

There are two other famous elements of life at Buckfast: one is the eponymous tonic wine, which has a reputation in Scotland for contributing to alcoholism. The monks brought the recipe with them from France, and although they no longer make it at the monastery, it is made under a licence granted by the monks.

The other famous piece of Buckfast history is less contentious: it's the abbey's bees, which for many years were cared for by its legendary beekeeper Brother Adam Kehrlé. He was put in charge of them in 1919 and continued in his job until 1990 – he died six years later, aged ninety-nine. Shortly before he arrived at the abbey, most of the bee population had been wiped out by a disease. Brother Adam's contribution, which was to make him one of the most important bee experts on the planet, was to breed a harder type of bee which became known as the Buckfast Queen. He travelled the world for research and to share his knowledge with other enthusiasts, and his legacy is marked at Buckfast with an exhibition and, of course, the modern bee community of forty hives, which today are kept for research and education purposes rather than honey.

For more information or to plan a visit, see www.buckfast.org.uk

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
The Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

To him be glory and power
for all the ages of eternity, alleluia, alleluia.

FIRST READING Acts 10:34. 37-43

PSALM Psalm 117

RESPONSE This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Or Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
"His love has no end." **R.**
2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. **R.**

3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. **R.**

SECOND READING Colossians 3:1-4

Or 1 Corinthians 5:6-8

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed;
let us celebrate the feast then, in the Lord.
Alleluia!**

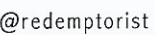
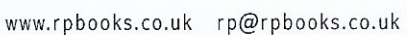
GOSPEL John 20:1-9

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Christ our Passover has been sacrificed, alleluia,
therefore let us keep the feast with the
unleavened bread
of purity and truth, alleluia, alleluia.**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Acts 4:32-35
1 John 5:1-6
John 20:19-31



THINKING FAITH

MAKING A MONASTERY



The first monks arrived in Buckfast, in Devon, to establish an abbey more than a thousand years ago. The existence of the community there today has been called one of the most moving stories of English Catholicism – but as anyone who's read Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall* novels or studied history knows, it's not been an uninterrupted journey.

It was 1018 when the monks arrived; originally they were Benedictines, but later the community followed the Cistercian rule. The numbers fluctuated, but in 1539 Mantel's protagonist, Thomas Cromwell, charged by Henry VIII to close down the monasteries, sent a team to Buckfast. After its dissolution the land remained empty until, in 1800, a local merchant built a mansion on the site.

It was the existence of this building that proved key to the monks' return; because in 1872 the then owner, wanting to sell, wrote to the Catholic weekly magazine *The Tablet* to float the idea that, somewhere in England, there might be a community of monks who would like to live at Buckfast. That week's *Tablet* was delivered to a community of Benedictines in Ramsgate in Kent, who had been forced out of France because of anti-clericalism and were in search of a new home. They were delighted with the idea of a move to Devon, and in October that year they arrived. The plan was to rebuild a new abbey on the site of the original one, and leading architect Frederick Walters was commissioned to draw up plans, taking inspiration from the ruins of other dissolved monasteries including Fountains and Kirkstall in Yorkshire.

But it's the actual building of Buckfast that is one of the highlights of the story: because the monks, working in small groups of four or six at a time, built it themselves. It took them some years to complete, but it was finally consecrated in 1932, the service to mark the event was broadcast live on the BBC. If you visit the

Catholic heritage in Britain

Easter is traditionally, for many, a time when we think about planning trips and holidays over the weeks and months ahead. Today in *Sunday Bulletin* we begin a new series in which Joanna Moorhead looks at places that tell the story of our Catholic heritage in Britain, starting with a visit to Buckfast Abbey in Devon.

4 APRIL 2021

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE
RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK!