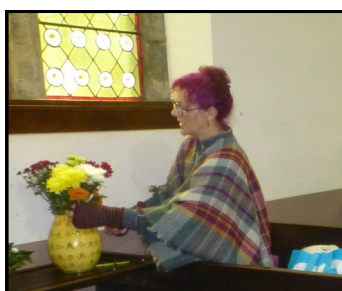


ST CHAD'S CHURCH, BAGNALL —NEWSLETTER 07.04.24

Decorating the Church.....

There was a good turnout of both flowers and people to help Barbara to make the church look beautiful for our Easter celebrations. Florence was there helping Judith to do their amazing window decoration.



There were people using every available space to complete their decorations and it was great to see St Chad's so full of energy and laughter. Can I just add that I didn't just take photos, I did do a couple of the displays myself!!! (see the one on the right)



Just a sample of the flower arrangements on offer. We were up at church again on Saturday and it did look amazing.

Easter Egg Hunt:

Saturday dawned sunny and warm, in fact a truly lovely March morning as Jo-Anne, Emmeline, Annabelle and I prepared to join in the Bagnall Easter egg hunt. We were one of the first to arrive and we collected our trail maps from Julia and Grace in the church. Armed with instructions and enthusiasm we began our hunt.

We had to spot 30 Easter eggs on the trail plus answer an anagram and count the smiling bunnies. Somehow, we counted 31 eggs but at least we were on the right side!



Then it was back to the village hall to collect our prizes, an Easter egg, packed lunch, colouring book and crayons. While the girls tucked into their feast, complete with bunny masks, Jo and I indulged in a cup of coffee and some of the delicious cakes on offer.

We all agreed we'd had a great morning. So a very big "Thank You" to Claire for organising it all and looking forward to next year!



P.S. I've just had a phone call from Claire to tell me that we won the main prize in the raffle. We now have 5 more very large Easter eggs to add to the collection. That should keep us going until next year!!!!

Easter Sunday at St Chad's.....

Once again I arrived at church with blue skies and sunshine, perfect weather to celebrate the Easter story.

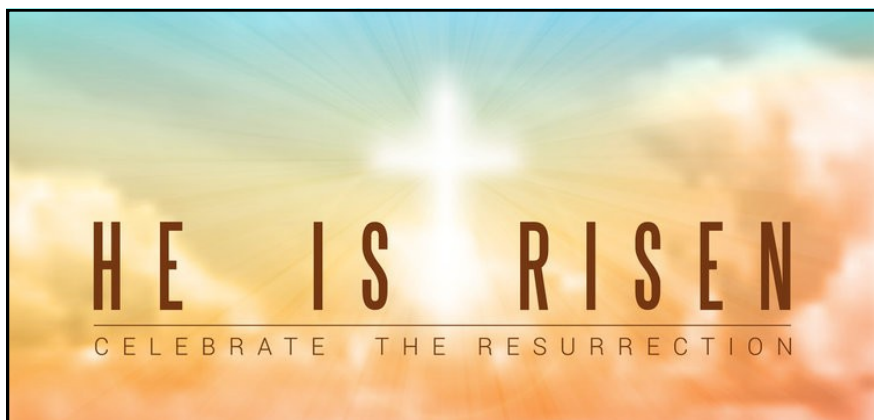
I was clutching 42 crème eggs dressed as chicks, lambs and bunnies, and wondering what I was going to do with the ones that were left over if the church was short of those 42 people. I really needn't have worried, we ran out and some people had to go without the church was so packed!



It looked fantastic with the vast array of flowers and there was an excited hum as we settled down to enjoy our Easter service and communion led by Rev P Robinson. I really must thank my two helpers, Florence and Naomi. They helped me take the collection and also to give out the eggs, both nearly forgetting to take one for themselves!

One of the nicest things about church that day was the amount of old friends that turned up, some from even before covid and it was lovely to see them and enjoy their company, particularly as we had rice krispie cakes with our coffee, supplied, I believe, by Judith and Florence. I managed to grab the last one as Flossie took them round!

All in all it was a lovely morning and perfectly celebrated the resurrection of Christ.



I've been making crème egg chicks from 2015, and I really enjoy making them and I have to thank all the people who donated the crème eggs (that's the expensive bit!) The numbers have increased each year and I still ran out in 2024!

Someone in the congregation suggested the possibility of recycling. So if any of you out there have any chicks etc minus the crème egg just stuffed in a drawer or similar I'm happy to take them off your hands and save myself a bit of knitting next year. If I'm not in church, just leave them in the tower for me. Thank You.

A VISIT TO MOUNT RUSHMORE Anne & Brian

It isn't every day that you can come face to face with four ex-Presidents of the USA. Not Joe Biden or Donald Trump or Bill Clinton or Barak Obama but Presidents long gone; George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Teddy Roosevelt. From our vantage point we could see the faces of the four Presidents carved into the granite face of Mount Rushmore which is situated in the Black Hills of South Dakota.



This is the land occupied by some very famous native American tribes, the Lakota and the Sioux. The four carvings are really gigantic. The size is difficult to appreciate even when close to. Each presidents' head is 60 feet high and the noses are 20 feet long. The project was to be a tourist attraction to bring visitors to this sparsely populated area of the USA. Initially the monuments were to be Heroes of the West such as Buffalo Bill, Crazy Horse and the explorers Lewis and Clark but the man in charge, Gutzon Borglum, had other ideas.

Congress voted funds and work began in 1927. The four Presidents were chosen. Washington was number one on the list and he represented the foundation of the nation. He had led the army that had defeated the British and was the first President. Jefferson, like Washington was one of the leaders at the heart of the foundation of the USA. He was the legal brain behind the formulation of the constitution and the author of the historic 'The Declaration of Independence'. He also purchased, despite opposition, the 'Louisiana Territory,' from Napoleon Bonapart, which more than doubled the size of the USA. He was the third President. Lincoln, the 16th President, was seen as the saviour of the union. He had prevented the Confederate States leaving the union by winning the Civil War. Borglum's choice of



Teddy Roosevelt as he fourth President was met with controversy, but he took little notice of it arguing that TR was largely responsible for conservation work which had helped to preserve much of the 'Wild West'. His economic and fiscal policies greatly aided the industrial development of the nation and enhanced its position on the world stage. Using the USA's new international position, he negotiated an end to the Russo-Japanese War for which he was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize.

Construction on the monument began in 1927 and it was finally completed in 1941. The work was often delayed by shortage of funding. There was the 'Great Wall Street Crash' and the weather in the Dakotas was very severe in winter. Of the 14 ½ years it took to complete only on six years did work take place. Over 400 men, many were miners, who had gone to the Black Hills looking for gold, worked on the project suspended on bosun chairs and ladders using jackhammers, drills and chisels. 90% of the mountain was carved with dynamite and surprisingly there were no fatalities on site.

Admiring the monument even from a distance you have to admire the workmanship and the sheer artistry. The four Presidents are there carved in granite and symbolise 150 years of modern American history.

You may not have visited this part of the USA but you may have seen the monument in the famous Alfred Hitchcock film 'North by North West'.



Prayer Corner:

The gospel reading set for today shows us how fear and doubt turn to trust and joy as Thomas and the disciples meet the risen Lord.

Today we pray for all who are facing doubts about their future.

We pray for those who are having to cope with uncertain family situations.

We pray for those struggling with doubts about their identity.

We pray for those whose trust has been broken, being taken advantage of or exploited.

We pray that, like Thomas, they would have their doubts met with a renewed confidence and hope for the future.

We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Muriel



April Services:

7th – Family service Julia and Claire

14th—Praise and Prayer Terry Bagguley/MF

21st— Holy Communion Rev P Robinson

28th—Morning Prayer KH/MF



Dates for your diary:

Sunday 28th April - APCM(AGM) after the service.

Monday 29th April - Social evening at the Stafford Arms at 7pm.

2 courses – menu to be confirmed nearer the time.

Would you like to know more about your ancestors? Then look no further, Pat has issued the following plea.....

"Please can you put a plea in for me in Newsletter, regarding my need to be busy with somebody's family history research; I have none to do at the moment and have withdrawal symptoms. It is totally free, but I need to be busy !"

If you don't know how to get in touch with Pat, just drop me an email and I'll pass it on.

Smiles

In the beginning, God created the earth and rested. Then God created Man and rested. Then God created Woman. Since then, neither God nor Man has rested.

A married couple were arguing who is making the coffee, the wife said that in the Bible it says that men should make the coffee and the husband asked her where it said that. The wife opened the Bible and said: "Right here in HEBREWS!"

Q: Why do they say 'Amen' at the end of a prayer instead of 'Awomen'?

A: The same reason they sing Hymns instead of Hers!

The story of Adam and Eve was being carefully explained in the children's Sunday School class. Following the story, the children were asked to draw some picture that would illustrate the story. Little Bobby drew a picture of a car with three people in it. In the front seat was a man and in the back seat, a man and a woman. The teacher was at a loss to understand how this illustrated the lesson of Adam and Eve. Little Bobby was prompt with his explanation. "Why, this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden!"

A teacher asked the children in her Sunday School class, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?"

"NO!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?" Again, the answer was "NO!"

"Well," she continued, "then how can I get to heaven?"

In the back of the room, a five-year-old boy shouted out, "You've got to be dead!"