

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

St John's – Focused on Christ, united in faith, serving our community
and a place of worship where all are welcome

Church Services in April

5th April: Easter Day

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

12th April:

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

19th April:

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

26th April:

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

A short service of **Morning Prayer** is held in church **every Wednesday morning at 9.00am**

BCP - Book of Common Prayer
CW - Common Worship (Modern Language)

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News

Easter Egg Appeal — A massive thank you to everyone who provided Easter eggs for the children in the care of *Save the Family* in response to our appeal. They have all been safely delivered and your generosity has made a real difference to those children at this time of year.



View from the Vicarage

In a world marked by conflict (especially in the Middle East over recent weeks) the celebration of Easter this month offers a real and compelling source of hope.

The events of the first Good Friday tell a familiar story about humanity's capacity for conflict and cruelty. Jesus' crucifixion was a product of injustice and violence - sinful realities sadly all too familiar from our 24-hour newsfeeds. Yet Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday was a triumph over the forces of evil and a conquest of death. The resurrection of Jesus teaches that despair is not the final word and that, by God's grace, hope can endure, even when situations seem dire. In our war-torn world, as well as in times of personal hardship, the death and resurrection of Jesus invites us to look beyond our immediate circumstances and to trust in the power of God to overcome evil, forgive sin and grant new life – both now and forever.

Moreover, the Easter experience of Jesus also points us to a new way of living. One in which we ourselves pursue reconciliation, offer forgiveness, and work towards justice. The events of the first Easter weekend certainly transformed Jesus' first disciples. After encountering their risen Lord they went from being a scared and fearful group of individuals to a bold and courageous church, proclaiming a message of forgiveness and new life to men and women from every nation. You see, the resurrection of Jesus is not merely a historical event but also a transformational reality with the power to change all who choose to follow him. So do please join with us at St. John's this Easter as we celebrate this great occasion once more.

Happy Easter!

Phil Weston



**Celebrate with us
at St John's Church
this Easter!**



Maundy Thursday, 2nd April 7.30pm Holy Communion

Good Friday, 3rd April

10am Walk of Witness

(from [St.Cuthbert's](#) to [St.John's](#))

2pm An Hour at the Cross

Easter Sunday, 5th April

9am Holy Communion

10.30am All Age Service

Pause for Thought

by Alan Downen



"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" 1 Corinthians 15:17

There's a moment in most people's lives when something happens that changes everything — not just a circumstance, but the way we see the world. Paul's words to the Corinthians point to exactly that kind of moment. He wasn't making a polite religious claim, he was saying, "if the resurrection didn't happen, none of this means anything, but if it did, everything is different."

Easter is a hinge point. It's not just an annual tradition or a reason to gather the family around a table for a meal — although those things matter too. It is the claim that death is not the final word! The things we grieve for, the hopes we've set aside or buried, the relationships we feel are broken beyond repair — none of them are beyond God's reach.

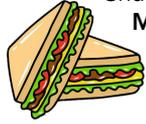
For our community, that matters in very practical ways: it means we don't have to pretend. We can sit with people during their most difficult moments because we believe those bad times are not the end of the story. We can be generous, take risks, forgive people who don't deserve it, all because we're living in the light of an event that turned out better than anyone could have expected: it also means we can hold grief and hope at the same time.

Easter doesn't ask us to pretend life isn't hard or that loss doesn't hurt, it simply says, "this isn't where things end." That's a quiet kind of courage and it's one we can carry with us into every ordinary week of the year.

This Easter, whatever weight you may be carrying on your shoulders, we'd love you to come and sit with us. No pressure, no performance — just a group of ordinary people gathering around an extraordinary story — one that changes absolutely everything.



Due to the Easter break, our next Messy Church will be on **Sunday, 10th**



May at 4pm and our activities will be held outside (weather permitting). This is an open invitation to children of all ages who are accompanied by an adult.



Why not come along and join in?



St John's Café

Our next afternoon café will take place on Thursday, 16th April, between 2.30 and 4.30pm for our for a free cup of tea, coffee or glass of squash, a slice of cake and a chance to meet up with neighbours and friends.

Opening Hours
Monday - Saturday
10am - 5pm
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