

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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

Church Services in April

6th April:

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

13th April:

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

17th April: Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Holy Communion (CW)

18th April: Good Friday

10.00am Walk of Witness
2.00pm An Hour by the Cross

20th April: Easter Sunday

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

27th April:

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

BCP - Book of Common Prayer

CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

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Contact Us

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In Memory

Gladys Cox, of Peel Hall Lane, died on 1st March, and her funeral was on Thursday 27th March. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends.

In *NftP*, we try to commemorate all of our parishioners who have died but sometimes, funerals take place away from the parish and we do not have any information. When this happens please send the details to Alan Downen if you would like your loved one to be included.

View from the Vicarage

I wonder what you consider to be the most momentous event in history? Maybe the first man on the moon? Or perhaps the abolition of the slave trade or the fall of the Berlin Wall? All were important events with great significance. But the events of the first Easter 2,000 years ago beat all of these hands down. A man who died a criminal's death on a cruel Roman cross rose back to life three days later, appeared to more than 500 people over the next forty days, and then ascended into Heaven. If true, this would be a unique and unprecedented moment in human history.

But did that first Easter really happen? I haven't space to recount all the historical, circumstantial and psychological evidence in favour of Jesus' resurrection, but to quote one former High Court judge, Charles Darling (a man used to examining evidence): "No intelligent jury in the world would fail to bring in a verdict that the resurrection story is true". And, of course, countless Christians over history can testify to a life transforming personal relationship with the risen Jesus.

But does it matter? Is the resurrection of Jesus a minor historical curiosity, of interest only to those who consider themselves 'spiritual' or 'religious'? On the contrary, the resurrection represents God's seal of approval on everything that Jesus said and did, including his call to every man, woman and child to follow him. The resurrection is also confirmation of Christ's finished work on the Cross, a powerful sign that his crucifixion secured the forgiveness of sins for all who would put their faith in him. And the events of Easter equate to a victory over death, compelling evidence of Christ's ability to grant everlasting life to anyone who trusts in him.

So, as we celebrate Easter together this month, we should remind ourselves of Christ's rightful claim to our loyalty and love. We should be reassured by the knowledge that our guilt and shame really can be removed by him. And we can look to the future with hope, knowing that Christ has conquered the grave.

Happy Easter!
Phil Weston



News

Churchwarden Elections — At our recent Annual Parishioner's Meeting, Hilary Clegg stood down from being churchwarden after six years of service. Diane Eldridge and Aiton Marr were duly elected to serve for the next 12 months. We would like to express our thanks to Hilary for all that she has achieved during the last six years and to Diane and Aiton for their willingness to serve.

Open Church — The church building will be open during Saturdays and Sundays from roughly 9am until 5pm for any parishioners who would like to access the building to have a look around or for private prayer, or simply a few minutes of peace and quiet. You are also invited to sign our visitors book to record your visit and enter any prayer requests you may have for yourselves or for family and friends.

Thy Kingdom Come — is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus.

What started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. This year's resources and further information can be found at the following address.

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/new-2025>

Celebrate with us this Easter!

Palm Sunday — 13th April

9.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am Morning Worship

Maundy Thursday — 17th April

7.30pm Holy Communion

Good Friday — 18th April

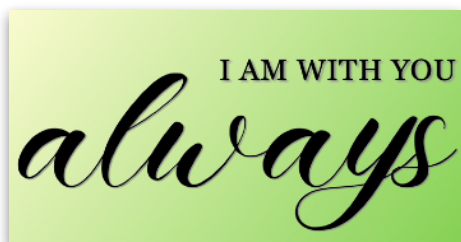
10.00am Walk of Witness
from St Cuthbert's Mouldsworth to St John's
2.00pm 'An hour by the Cross'
Music and Meditation

Easter Sunday — 20th April

9.00am BCP Holy Communion
10.30am All-Age Communion

Pause for Thought

by Alan Downen



"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Isaiah 41:10

Our world today seems to be becoming increasingly taxing on everyone's emotions and wellbeing. We are caught in the seemingly never-ending treadmill of life, and the many demands for our attention.

The USA, which has for so many years acted as the world's peacekeeper, seems to have become more erratic and it is hard not to be despondent when we read about wars and the struggles of so many around the world. We are burdened by the stories about natural disasters, global warming and those who are having to fight daily for their basic needs and God-given freedoms. When we then add into that mix the struggles now being faced here in the United Kingdom, with child poverty and the demands on food banks on the increase, we may often become disheartened. Yet struggles are nothing new for humanity. Darkness, tribulation and conflict have existed in our world ever since the early chapters of Genesis when Cain killed Abel.

For some, anxiety is high, especially if they listen to those who love to remind us that *[they think!]* the end is near. Yet, we know from scripture that no one except the Father knows when the end will come. Focusing on the unknown only increases our worries and concerns, and distracts us from the abundant life that has been promised to us all by our Lord Jesus Christ. But it would be wrong to ignore the world's problems altogether, after all we are called to help our neighbours whenever we can. However, it is equally wrong to allow those issues to demoralise and defeat us.

Remember, in his letter to the Philippians, Paul wrote, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

So take heart and do not fear, because God is always with us — even in the dark times.



Our next Messy Church will be held in church on **Sunday, 11th May at 4pm.** At that event, in addition to the usual food, songs and Bible stories we will be building a Bug Hotel which will then be installed in the churchyard. Why not come along and help?



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St John's Café



Join us on Thursday, 24th April, between 2.30-4.30pm for our All-Age Café. Everyone is welcome to join us for a free cup of tea, coffee or glass of squash and a slice of cake whilst you have a chance to meet up with and have a chat (or play!) with friends.

Opening Hours
Monday - Saturday
10am - 5pm
Late night Thursday
until 8pm.

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