



He is
RISEN



'April – The Month of Hope and Love'



Many people have been moved by the actions of Arnaud Beltrame during the recent terrorist incident in Trebes, France in March. He allowed himself to be exchanged for a hostage and in so doing was fatally wounded, dying the next day in hospital. In a memorial service in Paris on 28 March BBC News reported the French President paying tribute:

"To be willing to die so that innocent people continue to live, this is the heart of a soldier's promise," Mr Macron said as he delivered a eulogy.

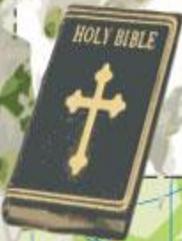




Photo: ksdk.com

To be ready to give your own life because nothing is more important than the life of a citizen, this is the ultimate effect of the transcendence he bore.

Let us continue to remember Col. Beltrame's life with gratitude and pray for his

family and colleagues. Whilst we do that I can't escape the fact that Col. Beltrame's actions echo so much the heart of the Easter message. The innocent Jesus dying for sins and actions of others. The innocent victim giving himself as a hostage so that we could go free. We the hostages of sin and brokenness are set free because Jesus surrenders himself on the cross.

But why? Col. Beltrame did his duty to protect the innocent and helpless. Jesus gave so much to protect and save the guilty and helpless and he did this knowingly and willingly.



But why? The answer is, **LOVE**. Love is the **HEART** of the Easter message and our motivation to love God and His world in return.



But why? **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”** John's Gospel chapter 3 verse 16. Whoever, means every one of us,

Bless you, Revd David.



Alyson Bradney

Churchwardens' News



Neil Harris

Happy Easter to you all. Hopefully Spring has arrived now. As we said in the last edition we will be starting work parties one night a month to keep the Church and Churchyard in good order. Please check Pew News each week for details, we normally meet between 7 and 9 pm and then have a 'Shandy' across the road.

Following the concert in church, we raised over **£500.00** for church funds, so a big thank you to John and the choir and musicians for a brilliant evening of music.

If you can come up with any fundraising ideas, please let us know.

Finally, we have a new PCC from the **7th April** and we could do with a couple of new members. If you are really interested and love your Church and can spare one night a month for meetings, please see us for a nomination form.

Your Church needs **YOU!!!**

Love and Best Wishes,

Alyson Bradney (850429) and *Neil Harris* (357174)



**Quarterly News from
The Treasurer
Dave Thomas**



Income and Expenditure 2018: Oxon Church

In 2017, we managed to again pay our Parish Share (the money we pay to Lichfield Diocese) of **£47,703**, but only just! For 2018 our Parish Share has again been increased by **3.5%** and stands at **£49,373**.

We anticipate that our expenditure will be in the region of **£70,500** in 2018, not allowing for any unforeseen problems. We anticipate that some **£22,500** will come from HM Revenue and Customs (Gift Aid return), our various fundraising events, 100 Club, fees for weddings and funerals, one-off donations and hire of the Old School Hall.

This will leave just under **£48,000 (£922 per week)** which we will need to find from our congregation through Direct Debit, Standing Orders, Envelopes and the Plate Collection. For the first **10 weeks** of the year our income from the congregation is **£7,990** which although excellent is somewhat lower than the target of **£9,223**.

I will continue to update our position to you all every three months in the Oxon Oracle.

Dave Thomas (Treasurer)

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