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# in a NUTSHELL

news, views, ideas from your local church 2025 May/June

## Take a peek on 10-11 May



*Never seen inside your local church?*

*Or never had a proper look round?*

Many local churches will be open on the weekend of 10-11 May, including St Andrew's United Church, Kirton, and St Radegund's, Grayingham.

**St Andrew's:** • Climb the tower (weather permitting) for incredible views. • Browse the archives, with someone on hand to answer questions • Admire the floral displays on the theme 'Heaven and Earth' • Watch the bellringers • Make a bird-feeder • Search for angels in the churchyard (*that's good fun too!*) • Enjoy superb light refreshments all day

**Open: Sat. 10 May, 10am-4.30pm;  
Sunday 11 May, 12.30-4pm**

Further information from Jane Sheard  
janeshheard.82@btinternet.com

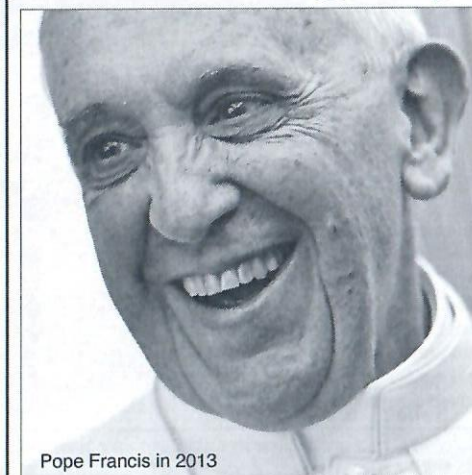
**St Radegund's:** • See our new extension, with photographs of progress and plans and details of exciting archaeology found during the building work • Historical records on view • Food all day, including filled baps (*all local produce*), home-made cakes and much more.

**Open: Sat. 10 May, 9.30am-4.30pm;  
Sunday 11 May, 10am-4pm**

Further information from Sheila Gibbs  
01652 648639

(And concert with brass ensemble Fri. 9th 7pm)

## What a legacy!



Pope Francis in 2013

So, he's died. At the time of writing, we've just been told of the death of Pope Francis. He had been quite poorly for a while, but most of us probably thought that he was on the road to a degree of recovery. Sadly not – and by the time you read this, we may know the name of Francis's successor – and the date of his enthronement.

### TURN TO PAGE 3:

The Revd David Swannack pays tribute to a remarkable Church leader, deeply respected by people of all Churches and none.

'Love in a Cup'  
Community Café

Every Thursday, 2-5pm:  
St Andrew's United Church Halls



INSIDE

Sebastian's  
PUZZLE  
CORNER  
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Sebastian  
loves Easter  
eggs  
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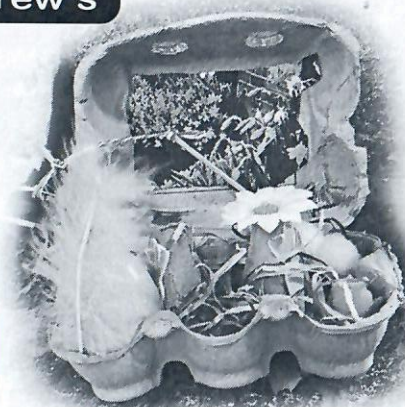


## Easter Weekend at St Andrew's



Above: Christine Ranyell reads at the last 'station' in our Good Friday 'remembering' of Jesus's walk to Golgotha. 19 people joined us, but this year we only walked around the churchyard.

Right: The church looked beautiful this Easter, thanks to the skills of Janet Caughey & Fiona Munn, who had decorated it. After the final service the Easter Cross was moved outside the porch.



An amazing display of decorated egg boxes was arranged around one of the pillars in St Andrew's church on Easter Day. The boxes were made for the KLAGS Daffodil Delight closed section competition for the Brownies, held on 5 April. As part of their Zero Waste Badge the Brownies had collected empty egg boxes to decorate. The prize winners were: (1) Anya (2) Lily (3) Annika.

# Three fun-filled days!

St Andrew's Holiday Club 2025

## 'Time Travellers'

Mon. 21 - Wed. 23 July : 10am - 1pm

And 'Family Get Together' with refreshments  
Wednesday 23 July, 6.30pm for about 1 hour

For children aged 4-11

Donation of £1 (min) per family per session  
(including drink and mid-morning snack)

Booking helpful but not essential

Booking forms and further details  
from Jane Sheard: 01652 648846  
or [janesheard.82@btinternet.com](mailto:janesheard.82@btinternet.com)



## What a legacy!

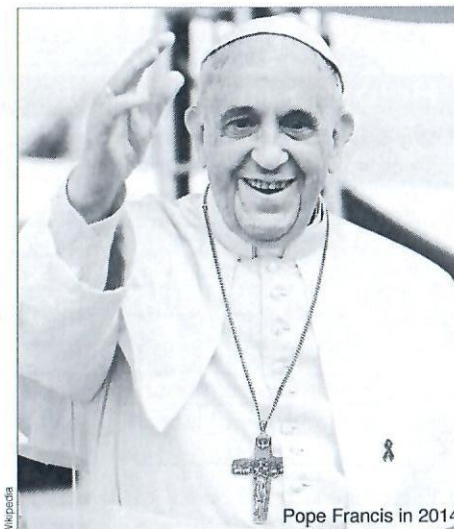
The Revd David Swannack pays tribute to an outstanding Christian leader . . .

The media have been anticipating Francis's death for some time. Synopses of his life and achievements appeared within hours.

We have the same deep analysis when any major leader dies or leaves office, good or bad. We trawl through his or her engagement with the world around them and seek to make sense of their contribution.

We call it their 'legacy'.

So naturally people are interested in the state in which the Catholic Church finds itself after Francis's pontificate.



Pope Francis in 2014

### Hope and mercy

The two main themes that are emerging as people reflect on Francis's life are 'Hope' and 'Mercy'. That certainly beats the legacy which comes to mind when we think of other world leaders – like many of our prime ministers or some other international figures, popular or notorious.

### Our personal legacy

Whether we like it or not, whether we intend it or not, we too will leave a legacy to those who remain when we've gone. It's inevitable. But far and away our most important legacy is not how much money we bequeath to family and friends. The legacy that really matters is the contribution – the difference – we have made to the lives of those with whom we have shared our earthly journey.

In the church we are just celebrating the period known as Easter, the period that follows on from the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And in it we remember the wonderful, supreme legacy that Jesus has bequeathed us. Because he died for our sins and rose from the dead, we too can have a relationship with God, our heavenly Father – our sins forgiven and a heaven open for us to speak to the God who loves us and longs for us to get to know him, and discover his purpose for our lives.

### Chocolate eggs . . .

Jesus' legacy is more than a few chocolate eggs on a particular Sunday, once a year. It is the opportunity to have a lifetime of getting to know God as a close friend and companion through our journey of life.

His legacy is one that is open to all, not just a few beneficiaries. We have only to welcome and accept the opportunity that Jesus's death affords us.

Pope Francis has left a great legacy to the world, but Jesus's death transforms all our perspectives and opportunities. He invites us to accept what he offers: forgiveness for our wrongdoing, our mistakes, our failures, and the power to discover and live a new and truly fulfilling life – a transformation symbolised for us by the empty tomb of Easter morning.

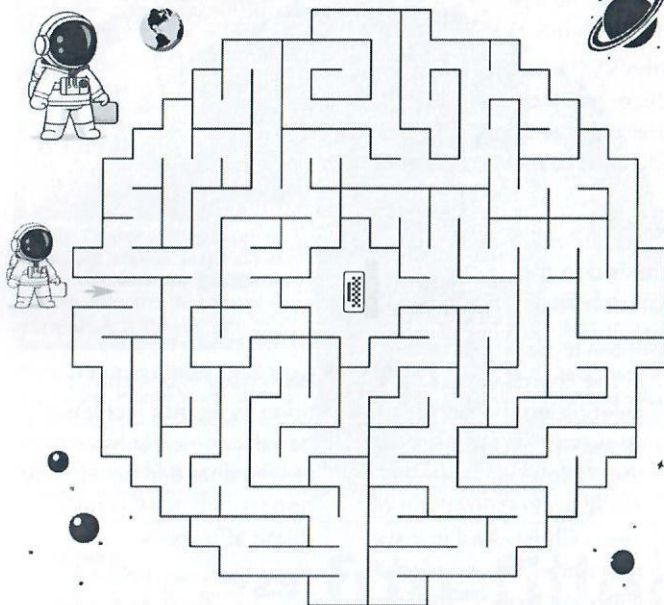
As we say on Easter morning, 'Alleluia, He is risen. He is risen indeed! Alleluia!' Now that's some legacy!

David is Rural Dean of Manlake Deanery, Rector of the South Manlake Churches and Anglican vicar in our Local Ecumenical Partnership.



## Help the Time Travellers get home

Our Time Travellers hand-sets have 'crashed'. Can you guide them to the controls in the middle of their space sphere?



## Step Ladder

Climb from LAND to JUMP changing just one letter at a time, without disturbing the order of the remaining letters. We have provided clues for the steps, but not in the correct order.

### JUMP CLUES

- Arm or leg
- A swelling
- Walking with difficulty
- A country road
- A baby sheep
- Soft and wilting (eg a leaf)

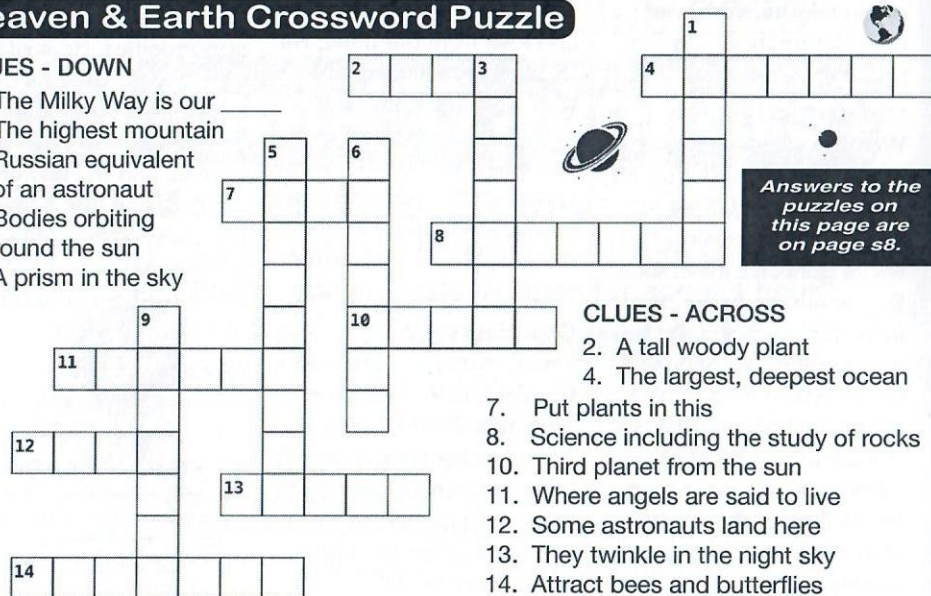
### LAND

- Q. What kind of room has no doors or windows?  
A. A mushroom.
- Q. Why did the skeleton *not* go to the party?  
A. He had no body to go with.

## Heaven & Earth Crossword Puzzle

### CLUES - DOWN

1. The Milky Way is our \_\_\_\_\_
3. The highest mountain
5. Russian equivalent of an astronaut
6. Bodies orbiting round the sun
9. A prism in the sky



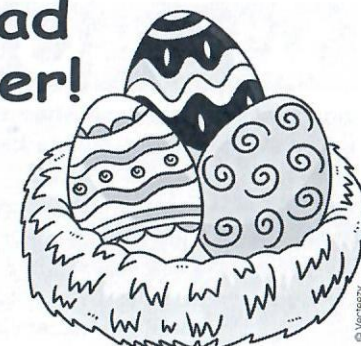
### CLUES - ACROSS

2. A tall woody plant
4. The largest, deepest ocean
7. Put plants in this
8. Science including the study of rocks
10. Third planet from the sun
11. Where angels are said to live
12. Some astronauts land here
13. They twinkle in the night sky
14. Attract bees and butterflies

Answers to the puzzles on this page are on page s8.



# Sebastian's glad Easter isn't over!



## Happy Easter!

Yes, I can still say that, even though it's not Easter Day, because the Easter 'season' lasts for 50 days. Does that mean I can go on eating Easter eggs all that time? I hope so, though I may be quite sick by the time I've finished!

Anyway, I think I deserve a few Easter eggs, because I've had quite an adventure lately.

It all began on Easter Day. I woke up hoping that my friends in church might be giving out Easter eggs (they didn't, though they did have some lovely iced biscuits). Then I looked around my home. 'That's nice!' I said to myself. 'Someone has planted a hedge in here.' I looked again. Yes, it was true. On one of the window sills, there was a hedge with lots of lovely leafy green branches.

I told Cedric that I'd found a hedge in church, but he said I must be wrong. Hedges don't grow in church.



I scuttled across to look and climbed up into the leaves. 'I may be a church spider,' I thought, 'but a hedge makes a nice change. I think I'll stay here for

a while. There may even be a few flies to eat. That will be much healthier than biscuit crumbs.'

A few days later I got a shock. The hedge began to move! 'Watch out!' I shouted. 'What's happening? Help me, someone!' Luckily, Cedric was nearby. 'You are a silly spider, Sebastian!' he said. 'I told you that wasn't a hedge. It's a vase of leaves put on the window sill to make the church look beautiful for Easter. Now the leaves are dying, you're being taken outside to go in the bin. Quick! Jump now!'

So I did as Cedric told me. I managed to jump on to one of the chairs, as the lady carrying my 'hedge' headed for the door. What a narrow escape!

I should have listened to Cedric at the beginning, but I didn't believe him.

There's a story in the Bible about a man called Thomas who didn't believe what his friends told him.\* They said that Jesus was no longer dead and that they had seen him. Thomas only believed it was true when Jesus came and spoke to *him* as well. My church friends know that Jesus is alive; just ask them!

Your friend, *Sebastian*

\* John 20. 19-29

# Ascension Day 2025

On Thursday 29 May this year Christians around the world celebrate the time when Jesus, whom God had raised from the dead, stopped appearing to his disciples and returned to his heavenly father.

The four gospels treat this in different ways. Matthew has no account of Jesus 'ascending', only of his meeting his disciples in Galilee immediately after his resurrection. John tells of the meeting in Galilee, but he too doesn't say anything about the 'ascension'.

Mark chapter 16 describes how Jesus spoke to his disciples in Jerusalem after his resurrection while they were eating, and then afterwards, 'he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God'. But most of the reliable early manuscripts of Mark's gospel don't include this passage.

## Luke's two versions

In his gospel (Luke 24) Luke suggests that when Jesus had appeared to his disciples that first Easter Day, he led them out a few miles from Jerusalem, where 'he lifted up his hands and blessed them' and then, 'while he was blessing them he left them and was taken into heaven'.

But if, as scholars believe, Luke also wrote the Acts of the Apostles, he had modified his story. In Acts he says Jesus appeared to his disciples over a period of 40 days

On 29 May Manlake Deanery celebration of the Ascension 2025 – with a difference! St Peter's Church, Bottesford, from 2-4pm.

## Sponsors and cyclists wanted

Open Churches' bike ride in support of Christian Aid

**Saturday 10 May**

starting at 10.00am from St Andrew's Church

For details & sponsor forms email: [editor.nutshell@btinternet.com](mailto:editor.nutshell@btinternet.com)



'We call it "ascension", not "uploading".'

©Chris Wild

before 'he was taken up before their eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight'.

## The Fourth Century

The early Church doesn't seem to have marked this event in any special way, but some 300 years after the events of that first Easter, Churches started to celebrate it – mostly 40 days after Easter – following Luke's account in the Acts of the Apostles.

**Orchard Church**  
Bottesford, Ashby & Riddings

**Celebrate Ascension Day**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May  
2pm - 4pm

St Peter's Church  
Orchard,  
Church Lane,  
Bottesford

(Parking available by the church on Old School Lane)

\*Stroller available if weather is poor

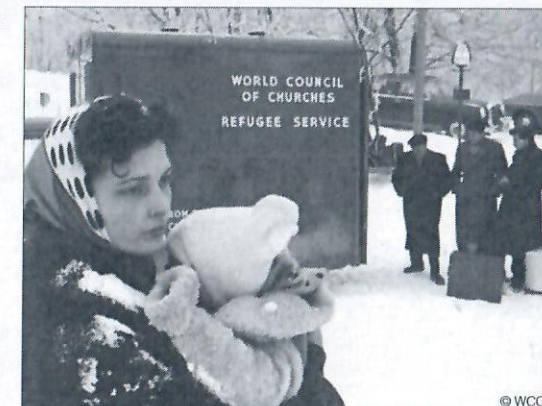
Carta Story

Activities Song

Please wear sturdy shoes

# christian aid It's a scandal

80 years ago, at the end of the Second World War, Europe was awash with refugees and displaced persons, forced to abandon home and country in the face of real, or threatened, violence. Many of them had lost their homes and all their possessions and ended up in refugee camps, with nowhere to go and precious little hope for the future.



Christian Aid was set up by British and Irish Churches to respond to this need. More than £80,000 (£3m in today's money) was raised for emergency supplies for distribution by European partner churches.

## Natural disasters . . .

Since then Christian Aid has continued to respond to similar emergencies, some caused by 'natural' disasters, such as the recent earthquake in Myanmar, some man-made, like the waves of refugees fleeing from each new arena of conflict, including the people of Gaza and Ukraine today.

## Self-sufficiency

But Christian Aid doesn't just respond to crises. It recognises the need to lift communities out of poverty and so enable them to be

self-sufficient – working with partner agencies in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Speaking out

Christian Aid also encourages its supporters to speak out to those with influence in the business or political sphere, as well as to 'live simply that others may simply live'.

## It's a scandal

For 80 years, Christian Aid has been fighting poverty and injustice. It can often seem like an impossible task – and surely it is a scandal that, so many decades after it started, its work is still so vitally needed?

This year's Christian Aid Week (11-17 May) focuses on cocoa farmers in Guatemala, facing the loss

of their livelihood in the face of climate change.

## Will you help?

£6 could pay for the seed trays that kick-start a plant nursery in someone's home.



£10 could pay for pruning scissors that mean a farmer can care for their cacao trees.



£20 could buy two pounds of climate resilient seeds that diversify a family's crop.



For more information and how to contribute contact Jane Sheard: [janesheard.82@btinternet.com](mailto:janesheard.82@btinternet.com)

You can also help by supporting the Sponsored Cycle Ride on 10 May (see page s6).



## Your local churches

St Andrew's United Church, Kirton in Lindsey

[www.standrewsunitedchurch.org.uk](http://www.standrewsunitedchurch.org.uk)

St Radegund's Church, Grayingham

[www.achurchnearyou.com/grayingham-st-radegund](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/grayingham-st-radegund)



### Ministry Contacts: May 2025 - KIRTON

- ☎ 01724 647789 The Revd David Swannack (Anglican Vicar)
- ☎ 07395 453246 The Revd Robert Roberts (Methodist Minister)
- ☎ 01652 648846 The Revd Preb Dr Michael Sheard (Anglican, retired)
- ☎ 01652 649365 Dr Pat Frankish (Baptist Deacon; Anglican Lay Reader)

### Ministry Contact: May 2025 - GRAYINGHAM

- ☎ 07738 356048 The Revd Charles Thody (Anglican Priest in Charge)

### Other enquiries

Church Council Secretary, Kirton, 01652 648846

Church hall bookings, Kirton, 01652 648573

Church Warden, Kirton, Dr Pat Frankish, 01652 649365

Church Council Secretary, Grayingham, 01652 640157

Church Warden, Grayingham, Mr Clive Marshall, 01652 648125

**SAFEGUARDING (Kirton) 01652 640740**  
**SAFEGUARDING (Gray'm) 01652 640157**

Baptism bookings (Kirton) - 07776 487791  
 Wedding bookings (Kirton) - 01652 648846  
 Funerals (Kirton) - 01652 648573

### Worship in our buildings in May/June 2025

- St Andrew's United Church, Kirton,  
11am Sunday; 9.30 every Wednesday
- St Radegund's, Grayingham,  
9.30 1st Sun HC; other Sundays 9am

Please visit our websites/Facebook or  
 phone one of the contact numbers  
 above for other information about our  
 churches and activities.

### Join us for Worship on Zoom: every Sunday at 9.30am

\* To join - on computer, tablet or phone -  
 contact [heather.bunker@btinternet.com](mailto:heather.bunker@btinternet.com)

### St Andrew's United Church 4th SUNDAY every month, FAMILY SERVICE 11am

#### PUZZLE ANSWERS (p 54)

##### Step Ladder

Sebastian's solution:

LAND, LANE, LAME, LAMB,  
 LIMB, LIMP, LUMP, JUMP.

##### Heaven & Earth Crossword

**Down:** 1) galaxy, 3) Everest,  
 5) cosmonaut, 6) planets,  
 9) rainbow

**Across:** 2) tree, 4) Pacific,  
 7) soil, 8) geology, 10) Earth,  
 11) heaven, 12) moon,  
 13) stars, 14) flowers

### Cupcakes, coffee and chat . . . .

10am-12noon 1st Saturday  
 every month in the Town Hall

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Opinions expressed here  
 are not necessarily those  
 of the editorial group

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We are sorry that rising costs have  
 forced us to raise the price in 2025.



## CLEATHAM HALL NEWS

### Celebrating at Cleatham Hall this Spring

**Celebrating Family and Friends,  
 Birthdays and Anniversaries, it's what  
 our customers love to do.**

The spring has arrived and the gardens and grounds provide a perfect outlook to enjoy a  
 relaxing meal. So, if there are just 2 or 52 of you, contact us by email or phone to book your  
 own personal celebration. Just come in and enjoy the New Spring menus and ambience of  
 the Orangery Restaurant at Cleatham Hall and a stroll through grounds.

The Restaurant open daily from Wednesday to Sunday.

**Try our New Lunch time table d'hôte menu,**  
 2 courses for £20, Wednesday to Friday.

Brunch served from 9 to 11am

Lunch served from 12 to 3pm

Afternoon Teas from 1 to 4pm

Dinners from 6 to 8.30 pm

#### Ask about our special offers

for Over 65's lunches on Wednesday to Friday

See our website at [www.cleathamhall.com/events](http://www.cleathamhall.com/events) for our menus and pricing  
 To book call: 01652 649402 or email: [enquiry@cleathamhall.com](mailto:enquiry@cleathamhall.com)

#### Restaurant Opening Times:

Wed - Sat: 12pm - 8:30pm

Sunday Lunch  
 12pm - 4pm



Cleatham Hall, Cleatham, North Lincolnshire, DN21 4JS

[www.cleathamhall.com](http://www.cleathamhall.com)

Tel: 01652 649402

Email: [enquiry@cleathamhall.com](mailto:enquiry@cleathamhall.com)