Goliath's challenge to the Israelite army in the Valley of Elah: 'This day I — the ranks of Israel!' (1 Samuel 17:10) (4)

Down

- 1 'I will become angry with them and forsake them; I — — my face from them' (Deuteronomy 31:17) (4,4)
- 2 Usual description of prophets such as Amos, Hosea, Micah, and so on (5)
- 4 'They cannot see the light of the gospel of the — — — , who is the image of God' (2 Corinthians 4:4) (5,2,6)
- 5 An animal's internal edible parts (Leviticus 4:11) (5)
- 6 Popular 20th-century religious novel by Lloyd C. Douglas, which became a 1953 film starring Richard Burton (3,4)
- 7 'A — on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (4)
- 8 One of the exiles, a descendant of Bebai, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:28) (6)
- 13 Old Testament hymn-singing (8)
- 15 'And O what transport of delight from thy pure — floweth' (7)
- 16 Of felt (anag.) (3,3)
- 18 'So — the — sets you free, you will be free indeed' (John 8:36) (2,3)
- 20 Comes between 'bad' and 'worst' (John 5:14) (5)
- 21 'Neither height nor depth... will be — to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (4)

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e-mail:

martina@macroryward.co.uk

or

margaret@macroryward.co.uk

Macrory Ward is one of the sponsors of the annual May Day Fair

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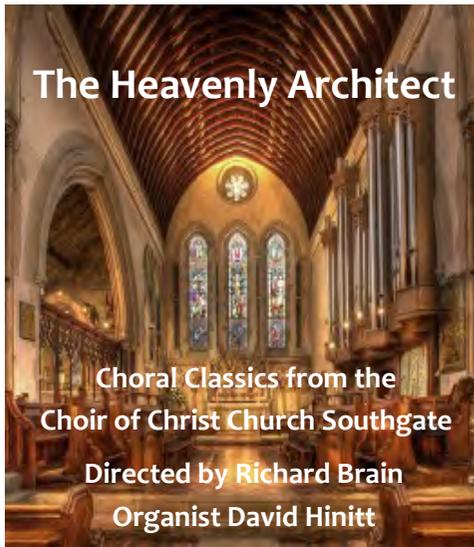


“We believe in inclusive Church – church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.”

Christ Church Southgate is an Eco-Church, we have recently achieved the Silver Award.

We are committed to caring for God’s earth in the different areas of our life and work and are actively working to reduce our environmental impact

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