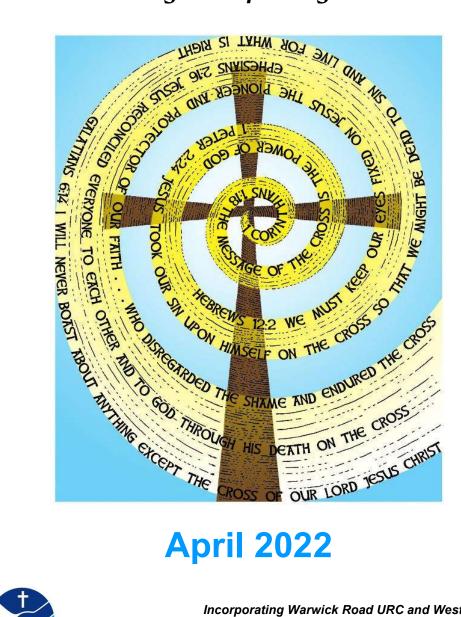


Connections

The church magazine for Baginton Road URC





Incorporating Warwick Road URC and West Orchard URC 83 Baginton Road Coventry CV3 6FP



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St Andrew's House 19 St Andrew's Road, Earlsdon Coventry CV5 6FP Residential, respite or short stay care in a Christian home. St Andrew's can help! Telephone Lesley 02476 673745 <u>www.standrewshouse.org.uk</u>

Dear Friends

Some of the guards went into the city and told the chief priests what had happened. After the priests had called together the Elders, they formulated a plan to give a generous bribe to the soldiers, telling them: "You must say this: 'His followers came during the night and made off with him while we were sleeping'. If the Governor gets to hear of this, we will reassure him and keep you out of trouble." So the guards took the money and did as instructed. [Matthew 28:11-15a]



In 1972, an event hit the headlines that was to send shockwaves around the world and led to books and films being made about it. It would lead to the disgrace of a president and will forever be known as 'Watergate'. Since then, there have been many '-gates', the most recent in the UK being 'Partygate' - the issue about whether parties held during Covid were allowed if you could say they were during working hours and, of course, if you worked at 10 Downing Street. I am sure you could think up your own particular favourite '-gate'. Perhaps if the individuals involved had just 'come clean' at the beginning instead of trying to conceal the truth behind a veil of lies, half-truths and evasions, careers might not have ended or been tarnished to the extreme that they have been.

It has always been unwise to try and mould history to suit oneself and the truth will come out in the end.

So it was for those who tried to cover up the truth about the resurrection of Christ. The powers that be had waited for years to get their man and had watched with a mixture of glee and relief when he was finally put on a cross and sealed in a tomb. At last their problems were over, the impostor dealt with and hopefully no one else would try anything for a while. They could now sleep in peace, congratulating themselves on a successful time.

Imagine, then, their dismay when rumours started to circulate that Jesus was alive after all. They went themselves to check the tomb and found it empty - no wonder they tried to put a lid on it and hush everything up. What they did not account for was the changed lives and the stories of so many people who witnessed for themselves the reality of the risen Christ. The faith that burned within them, the love and joy displayed instead of the grief over one who had died - these all pointed to the truth that could not and would not be hidden. A truth that was not displaced by other news. A truth that could not be killed off for the very simple but special reason they could not kill off Jesus either!

God bless you all as we celebrate the Risen Christ.



Flowers - Thank You!

On Tuesday morning 8 March, I had just returned home from an appointment at Walsgrave Hospital when the door-bell rang. I quickly opened the front door to find Margaret O'Kane standing

there with a beautiful bunch of flowers. It was so amazing when Margaret told me that they were from Baginton Road Church. I have been unwell for a while, so receiving these lovely flowers cheered me up no end.

Many thanks.

Ann Miles

House Groups

There are two house groups currently running at the church, one on Monday evenings and the other on Tuesday evenings. The groups are a good place to share Christian fellowship and mutual support, and an opportunity to discuss our faith and how to live it in today's society. The groups follow a structured bible study which is theme-based and lasts between six and eight weeks.

The house groups are open to newcomers and you are more than welcome to join either group. Please contact Sue Davis for more details regarding Monday House Group and Sarah Jarad for more details regarding the Tuesday Home Group.

The church leadership are aware that we currently do not have any house groups during the daytime. If you are interested in attending a daytime house group to share prayers, bible study and Christian fellowship please talk to your elders; if enough interest is shown the church leadership will investigate starting such a group.

Christian Aid Challenge

Christian Aid Week is 15-21 May 2022. The literature is already with us and we have ordered posters and envelopes as usual.



This year the Christian Aid Challenge struck a chord with me: *Take 300,000 steps to turn hunger into hope*.

Therefore, I have decided to tackle the Challenge in the month leading up to Christian Aid Week, beginning on Good Friday, 15 April. I have requested the appropriate sponsorship form which will be on the table at the rear of the Sanctuary on Sundays from mid-April.

If you would like to sponsor my walk, please add your name. I would be delighted. Thank you!

Mary Goodwin

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM AROUND THE UK AND BEYOND

The Church of England is trying to cut red tape by making changes to Church Laws. Easy changes to make include installing cushions on uncomfortable pews and placing rugs betwixt rows of seats; the fitting of new boilers fuelled by oil or gas is harder. It is going to be easier to make alterations to buildings but churches will still have to contend with Historic England.

Ben Jenkins, who is 19 years old, has become the youngest churchwarden in England at St. Nicholas, Stanningfield, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Church laws state that churchwardens must be 21 years of age or over, but exceptions can be made with the bishop's permission. Ben is the son of the Archdeacon of Sudbury and said he felt a calling for the role.

Many will remember the film *Four Weddings and a Funeral* but not the name of the chapel featured in it - this is St Bartholomew the Great, which was built in in the 12th Century and is the oldest parish church in London. It is claimed to be the one place in the world that has played host to both the Virgin Mary and Benjamin Franklin. In



1180 a Canon Hubert was praying in the Lady Chapel, a separate chapel within the main church, when the Virgin Mary appeared saying he and his fellow monks "were not praying anywhere near hard enough and they needed to buck up their act or they would be for it", according to the present Rector. As a result, they redoubled not only their spiritual efforts but enlarged the Lady Chapel, which became a pilgrimage site.

However, the chapel became separated from the church and was used as a print workshop. In the1720s Benjamin Franklin was apprenticed there before becoming one of the founding fathers of the United States of America. In the 19th century it reverted to a chapel. In 2019 it was discovered that the whole building was in danger of collapse due to rotting roof beams, with rainwater cascading down the walls. The initial survey estimated repairs at £120,000 but resulted in a bill of £280,000. The chapel was re-dedicated on 2 February 2022.

During the pandemic, Communion wine was not offered because of the use of a common cup. Guidance has been changed to allow the return of the common cup but parish priests have expressed concerns as the Bible says they must receive the wine as well; also, some are not happy for reasons of hygiene. In addition, clergy have concerns that they must finish off any wine left in the cup after everyone has drunk from it. A lot of priests are elderly and that is a huge risk for them, states an inner-city priest in the London area. There is little leeway for these Anglian priests, but one way is for the wafer to be dipped into the wine; bringing your own wine glass is not permitted. There is a working party in the House of Bishops looking into these issues but this is divided. Grace Supplies in Hull, who are one of the leading providers of church supplies, advise that sales of communion wine have recovered to approximately 50% of pre-pandemic levels; however, the numbers of orders of

disposable cups and trays plus enquiries of the provision of pipettes (a slender tube for the transferring of liquid) have increased.

Following the story in our October 2021 issue another CofE bishop has defected to the Vatican. Peter Forster was Bishop of Chester 1996 - 2019 and also one of 26 Lords Spiritual, who represent the Church of England in the House of Lords.

The Pope in a video message has thanked nuns for their services to the Catholic Church and has warned that many religious women are suffering from burnout due to overwork. He went on to say he recognised that numerous nuns were victims of "abuse of power". These issues had previously been raised in 2018 and 2013.

In Egypt the new head of the country's highest court is Judge Boulos Fahmy (aged 65), who was chosen from the Supreme Constitutional Court's five oldest sitting judges to become the 19th person to lead it since it was formed in 1969. His appointment has been hailed as a gigantic step as he is a Coptic Christian in a country where 10% of the population is Christian.

Barry Stelfox



Social Committee news

We have had our first meeting since the pandemic to discuss events for the next nine months and are looking forward to sharing social activities to get to know each other.

If you have any suggestions for events that can be supported by the Social Committee, please speak to one of us. We are always looking for new ideas to enable our Church to get together and share fun and good food

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 5 June	Jubilee Street Party in the church grounds
June/July	A musical afternoon/evening (date to be confirmed)
15/16/17 August	Holiday at Home
10/11 Sept	Heritage Weekend - Exhibition of the history of Warwick
	Road & West Orchard Churches
1 October	Autumn social event (details to follow)
5 November	Christian Aid Soup Lunch
26 November	Christmas Bazaar & Craft Fayre

Some of the events have not been finalised and further information will be given in due course.

Pauline, Sarah, Liz and Pam

How to have some happiness this April

'April is the cruellest month,' wrote TS Eliot at the beginning of his magisterial poem, *The Wasteland*. And it is a good description of what April may bring us, between the war in Ukraine and soaring energy prices.

But apparently, major problems do not mean that we can't enjoy anything. According to the 'science of happiness,' fuelled by advances in brain-scanning technology and a cultural shift towards seeing happiness as a key index in human development, there is a way through the deep gloom that hangs over this month.

Neuroscientists suggest that even while we are dealing with the big problems of life, we can also make room for 'small, fleeting moments of fulfilment'. These can range from holding the hand of a



loved one, to appreciating the daffodils in your garden, to enjoying a cup of tea with a good friend. Such moments of quiet contentment are 'joyful vignettes' which can be the bread and butter of our daily human happiness. As one writer has said: "Hold on to the small moments and the bigger picture of gloom doesn't have to be as overwhelming as it first seems."

From Parish Pump

Smiles



A small boy returned from Sunday School in tears. When questioned by his anxious mother, he explained: "This morning they told me that Jesus wants me for a sunbeam. But I want to be a train driver!"

The little boy came home from his first day at Sunday School and casually told his mother that the Sunday School teacher was Jesus' granny. Amazed, his mother asked: "Whatever makes you think that?" "Well, it's obvious," said her son. "She never stopped talking about Him all morning. She told us Jesus is smarter and stronger and better-behaved than anyone else she knows. She even showed us a picture of Him. Who but a granny would do that?"

A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.

A penny saved is a government oversight.

It should be easy for any government to please the people. All we want is lower taxes and more spending.

The Government not only has the bad habit of living beyond its income, but also beyond ours.

From Parish Pump

Mission Outreach and Worship Report - April 2022

I'm delighted to announce that the first Toddler Group was attended by 15 young families. All had a great time and the feedback was all positive with many saying that they would come back. Our hospitality was appreciated by a number of families attending the sessions. I feel this session was a good start, with good lessons learned and I hope we have the makings of a new community here at Baginton Road.

Coffee mornings are going from strength to strength. Tuesday is particularly well attended, with people from inside and outside our church community coming along. Please come along for a hot drink and biscuits. See notice board for more details.



Thank you to all my willing volunteers (you know who you are) for helping make this such a success. We are starting to make use of good weather and setting up a coffee station outside. This again continues to be a fabulous way to reach out into our community, with a number of passers-by once again stopping to chat with us. If you are available to support our coffee mornings by setting up and making coffee on either Tuesday or Thursday morning, please contact me. Many hands make light work.

As we head through Lent towards Easter, I'm mindful that the last couple of Easters have been really difficult for everyone, and especially the church. We haven't been able to really celebrate Easter so this year, let's make Easter a time to remember. Following coffee morning discussions (and I thank Jenny for this idea), a great way to celebrate Easter would be to hold an extra coffee morning on Saturday 16 April. Hopefully we can be outside if the weather is nice, with hot cross buns, chocolate eggs, cakes, and prayer cards. The Elders have approved the event so put it in your diaries. More details to follow, so keep an eye on the notice boards and the notice sheets.

ence.

Myself and four members of Baginton Road Church are currently engaged in a 6-week bible study course called The Difference. This is proving to be a very exciting experience as we are sharing this course with a number of individuals from Iran, Brazil, Chile and Kenya, all of whom have very fascinating

stories to share. These stories highlight how faith in Jesus can really make a difference in people's lives. I think it's safe to say the course is proving to be a real eye-opener for us.

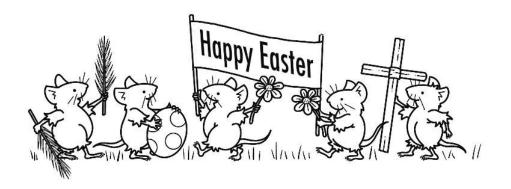
The *Move It Or Lose It* fitness class is going well. This is a more active exercise class running on Friday morning and is now attracting around 15 individuals. Thanks to Liz Kershaw for her enthusiasm and becoming the lead member from the church in this venture.

The *Journeying Through Lent With Art* course on Zoom is being well attended, with at least 10 souls having joined the first two Zoom sessions. The in-person sessions seem to be less popular. We are once again looking at works of art in our journey through the Christian Calendar. We are meeting via Zoom and in person to consider works of art and what they might say to us in our personal journeys into the events of Holy Week.

As I write this report, I am preparing the final wording for our good friend Geof Eames' funeral, which is being held at the Charter Chapel, Canley Crematorium, on Thursday 17 March 2022. Please say a prayer for Geof's wife Phyllis and his family as they mourn his dying.

Thank you to everyone in the church for all your help and support. Best wishes and God's blessing to you all.

Revd Peter Kimberley, Mission, Outreach and Worship Leader



Poetry Café

Poetry Café meets on the first Thursday of each month in the Open Doors Café, Warwick Road Centre at 2.30pm. We each share two or three poems – these are usually on a set theme but don't have to be!



The next meetings are:

Thursday, 7 April, Theme: 'Other countries'



Thursday, 5 May, Theme: 'May time'

All are welcome. For more information, please contact David Lathbury: <u>david@dlathbury.co.uk</u>.

God in the Arts - 'In a grove lit only by a kiss'

Holy Week, as its name tells us, is the most important, holiest week in the Church's year, when we follow Jesus from His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, to the Upper Room, to Calvary and to the garden of the tomb. As we make that journey each year, we are not just remembering past events. We are celebrating how eternity touched Jerusalem in that first Holy Week and how eternity can touch our lives now.

To create that impact and that realisation, the week is brim-full of colour and variety in its worship, full of action and movement, full of processions and music. But we might think it is a week with very little silence.

Yet the silences are there if we look at the Gospels closely. We enter an upper room and catch our breath when Jesus announces a betrayer. Peter denies our Lord, a cock crows, and a bleak stillness falls on that scene. In the palace Jesus stands accused, no words are spoken, and the governor wonders in the silence. And there is silence by the cross until the ninth hour. The silence does fall during Holy Week, punctuating



the crises of these tense days. It is conveyed with dramatic force in this Gethsemane scene: Peter Firth's poem describes it as 'a grove lit only by a kiss.' The painting is by Giotto, 'The Kiss of Judas,' and is part of an amazing series of frescoes he painted for the Arena Chapel in Padua from 1305-06.

At first glance it is a scene of frenzied activity: burning torches wave in the sky, weapons are wielded, and a ram's horn blown. The cohort of soldiers advance on Jesus, and Peter tries to defend Him by cutting off a soldier's ear in his anger. One of the religious leaders points to Jesus in the centre of the painting.

And it is there that the tragic stillness falls as our eyes focus on the eyes of Jesus: that steady, discomforting gaze into the eyes of Judas the betrayer. Judas' cloak seems to engulf Jesus, but it cannot blot out the look of our Lord.

The face of Judas is troubled, and the look of Jesus seems to burrow deep into that anxiety, beneath the surface into his heart.

In Holy Week they are eyes that look out to us. The face of Jesus is turned in our direction, saying, 'Yes, you may follow Me in the heady excitement of Palm Sunday. But will you also follow Me into this garden, on the way of My cross to the foot of Calvary, and beyond to the empty tomb of Easter morning?'

Revd Michael Burgess, from Parish Pump

Painting reprinted by kind permission of the Arena Chapel, Padua.

Warwick Road Centre and Café - April Update



The Centre is getting busier with room bookings, which is great news, and we hope the current upward trend continues.

Thoughts are developing about opening the Open Doors Café for more than the current two days (Tuesday and Friday). Clare is currently leading a trial run of Monday lunches. More to follow if this trial proves successful.

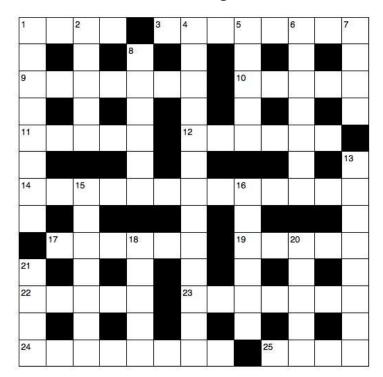
Flat 9 has now been completely redecorated and deep cleaned and is now ready to be let. We hope a new tenant(s) will be in situ by May.

Trevor Gay, Warwick Road Centre Manager

Open Doors Café Menu for April

Opening times: Tuesday and Friday only Snacks and drinks: 10am – 11:30am; Hot Meal: 12noon – 1:30pm (last orders 1pm) Main course £4; Pudding £2 Meal Deal (Main and Pudding, served with tea or coffee): £6

	Mains	Desserts			
Friday 1st	Liver & onions with bubble & squeak	Treacle tart & custard			
Tuesday 5th	Mince beef cobbler, vegetables and potatoes	Chocolate & black cherry sponge			
Friday 8th	Chicken dinner	Jam roly poly and custard			
Tuesday 12th	Savoury sausage meat slice with cauliflower cheese	Fruit salad and ice cream			
Friday 15th	Café closed for Good Friday				
Tuesday 19th	Gammon, new potatoes, peas and parsley sauce	Peach cobbler and cream			
Friday 22nd	Steak & kidney pie, potatoes and vegetables	Apple caramel cake			
Tuesday 26th	Shepherd's pie and vegetables	Sticky toffee sponge and custard			
Friday 29th	Chicken & vegetable casserole	Lemon meringue pie			



Puzzle Pages

Across

Down

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) 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 (Levit. 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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				5			4	
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SUDOKU (EASY)

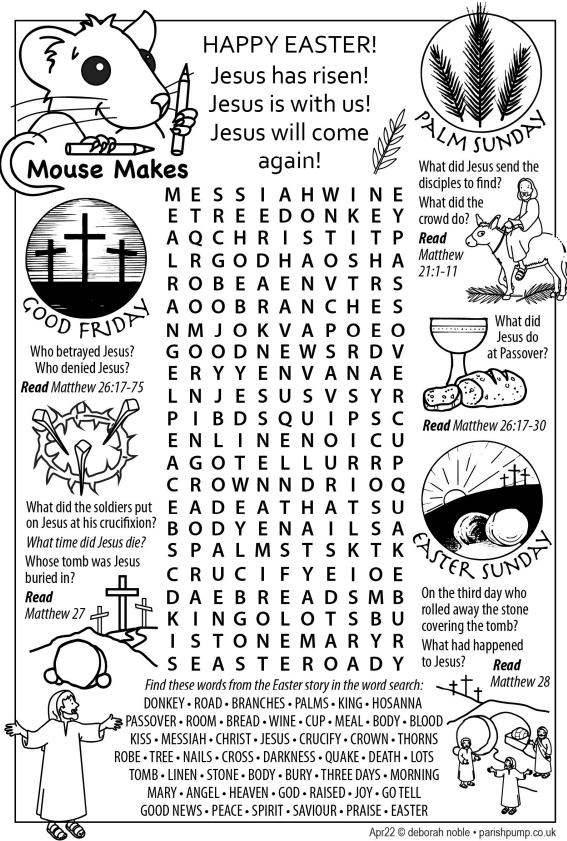
SUDOKU (MEDIUM)

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Solutions on page 15

WORDSEARCH

On the night before He died, Jesus ate His last Passover meal with His disciples. He then transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying of the bread and wine that, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood'. Jesus, the Lamb of God, was preparing to die for the sins of the whole world. John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place on the eve of the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed. Jesus then washed the disciples' feet, saying: "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service of one another. In Latin, this sentence begins: 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'maundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command).



SOLUTION - SUDUKO (EASY)

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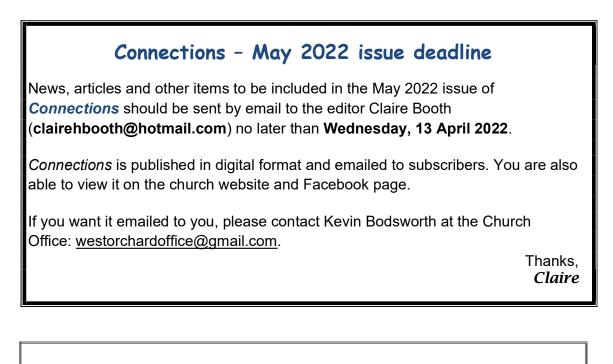
SOLUTION - SUDUKO (MEDIUM)

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3	1	8	7	9	4	2	6	5
9	5	2	1	6	8	3	7	4
8	9	3	6	4	7	5	1	2
5	2	7	8	3	1	9	4	6
1	4	6	9	5	2	7	3	8

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Womb. 3 Agnostic. 9 Long ago. 10 Fleet. 11 Horeb. 12 Yellow. 14 Deceitfulness. 17 Banish. 19 Towel. 22 Boils. 23 Inferno. 24 Eternity. 25 Defy.

DOWN: 1 Will hide. 2 Minor. 4 Glory of Christ. 5 Offal. 6 The Robe. 7 City. 8 Zabbai. 13 Psalmody. 15 Chalice. 16 Let off. 18 If son. 20 Worse. 21 Able.



The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the views of the URC or its congregation



Worship at Baginton Road URC



April 2022

Date	Church	Preacher	
3 April	10.30 am	Simon Mills	Holy Communion
	6.30pm	Revd Yvonne Stone	Parade
10 April	10.30 am	Revd Ian McNair	
11, 12 & 13 April	7.00 – 7.30 pm	Elders	Easter Week
14 April	7.00 pm	Revd Yvonne Stone	Maundy Thursday
			Holy Communion
15 April	7.00 pm	Revd Yvonne Stone	Good Friday
17 April	10.30 am	Revd Yvonne Stone	Easter Sunday
			Holy Communion
24 April	10.30 am	Revd Peter Kimberley	

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