

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

St John's: A place of worship where all are welcome

## Covid Guidance

Mask wearing is no longer mandatory however, as the number of Covid cases in our area is still high, members of our congregation may still like to wear them for the comfort and safety of others. Please see our website for further updates. <https://ashtonhayes.church>

## Church Services in April

### 3rd April:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.30am LEGO All-age Service (CW)  
4.00pm Light up a Life (CW)  
6.30pm Evensong (CW)

### 10th April: Palm Sunday

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.30am Morning Worship (CW)  
& Sunday Club

### 14th April: Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion

### 15th April: Good Friday

2.00pm 'An hour by the Cross'

### 17th April: Easter Sunday

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)  
10.30am All-Age Communion (CW)

### 24th April:

9.00am Matins (BCP)  
10.30am Holy Communion (CW)

BCP - Book of Common Prayer

CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

## Contacts

### Vicar:

Phil Weston 01829 752272  
vicar@ashtonhayes.church

### Readers:

Alan Downen 01829 751174  
alan@ashtonhayes.church  
Philip Goodall 01829 752130  
philip@ashtonhayes.church

### Pastoral Worker:

Margaret Papworth 01829 759086  
margaret@ashtonhayes.church

### Churchwardens:

Hilary Clegg 01829 458453  
Alan Goodall 01829 752658

### Church Bookings:

Linda Morley 01829 759029  
bookings@ashtonhayes.church

### Safeguarding Issues:

Phil Weston 01829 752272  
Margaret Papworth 01829 759086  
safeguarding@ashtonhayes.church

## A View from the Vicarage

All of us have watched the news with horror over recent weeks, following the Russian army's invasion of Ukraine. Countless innocent lives have been lost, and the destruction inflicted upon the towns and cities of Ukraine has been immense. Millions have fled the country, creating a twenty-first century refugee crisis in the very heart of Europe. Many brave Ukrainian men and women have responded to the Russian invasion by taking up arms to defend their land and their loved ones. They have left their ordinary civilian lives behind and enlisted in their nation's territorial defence forces. An unknown number have already made the ultimate sacrifice on the battlefield.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has described the invasion of Ukraine as "an act of great evil" and called on members of the Church of England to pray for "an urgent ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian forces". Christian Aid have also set up a Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis Appeal, which can be supported financially via their website: [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

So many of the events of recent weeks resonate with the events of the first Easter two thousand years ago. An innocent man, Jesus of Nazareth, lost his life at the hands of evil men – killed by soldiers from Rome, rather than Russia. The Bible explains that Christ willingly made the ultimate sacrifice for the world he loved, so that every man, woman and child could be given the chance to enjoy peace and reconciliation with God. Nor did Jesus stay dead. His resurrection on the first Easter Sunday was a great victory over the grave, a conquest over all the forces of evil in this fallen world.

Watching the news at the moment can be a depressing experience. But the message of Easter is that death and evil do not have the last word. Christ has risen, Christ has conquered, and we look forward to the day when he has promised to make all things new.

Happy Easter,  
Phil Weston

## In Memory

The funerals of Andrew Stark and James Craig Duncan both took place at St. John's on Friday 4th March. We would like to express our sincere condolences to Andrew's and James' family and friends.

## News

**Bible Study at St John's** — Our current series of studies will soon come to an end but we shall be starting again in May with a 5-week series looking in more detail at the Book of Acts which is the second volume of Luke's research. The first volume (the Gospel) is an account of what Jesus began to do and this second volume is what Jesus continued to do after his ascension. Luke was a travelling companion with the apostle Paul and he wrote about the spread of the gospel to the nations that he was involved in. Studies are held via Zoom and for more information contact [alan@ashtonhayes.church](mailto:alan@ashtonhayes.church).



Light  
up a life

*Remember a loved one*

**Sunday, 3rd April  
at 4.00 pm**

During this special service we shall be remembering those people whom we have loved and lost and lighting a candle in their memory.

*Beautiful memories  
silently kept  
of those that we loved  
and will never forget.*

**Pause for Thought** by Alan Downen

**He is not here; he has risen!**

**Matthew 28:6**

That short phrase is central to the Christian message of hope. Just a couple of days before it was uttered, Jesus had endured the most terrible and painful of all deaths but on that first Easter Sunday, when Mary Magdalene and 'the other Mary' went to look at the tomb, they discovered that his body was no longer there and an angel told them that he had risen: death itself had been defeated. The story continues by telling us that the women were overjoyed and rushed off to tell the disciples the Good News.

The resurrection represents the greatest revelation of God's plan of salvation in history, and yet it remains true that no one actually saw the body of Jesus Christ coming to life in the silence of the tomb. His death and ascension were both public spectacles which many people witnessed, but the moment of the resurrection was essentially private and hidden; there was no public display of life entering into the dead body of Jesus.

So, why did he not rise in the presence of a crowd and put all doubt to flight? Well, we operate every day in our courts with the principle that truth may be established on the testimony of eyewitnesses and here that testimony is important. Some say that that a secret resurrection now places us all on the same level: no one is put at any advantage. All of us must take this doctrine on the basis of faith. The women had to trust the angels; the disciples had to trust the women; and now, we must trust the witness of the disciples.

Easter is a truly joyous occasion, a time for celebration after a period of darkness and so we respond, "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!"

**Celebrate Easter at St. John's!**

**Palm Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> April**

**9.00am**

**Holy Communion (BCP)**

**10.30am**

**Morning Worship**

**Maundy Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**7.30pm**

**Holy Communion**

**Good Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> April**

**2.00pm**

**'An Hour at the Cross' service**

**Easter Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> April**

**9.00am**

**Holy Communion (BCP)**

**10.30am**

**All Age Communion**



**St JOHN THE EVANGELIST**  
ASHTON HAYES

**Easter Egg Collection**

If you have bought Easter Eggs for our *Save the Family Easter Appeal* please take them along to the Community



Shop before the 9th April or bring them along to our Palm Sunday service on 10th April at 10.30am. We will then deliver them to Cotton Hall in time for Easter. Thank you.

**Walk of Witness**

We will be holding our regular *Walk of Witness* from St Cuthbert's Church, Mouldsworth to St John's starting at 10am on Good Friday (15th April). All are welcome to join us for this walk, which will also involve brief pauses for Bible readings, prayers and reflection. Refreshments will be served at St John's following the walk

**100 Club**

The winning numbers in February's draw were  
**9 21 42 33**



**The next Kintsugi Hope Wellbeing Group will start in St John's Church on Monday 25th April at 4:15pm**

The course is designed by a charity, committed to people's wellbeing, exploring topics including honesty, anxiety, loss, self-acceptance, confidence and self-worth. It is a safe supportive group with an attitude of humility and care – not to judge, fix or rescue, but to come alongside one another and discover and understand the treasures in our scars. We are all broken in some way, but we can all learn from each other so make space and time for yourself and come and join us. Tea, coffee and cakes are available on arrival and each session lasts approximately an hour and a quarter.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Margaret Papworth by e-mail: [margaretpapworth@icloud.com](mailto:margaretpapworth@icloud.com) or by text: 07803 242783. Booking by 19th April is essential.

For more information about the charity visit: <https://www.kintsugihope.com>.

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**St John's Website**

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