

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

Church Services in April

2nd April: Palm Sunday

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am All-Age Service (CW)
6.30pm Evensong (BCP)

6th-8th April:

See special services and events notices included elsewhere in this newsletter.

9th April: Easter Day

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

16th April:

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

23rd April:

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

30th April:

9.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
10.30am Morning Worship (CW)

BCP - Book of Common Prayer

CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

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A View from the Vicarage

As dawn broke on the first Easter morning, Jesus' first disciples were hiding in their homes. His friends were frightened and fearful for the future. At best, they were worried about their livelihoods now that their Master had been taken from them. At worst, they were fearing for their lives. Would the authorities want to arrest and execute them, just as they had done to Jesus? Were their names next on the list?

But with the resurrection of Jesus their emotions were transformed. With the discovery of the empty tomb and the appearances of their risen master, their fear turned to hope, their despair turned to joy. And just like those disciples on the first Easter morning, any fears we ourselves face can also be overcome. Because the resurrection of Jesus Christ remains as real and relevant today as it was 2000 years ago. Things like death, disease and redundancy do not have the last word for anyone who chooses to follow Christ. He says to us the same words he spoke to his startled disciples on the first Easter Sunday - "Do not be afraid!"

On that momentous morning God had breathed new life into Christ's corpse. In the most amazing miracle ever, a mortal body became immortal. And the Bible says that this transformation of Jesus' body is a wonderful foretaste of the resurrection that everyone who follows him can look forward to. A glorious prototype of the life they will one day enjoy in a wholly renewed creation.

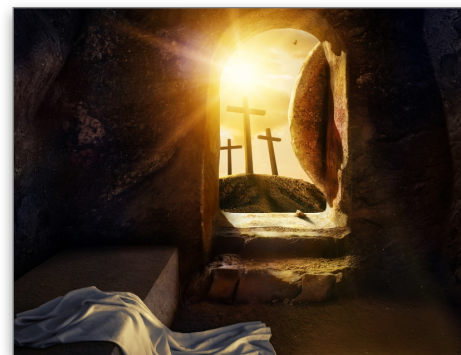
The resurrection of Jesus was not a hoax or a hallucination, but the most precious moment in human history. So please do celebrate with us at St. John's this Easter!

God bless,
Phil Weston

In Memory

A Service of Thanksgiving was held at St. John's on 15th March for Pippa Milne. She had touched so many lives the church was full and we would like to express our own sincere condolences to her family and friends.

Notices





St John's 0-90's Café

Our all-age café will be open to welcome you again on Thursday 20th April, from 2.30 to 4.30pm. All are welcome to join us for free drinks, chat, play and cake!

Easter Fun!

Crafts Café

...and an Egg Hunt!

2 'til 4pm
Saturday 8th April
All ages welcome



Free!

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ASHTON HAYES

Bible Studies

— Our relaxed but informative studies will continue after Easter when we shall be looking at the Book of Revelation using another of the Gateway Series of study guides. Contact Vicar Phil Weston or Alan Downen.

Pause for Thought by Alan Dowen

'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee. Luke 24:5-6



Last month I wrote about failure but this month, I would like to address the balance and ask, "What does success look like?"

I hope some of you had a chance to watch Channel 4's 'The Piano', if you didn't it is still available on catch-up TV. In the second programme of the series, and again in the final concert, we met Lucy: a 13 year old girl who carries a duplicate copy of chromosome 16. Because of this she has severe learning difficulties, she finds it difficult to communicate and she has been blind from birth. If there were no more to her than that she would probably attract nothing other than sympathy and pity but ... listen to her play the piano (*please ... listen to her play the piano*) and you will be filled with admiration, awe and wonder, and probably even find a tear in your eye, because when she plays, she is truly amazing and her music is beautiful. Sometimes, incredible success appears from the most unlikely of places!

2,000 years ago a man from Nazareth had spent no more than three years teaching others about God's Kingdom and healing those in need: his whole demeanour had been that of a servant. But he was then taken, stripped, ridiculed and beaten before being executed in the most humiliating and painful manner leaving his followers bemused and afraid. Surely this is a comprehensive definition of failure and deserves no more than our sympathy and pity and yet, just three days later, that same man's tomb was found to be empty. Within hours, he reappeared to his disciples and 'opened their minds'. He had been transformed from a servant into a king and apparent failure had, yet again, been transformed into success. You see, it is always worth delving a little deeper before deciding what failure or success may look like.

Special Services at St. John's for Easter

- ♦ **10.30am, 2nd April**
Palm Sunday all age service.
Our annual distribution of palm crosses at the start of Holy Week.
- ♦ **7.30pm, 6th April**
Maundy Thursday Holy Communion.
A reenactment of the Last Supper as we look to the cross.
- ♦ **10.00am, 7th April**
Good Friday 'Walk of Witness'
Starting at St.Cuthbert's and finishing at St. John's for refreshments including Hot Cross Buns.
- ♦ **2pm, 7th April**
Good Friday 'Hour at the Cross'.
An hour of prayer, reflection and music led by the choir as we spend time together at the Foot of the Cross.
- ♦ **10.30am, 9th April**
Easter Sunday all age communion.
A joyous celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

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Coronation Service



On Sunday 7th May at 10.30am we will be having a special service to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. All are welcome to join us for this historic occasion, which will be followed by refreshments — including a Coronation cake!



100 Club

The winning numbers in February's draw were
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Celebrate with us and get in touch today to see how we can make your day, event or occasion extra special.

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