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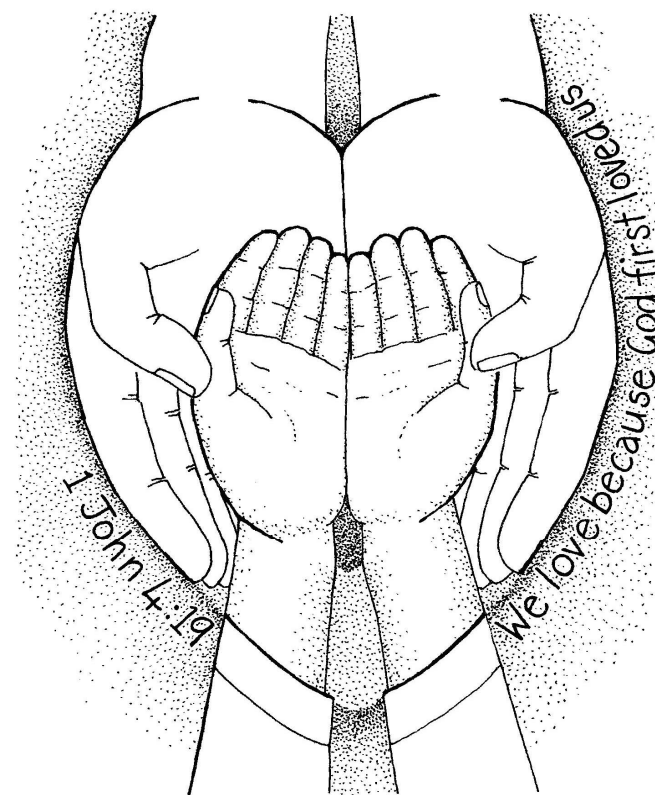
St George's Parish Church Stalybridge



Diocese of Manchester

 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

35p



February 2014

St George's Church Stalybridge

Clergy

Priest-in-Charge Revd Philip Brierley 0161 338 2368

Assistant Priest Revd Keith Stewart 0161 303 7483

Associate Priest Revd Doreen Broadbent 0161 330 9085

Wardens Ms Janet Vidler 0161 303 7689

 Mrs Gillian Cotton 0161 303 2787

Asst Warden Mrs Rose Hayward 0161 303 1731

P.C.C. Secretary Mrs Rachel Anderson 0161 304 8560

Treasurer Mrs Juliana Stewart 0161 303 7483

Magazine Editor Mrs Linda Hurst 0161 330 0518

Room Hire Mr Norman Quest 0161 338 4691

Worship

Sunday

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion (2nd & 4th Sundays)

10.45 a.m. Sung Communion and Junior Church
(4th Sunday – Family Service)

18.00 p.m. Occasional Special Services as
announced

Tuesday

10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

To receive Communion at home when you are sick or housebound, or to have the name of a departed friend or relation entered in the Book of Remembrance, please contact one of the clergy or Wardens.

For Baptisms, Marriages or Funerals please phone Philip (Priest-in-Charge) on 0161 338 2368. Baptisms are usually conducted at 12.30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

From Our Book of Remembrance

1 Feb	Ernest Albert Whitehead	2000	19 Feb	James Harrison Rowbottom	1963
2 Feb	Vera Hadfield	2005	20 Feb	John Sedgwick	1964
	Carl Stephen Morrison	2013		Clara Brown	2009
4 Feb	Mary Priestley	1994		Nellie Allcock	2011
	Margaret Longmate	2011	22 Feb	Frederick James Eldridge	1989
	Peter Andrew Diamond	2013		Joan Wykes	2001
6 Feb	James Howarth	1993	24 Feb	Mary Theresa Brierley	2004
	Albert Livsey	1993	25 Feb	Philip Grocott	1975
7 Feb	Annie Howard	1981		Harry Nuttall	1992
	Adam Constantine	2004		Leslie Barber	2006
8 Feb	Edith Harriet Turner	1991	26 Feb	Herbert Newton	1971
	David Brian Bardsley	2011		George Henry Maddock	1983
9 Feb	Ada Alice Cooper	1970		Edward Cooper	1986
	Rose Pamela Gudgeon	2010		Francis Frederick Lawes	1999
10 Feb	Donald Joseph Sidebottom	1992		Lucy Wilson	2011
	Colin Birch	2001	27 Feb	Winifred Ada Christian	1968
11 Feb	Harold Lee	1961		Maud Green	1986
	Iris Wilson	1975		Clara Wardle	1987
	Ada Stephenson	1983		Elsie Violet Shaw	2000
	Mary Skelton	2012		Jessie Birch	2011
12 Feb	Mary Pollitt	1987	28 Feb	Samuel Terence	1990
14 Feb	John Devlin	1973		Broadbent	
16 Feb	Kenneth Shaw	2003		Robert Fowden	1982
17 Feb	Gertrude Fitchett	1984		Elsie Hopwood	2006
18 Feb	Annie Revell	1986	29 Feb	Agnes Goodwin	1996
				Ollerenshaw	



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

To have the name of a loved one entered into this special book, and remembered in our intercessions for their anniversary please have a word with one of the wardens or one of the clergy.

The cost for the special inscription is £10 per entry

From the Registers

Baptisms

We welcome you into the Lord's family

19 January

Isabella Rose Sirby, Elgin Street, Stalybridge.

Funerals

Blessed are the dead who die in the faith of the Lord

7 January

James Bottomley Walton (age 85 years) Lyne Edge Road, Dukinfield

9 January

William Challis (age 91 years) Matthew Close, Tintwistle

13 January

Ivan Ronald Young (age 85 years) Yew Tree Care Home, Dukinfield, formerly of Lake Road, Denton

17 January

Marian Beatrice Ogden (age 88 years) Carson House Care Home, Stalybridge

24 January

James Watson (age 86 years) Bond Street, Stalybridge

Betty Griffiths (age 84 years) Hulme Road, Heaton Chapel

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200 CLUB WINNERS

The 200 Club winners for January are:

1st Prize	£30	No 43	Mildred Bradshaw
2nd Prize	£15	No	Emma Stokes
3rd Prize	£ 5	No	Shaun Billington

There are still some numbers available and the more members we have the more church funds benefit so if you would like to become a member please contact Rose Hayward on 0161 303 1731 or Juliana Stewart on 0161 303 7483.

Dear Friends



I begin by saying a massive **THANK YOU** to everyone who supports St. George's in any way at all. The wonderful news that we have managed to pay our Diocesan Quota, in full, for the first time in several years has been very uplifting. I am extremely please as I'm sure you are as well. This, in part, has been achieved by the generous response to the recent Gift Day, by donations from both individuals and groups, from former members of the congregation who have now left the area, from our 200 Club, and, of course, from the regular and sustained giving of those who are members of our Stewardship Scheme.

Income aside, without the willing band of people who give so regularly of their time and talents in the upkeep and maintenance of the building, the churchyard and in innumerable other ways, thereby negating the need to employ expensive professionals, we would not have been able to reach this target.

We hope, that by paying our Quota, we may now be eligible for grants to help us undertake some much needed pointing work on the outside of the building. The amount required for this is formidable, but with God's grace, through prayer, and the continuing efforts of everyone, all things are achievable given time.

Last month I had a fall. Apparently younger people are just said to fall, but the more mature of us are said to have "had a fall". This month I celebrate a 'significant' birthday which puts me in the bracket of having "had a fall". (I already have my bus pass). Whilst carrying boxes down the stairs to pack away the Christmas decorations, I slipped and took quite a knock, not knowing which bit to rub first!!! Twenty-four hours later the pain was increasing but a visit to A&E revealed no broken bones, just soft tissue damage. As the days wore on, various bits of me coloured nicely, so that sympathy was forthcoming, but the area that was most painful (behind the knee) didn't show any sign of bruising at all!

How is this relevant to the previous paragraphs? Just that it is easy to give credit to all the activities that we do that can be seen and, therefore, illicit praise and thanks, but sometimes it is the hidden areas that produce the most effect.

I hope and pray that all our efforts, both seen and unseen, continue to thrive and that this time next year, we can once again find ourselves in this, or, God willing, an even better position.

Last month also saw the commencement of the 'New Seekers' Bible Study Group. This is a programme of guided Bible reading spread over the course of a year. Participants read various passages on a daily basis, and then meet as a group (in church on the first Monday of each month from 7p.m. to 8p.m.) to discuss what they have read. Each member will bring a different perspective to what they have read which all makes food for thought. There is still the opportunity to join this group and, if you are interested, then please have a word with me or with Joyce Hansell.

March sees the commencement of the solemn period of Lent with Ash Wednesday falling on 5th March. There will be a service of Holy Communion with Ashing at 8pm on that day and I hope that as many as possible will try and attend.

I conclude, as I began, with heartfelt thanks to each and everyone of you.

Philip

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O.A.P. (Old-Age Priest)



Our Priest-in-Charge is getting old
(Though not as old as me!!),
And on the tenth of February
Becomes an O.A.P.

But pensioners seem younger now
Than in the days of old,
Despite grey hair and creaky bits
(And always feeling cold!!).

And so we want to wish him
Happy Birthday and God bless,
With sixty-five warm wishes
For good health and happiness

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The New Seekers 'Read the Bible in a Year' Group

A group are endeavouring to read the Bible in a year during 2014 and we began on January 1st. We are using a specially produced Bible from 'Crusade for World Revival' - an organisation that has produced Bible reading aids for many years and their materials are excellent. We are hoping to meet monthly (the first Monday in the month) to chat about how we are getting along, any questions that arise from the passages we read and to encourage one another on what we are discovering about how God speaks to us through His word.

At our first meeting on Monday, 6th January we thought it would be a good idea to keep a notebook of any verse thoughts, passages, questions that might stand out during the course of our daily readings so that we can bring them to the next meeting. A way of organising the notebook would be perhaps keeping one side for the Old Testament and the opposite side for the New Testament.

We chatted about the great ages people lived in the early days and discovered that God limited that to 120 years (Genesis 6:3) in order to trim down life expectancy!! How enormous the ark was and how Noah had great faith in order to carry out God's instructions. The importance of the Old Testament in order that we can see how God sets out the covenant with His people and how this is worked out in peoples' lives. We then moved on to how God 'spoke' to individuals in those days and posed the question 'Does God speak to us today?' and there were several suggestions as to how this can happen. Being still in God's presence and allowing Him to communicate with us; realising that God can use others in order to 'speak' to us and how the Bible - God's Word - is a great way for us to hear Him speak.

We then went on to talk about how people from the same family married each other, and how this appeared to be the norm (and is still carried on in to some extent today). We concluded with how God created the diversity of language and how this made groups who spoke the same language move on together. The question was posed as to how the early church managed to spread the Gospel to areas where they couldn't communicate well due to language barriers and how the early Christians must have had to learn new languages wherever they went.

As this was the first session, everyone appeared 'at ease' with each other and appreciated the advantages we get when we meet together for encouragement, fellowship and support. Long may this group continue and we look forward to our February meeting on Monday 3rd. Our meeting ended with the Grace, and we all made our way home (smiling through the rain!!)

Joyce Hansell

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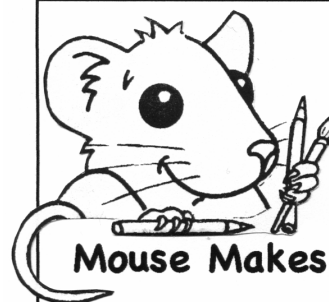
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Children's Page



Mouse Makes

Nothing ...
... will ever be
able to separate
us from the
LOVE of God
that is in
Christ Jesus
our Lord.

Romans 8:39



1 John 4:16

Cut out and keep these cards to
remind you of God's love for us.

The Lord's **LOVE**
never ends,
his mercies
never stop.
They are new
every morning.

Lamentations 3:22-23



God **LOVED** the world
so much that he gave
his only Son, so that
everyone who
believes in him would
not be lost but
have eternal life. .

John 3:16

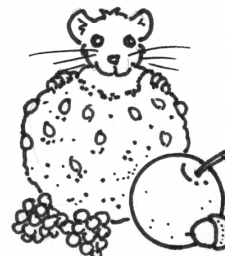
"See how much our
heavenly Father
LOVES us,
for he has
allowed us
to be called
his children"

1 John 3:1



For the
Lord is **GOOD**
and his **LOVE**
endures
for ever

Psalms 100:5



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Readings and Psalms for February 2014

Sun 2nd	Presentation of Christ in the Temple
10.45	Malachi 3.1-5; Psalm 24.7-end; Hebrews 2.14-end; Luke 2.22-40
Tues 4th	10.30 2 Samuel 18.9-10,14-24-25,30-19.3; Psalm 86.1-6; Mark 5.21-43
Sun 9th	4th Sunday before Lent
8.30	Isaiah 58.1-9a; Matthew 5.13-20
10.45	Isaiah 58.1-9a; Psalm 112.1-9; 1 Corinthians 2.1-12; Matthew 5.13-20
Tues 11th	10.30 1 Kings 8.22-23,27-30; Psalm 84.1-10; Mark 7.1-13
Sun 19th	3rd Sunday before Lent
10.45	Deuteronomy 30.15-end; Psalm 119.1-8; 1 Corinthians 3.1-9; Matthew 5.21-37
Tues 18th	10.30 James 1.12-18; Psalm 94.12-18; Mark 8.14-21
Sun 23rd	2nd Sunday before Lent
8.30	Genesis 1.1-2.3; Matthew 6.25-end
10.45	Genesis 1.1-2.3; Matthew 6.25-end Worship For All
Tues 25th	10.30 James 4.1-10; Psalm 55.7-9,24; Mark 9.30-37

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January Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Cock. 3, Shackles. 8, Play. 9, Paradise. 11, Faithfully. 14, Enmesh. 15, Unseen. 17, Armageddon. 20, Benjamin. 21, Beri. 22, Capitals. 23, USPG.
DOWN: 1, Cup of tea. 2, Charisma. 4, Heap up. 5, Challenged. 6, Lois. 7, Slew. 10, The Servant. 12, Lewdness. 13, Unending. 16, Daniel. 18, BBFC. 19, Snap.

CHURCH FINANCES

January 2014 Weekly Giving

Date	Sunday	Open plate	Envelopes	Total	Shortfall (Assuming £10 per adult pw needed for running the church)
29 Dec	Christmas 1	£23.40	£314.79	£338.19	
5 Jan	Epiphany	£12.00	£328.00	£340.00	
12 Jan	Epiphany 1	£23.47	£274.11	£297.58	
19 Jan	Epiphany 2	£30.08	£325.50	£355.58	
26 Jan	Epiphany 3	£40.73	£166.56	£207.29	
		Standing orders etc		£804.00	
Monthly Total				£2342.64	£1157.36

Parish share

Many people have asked what is the Parish Share, and how does it affect St George's.

As well as supporting the work of St George's, a part of our donations go toward the costs of the 700 ministers working in diocese. Support for clergy includes their ongoing education and other support costs. About 300 clergy also have housing, pensions and an income called a stipend to be paid for.

Some of our donations may go towards supporting the 130 less well off churches in the diocese. A system called Parish Share calculates how much money wealthier churches should donate. This idea is called mutual support and is a key feature of Church of England finances where giving and spirituality meet.

For the first time in many years, in 2013 St George's has managed to pay its Parish Share in full – a total of £24,243. This is as well as the money we have to pay for insurance, to the utility companies etc for heating and lighting.

For 2014 our Parish Share has decreased slightly, but the hard work starts all over again to try to raise the amount allocated for this year's Parish Share of £24,072.

It would make things easier for our treasurer, Juliana, if we could manage to pay by standing order, so that, knowing how much money would be coming in every month, this would help her to budget for the expenditures. Please think about it and have a word with her if you think you could help in any way.

Thank you all once again.

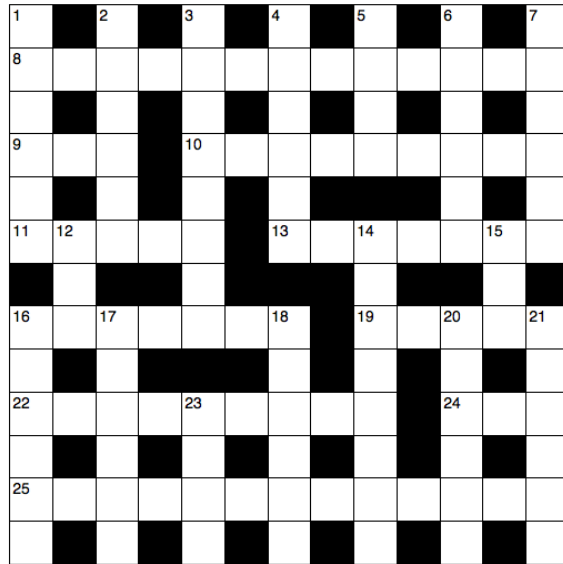
Philip

Some dates for your diary - February 2014

Sun	2nd	Presentation of Christ in the Temple - Candlemas	
		10.45a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
		12.30p.m.	Holy Baptism x 2
Mon	3rd	7.00p.m.	New Seekers
Tues	4th	<i>Gilbert, founder of the Gilbertine Order, 1189</i>	
		10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
Thurs	6th	9.30a.m.	Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
Sun	9th	4th Sunday before Lent	
		8.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.45a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
Tues	11th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		7.45p.m.	Knit & Natter (Craft Group)
Thurs	13th	9.30a.m.	Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
Sun	16th	3rd Sunday before Lent	
		10.45a.m.	Parish Eucharist & Junior Church
		12.30p.m.	Holy Baptism x 2
Tues	18th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		7.45p.m.	Knit & Natter (Craft Group)
Thurs	20th	9.30a.m.	Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs
Sat	22nd	2.00p.m.to 4.00p.m. Fair Trade Afternoon Tea/Coffee Fortnight	
Sun	23rd	2nd Sunday before Lent	
		8.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		10.45a.m.	Worship For All
Tues	25th	10.30a.m.	Holy Communion
		8.00p.m.	Parochial Church Council Meeting
Thurs	27th	9.30a.m.	Time 4 Fun 0 - 5yrs

For more information please go to our website www.stg.org.uk

February Crossword



Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8), **9** 'Burn it in a wood fire on the — heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch and the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2), **13** Clay pit (anag.) (7), **16** Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to — your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5), **22** David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On — — let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7), **24** Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) **25** How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6), **2** One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle by the Philistines (1 Samuel 4:11) (6), **3** Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8), **4** 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but - him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6), **5** One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4), **6** Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4), **7** God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' — salt to — your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3),

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1), **14** 'All day long they twist my words; they are always — to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8), **15** The crowd's reaction to Jesus bringing back to life a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3), **16** Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6), **17** How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6), **18** What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2),

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6), **21** Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to — (Genesis 8:5) (6), **23** Jesus gave the Twelve the power and authority to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)



The Bitter Truth about Chocolate

David Marshall, inventor of The Real Easter Egg, reveals the bitter truth about chocolate.

A couple of weeks ago I met Joe Osman, the man who helped invent Fairtrade chocolate. Back in the early 1980s he was part of an economic movement which worked with sugar and cocoa growers helping them to develop their farms and offering them a fair price for their produce. They christened the idea 'fair trade' and they changed the world.

Talking of names, the Latin name for the fruit from which chocolate comes is *Theobroma Cacao*, which translates as *Bitter fruit of God*. Bitter because *Cacao* (pronounced ca-cow) is more bitter than lemons. But the bitterness of chocolate is far deeper than its taste and it is a shocking story.

More valuable than gold...

When Columbus 'discovered' South America in 1502 the welcoming natives brought him *Cacao* beans. To them the beans were a highly prized super fruit - full of fat, containing 4000 times more antioxidants than blue berries and, when turned into a sugared chocolate drink, gave those drinking it a choccy high. It was highly addictive and had a mysterious ritualistic role within Mayan and Aztec cultures. Its mysterious properties were so great that the Catholic church ruled that chocolate could be eaten on fasting Fridays but should be given up for Lent. So chocolate has always been associated in the European mind with high value and mystical powers.

Sexism and racism

The Spanish ruled large parts of South America from 1521 and the country adopted Catholicism widely. There is a famous story of a bishop who, when visiting his new colonial diocese, discovered the women so addicted to the chocolate that they drank it during church services. He banned the drinking of chocolate during mass so the women stopped going to church. Eventually, the women sent the bishop a gift of poisoned chocolate and that was the end of him!

This famous story is significant because it is the first time that the addictive, mystical power of chocolate is linked, by authors, specifically to women. This is still an influence on how chocolate is marketed today - think about the Cadbury's Flake adverts. The poisoned bishop story is also the first time that racism enters the history of chocolate because it was said that only 'ethnic women' were addicted to chocolate - not white Europeans. Stereotypical images of black people were later used to sell chocolate in

Europe - the golliwog and other offensive imagery was used extensively on packaging and in some countries still is.

Slavery and trade

As demand for the South American drink grew across the chocolate houses of 17th century Europe the Church helped the *Cacao* growers organise their farms into plantations. These quickly became forced labour slave plantations. The *Cacao* tree was exported to Africa and plantations developed on the Ivory Coast. The most bitter truth about chocolate is that it provided the economic template for what was to eventually to become the Transatlantic Slave Trade and played a role in developing the unjust economic structures operating in the world today. It is a sad fact that by the time the Transatlantic Slave Trade was abolished it was no longer needed as these unfair economic structures were in place. Freed slaves had few rights, did not own the farms and, if they did, growers were given very little for their

Cacao and other goods such as cotton, tea, sugar and coffee. Today on the Ivory Coast millions of *Cacao* farmers still live in poverty. The Fairtrade system works by cutting through the legacy of unfair economic structures. It guarantees growers a minimum price for their goods, regardless of market trends and growers receive a cash premium to invest in their community. Companies like Traidcraft take the idea further, working with growers to empower, improve and develop stable trading communities. It is a difficult battle, though. Slavery was discovered to be operating in chocolate farms as recently as last year. It is also still acceptable for manufacturers to offer only a small percentage of goods that are labelled Fairtrade. And brands such as Rain Forest Alliance, which some argue offer little economic benefit, are now competing with Fairtrade and there is a risk of consumer confusion.

Meaningful Chocolate

Well, now you know the bitter truth of chocolate-its connection to sexism, racism, slavery and its role in developing unjust trade. When shopping, remember the bitter legacy of chocolate and buy Fairtrade or order through Traidcraft. Remember also Joe Osman and the early pioneers of fair trade chocolate who proved that the way we shop can change the world.

+++++

Fairtrade fortnight Feb 23-March 9

Afternoon tea at St George's is Sat 22 Feb. Fairtrade products will be on sale Sat 22 Feb—Sun 23 Feb and orders will be taken for Fairtrade Easter Eggs @ £3.99

Join The Real Easter Egg 2014 campaign



Out of the 80 million chocolate Easter Eggs sold each year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one with the Easter story in the box.

The Real Easter Egg campaign aims to establish giving a Real Easter Egg as a tradition.

To date we have sold 450,000. The supermarkets still don't stock enough, so last year more than 120,000 were sent through the post directly to churches.

So get your church to place an order, visit a local shop or a supermarket.

To see who is stocking them visit www.realeasteregg.co.uk

This year there's even more choice

Original Real Easter Egg (150g RRP £3.99)

The original Real Easter Egg has had a complete re-design and has 3 crosses on the box, comes with Mark's Resurrection text in the lid, a 24 page Easter storybook, milk chocolate egg (125g), pack of our Chunky Buttons (25g) and a donation to Traidcraft Exchange.

Special Edition /Premium (280g RRP £9.99)

The special edition premium Real Easter Egg has Celtic crosses with a gold foil on the box, comes with a Holy Land Olive wood holding cross, extra thick milk chocolate egg (180g), Meaningful milk Chocolate orange bar (100g) and a special Easter version of the Easter Story.