



Seeking to live out the love of God
– in all we do



April 2nd News and Worship

Welcome

Welcome to a special Easter edition of News and Worship. Included are details of the worship services back in church and there are two sets of Worship resources and Reflections for those worshipping at home (one for Good Friday & one for Easter Sunday). We tell the Easter story using lego, duplo and assorted toy box friends and there is poetry, art and Church news and that's not forgetting the Prayer Diary and prayer requests.

Vicar's Thoughts

The events of Holy Week and Easter are a little bit like a roller coaster ride... it all starts very gently with Palm Sunday but, before you know it, speed gathers and we are racing at top speed through the twists and turns of Last Supper, prayer in the garden, betrayal, trial, denial, sentence, crucifixion, death then resurrection, before gently coming to a pause in the familiarity of the inn on the road to Emmaus.

I wonder, on that first Easter Sunday after they had encountered the risen Jesus, how many of the disciples hoped in their hearts, for a slightly quieter ride, that everything would go back to normal. That everything would return to how things used to be and that they would travel around with Jesus teaching, doing healing and casting out demons. There would be parties to attend and crowds to feed, debates with Scribes and Pharisees and the annual trip to Jerusalem to turn over the tables in the Temple.

In their heads the disciples knew that there was no going back to normal - the resurrection changes everything. There could be no anonymously dropping into a village, no getting away from the crowds, no escaping the 'how' or 'what was it like?' questions from the crowds. That was without the further problem of how the authorities would react and whether the Roman occupiers or the religious leaders would decide to have a *second go* at killing Jesus. The resurrected Jesus' ministry to, and with, the disciples is consequently *very* different.

I wonder if we are a bit like the disciples, when it comes to the pandemic? Maybe thinking in our hearts everything will go back to normal but knowing in our heads everything is changed. Of course the big difference between the two is, that the resurrection of Jesus changes everything for good where as the pandemic doesn't - it has changed many things for the worse. It is in to this changed world that we are called, as the church to live out the love of God.

So how do we do this? One of the characteristics of being Christians, being resurrection people, is we bring future hope into the present. We can confidently declare in all that we say and all we do, that there is nothing to be feared in change, because the best is yet to come.

As St Paul writes in those wonderful words describing the implications of Christ's Resurrection for us:

"Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed." 1 Cor 15:51-52

Church and Community News

We are back in Church for worship



A few reminders and some updates below:

Traffic light system for services

All our Services carry a traffic light colour to denote the level of potential risk (all our services also meet both the Church of England and Government requirements).

There are two reasons for using the traffic light system:

1. To ensure those who are most *vulnerable* attend the most *safe* services.
2. And importantly so that those who are *not* at risk, particularly families with children, are not put off attending out of their concern for the well-being of others.

Red Services Will have children present who do not need to wear masks. There will be action songs, there will be movement and the worship band will provide sung worship. Those with medical mask exemptions may attend.

Orange Services Have no singing but there is music and there is movement and consumables (as the Government describes Holy Communion) are shared. Those with medical mask exemptions can attend this service.

Green Services Are the most risk-reduced: these have no movement, no consumables and only those wearing masks are permitted to attend.

To help you decide which services to attend we will put this colour coding on our Service information.

Lego Easter Story

One of our lenten challenges was asking the children to produce a scene from the events of Holy Week using their lego and duplo. The children have risen to the challenge brilliantly and below is the Easter story in lego.



The Last Supper

Jesus and the disciples gathered in the upper room to share the Passover.

In a variation from tradition, there were peppers, eggs and carrot.



The Garden

After they had finished their meal the disciples and Jesus went to a garden to pray. The disciples kept falling asleep while Jesus prayed.



The Cross

The guards took Jesus and crucified him, the crowds nearby shouted at Jesus, *'If you are the King rescue yourself.'*



The Three Crosses

They crucified two thieves with Jesus, one on his left and one on his right



The Tomb

The house of Joseph of Arimathea, who helped move Jesus' body and allowed Jesus to be put in his family tomb. The tomb was sealed with a stone that rolled across the entrance.



The Empty Tomb

On that first Easter day, the stone is rolled away, Jesus is risen from the dead and the guard is sleeping on a warm rock nearby.

Thank you to Annabelle, Aidan, Alex, Harvey, Henry, Isabella, Oliver & Zoe.

A Poem for Easter The Body and the Blood

When all the words are spent, the doctrine done
We kneel before his throne to meet the One
Who for our souls the ultimate of pain
Embraced, and undefeated rose again.

His sacrifice is given without end
To warm all hearts, all broken lives to mend
He's with us now as he was with us then
Kneeling beside us as we kneel again.

Takes on His Cross the weight of all our sin
Carries the heaviness that locks us in
In him is all the lightness that we need
The grace, the glory, through his wounded deed.

The bread is Him, the wine His sacred blood
Reality suspended so we could
Taste His great gift in body and in blood,
Through His pure love share in that greatest good.

And so it's over, all is sacred now,
And yet when we are asked we can't say how
This holy and eternal glory given
Transforms us as we touch the edge of heaven.

Until we taste that sacred moment when
We share the body and the blood again.

Keith

Easter Story Trail & Scavenger Hunt

Our Church Primary school PTA have laid on a wonderful Easter activity and creative fundraiser. Entries for the Scavenger Hunt can be collected from the box in the Lych Gate and completed entries posted through the church letter box by the Parish Office. Can you find the 33 missing Easter pictures and gain entry to the winners prize draw?

PRESTBURY PRIMARY PTA

An Easter Themed Scavenger Hunt

Help us find 33 missing Easter Pictures scattered around the village and solve the missing words for your chance to win Base Pizzeria pizzas for 4 people, a Peter Rabbit toy and a luxury Easter Egg!

Hop to it and find all the pictures!

Entries to be collected from PTA box under the lych-gate outside St. Peter's Church and handed into Church post box by 18th April 2021. Prize draw will take place on 19th April by Mr. Capener, headmaster of Prestbury CofE Primary School

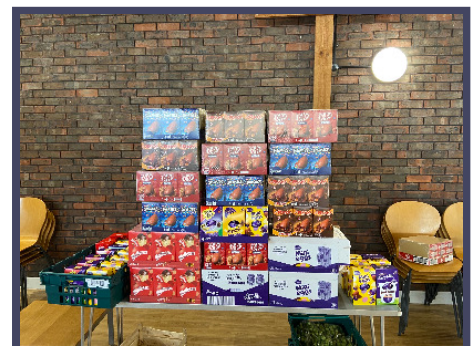
Please include your name, contact information and completed clues...

Any donations to Prestbury PTA would be greatly received via Pay Pal <https://paypal.me/pools/c/8xRfDpNQbz>

News From the Pantry

It's been very busy this week! Thank you so much to the Beaumont for their amazing collection through Prestbury Co-op and to all those who have donated. Our vegetable of the week was whole horseradishes from the amazing team at Fareshare!

It's been a whole year since our first food delivery through CoRe. We have gone from distribution of small bags of fruit and veg to



running a full Food Pantry, as can be seen in the photos and it has been such a journey! It's been amazing this week to be able to give every parent enough Easter eggs for each of their children. We couldn't have done that without all those who have generously donated eggs. Everyone's ongoing support has helped us develop into the Pantry we are today and we are so grateful. Thank you so much.



*Monique Angier
Pantry Manager*

Worship Resources

Service Details for Good Friday & Easter Sunday

	Service Leader	Preacher	Lesson Readers	Intercessor
Good Friday Family Service 10.00am St Peter's	Patrick	Patrick	Richard Curry Julie Fahy Paul Yandell Beverley Angier	Steve M
Good Friday Meditation 12.00noon St Peter's	Patrick	Steve M		
Easter Sunday Vigil & Fire 6.30am St Peter's	Patrick		Jim Leonard Carolyn Leonard Sue Coley Chris Sealy	
Easter Sunday Holy Communion 9.00am Core	Steve M	Steve		
Easter Sunday Family Service 9.30am St Peter's	Patrick	Patrick	Alastair White	
Easter Sunday Holy Communion 11.00am St Peter's	Patrick	Avril	Margaret Swinfin	Avril

This week's Worship

Tuesday 6th 9.00am Morning Prayer Zoom

Wednesday 8th 8.00pm Bible Study

Thursday 8th 9.00am Morning Prayer Zoom

Resources For Worship at Home

Good Friday Worship **The agony of the Cross**

Bible Readings

Isaiah 52:13-53

John 18:1- 19

Collect

Almighty Father,
look with mercy on this your family
for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed
and given up into the hands of sinners
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

(or)

Eternal God,
in the cross of Jesus
we see the cost of sin
and the depth of your love:
in humble hope and fear
may we place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reflection for Good Friday **Darkness at noon – a meditation before the Cross**

It's too late - and it's too soon.

We cannot stop it, yet we cannot yet bear it. We can only watch and wait - and grieve at it.

But You, you must bear it - there, where there is no comfort to be had. No escape to be found.

You. Stricken. Struck down by the God you lived to serve ... crushed for our iniquities.

It is too late for us, and too soon. Too late to help, too soon to understand. We cannot carry your pain, only the weight of responsibility and remorse for it. While you have to carry the Cross for us, and for our sins and weaknesses:

'For surely he has born our sorrows and carried our infirmities'

As you are lifted up, so are we cast down. Distraught at the sight, even the thought, of your suffering.

'Out of his anguish he shall see light'. But right now, all we can see is the darkness. For us there is no light.

No. There is only the darkness that leaks out from the death of the Light. The darkness that belongs to the demons. In the terrible prison they call the Dark Night Of The Soul. Darkness is all around us, and we are with you, trapped within it.

By your death, is everything made meaningful - or simply meaningless? Are we able yet to see the reality - behind the darkness - that You see? No, we can't see it, no matter how we strain our eyes. For us there is no light to see by.

And yet You told us this would happen, that this had to happen. That this was the Father's will, by which He and You would be glorified.

You showed us this with tear-stained eyes; you told us of it in a voice congested with grief. And you prayed for the bitter cup to be taken away from you, kneeling alone in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Weren't we hearing you? Perhaps not. Perhaps we were fighting against the knowledge of the truth, like Peter was. Recoiling from the tragedy and the shame. And so now must we, like Peter, go out and weep bitterly? Lost in despair, in incomprehension at our betrayal of you?:

'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?... O go not from me, for trouble is hard at hand and there is none to help me ... I am poured out like water.'

Your cry, our cry. And God's reply:

'All they that go down into the dust shall kneel before Him: and no man hath quickened his own soul.'

And so you tell us yet again, that when you are raised up on the Cross, you will be glorified. And that those who believe in you will be like you. That is your promise. We trust you, but we never understood you. So how can we even comprehend what you said - standing here, now? Waiting?

It's too late to hope - too soon to understand. Unless, as you always said, 'With God all things are possible.' And You will pull yourself out of the dark depths, and bring us with you, up into the light.

So suppose this - the greatest paradox - is also the greatest truth, the truest promise. Help us upon this Good Friday to hope, against all hope, that all shall be well and all

manner of thing shall be well. According to Thy Word, and in the ground of our beseeching. Now, at your time – and our time - of greatest trial ...

'Suffer us not to mock ourselves with falsehood
Teach us to sit still
Our peace in Your will
And even among these rocks
Suffer us not to be separated ...
And let our cry come unto Thee.'

Keith

Good Friday Hymns and Music

Hymns

There is a green hill far away
When I survey the wondrous cross
My Lord what love is this
The Servant King
Here is love vast as the ocean

Anthems

O sacred head sore wounded

Children's Songs

Light of the world
Lord of the dance

Easter Sunday Worship **Christ is Risen**

Bible Readings

Acts 10:34-43
Mark 16:1-8

Collect

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit

be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

(or)

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Reflection for Easter Sunday

John 20: 1–18

Perhaps this is the year when the dawn of new life may hit us with its greatest brilliance. We have walked in darkness, albeit a desperately pale shadow of the agony Jesus endured. Yet we too in a small way are emerging. Not with the power of Jesus' resurrection, but oh so slowly, into a warmer, less restricted world. And maybe, just maybe, this gives us a clearer, deeper, more visceral response to this most glorious day. Do we understand, more acutely the taste – and cost – of freedom? The freedom to live reconciled with God, safe, forgiven, held in his love.

Maybe this year we are just that bit closer to Mary Magdalene in the terror of that dawn...

I say terror, because the world she walks into is in so many ways the same. The same hostility, the same danger from Roman brutality, her own people's blindness, and the precarious solitude of this garden at the edge of night, where no one would come to her aid should danger be lurking in the shadows.

Mary must be beyond caring for her own safety to risk so much. Even Peter and the other disciple don't linger at the tomb when she calls them. Peter at least is still unsure, and if Jesus' body has been stolen, there could be greater danger now.

Yet Mary stays. And she will be in no danger. Because, even if she cannot comprehend it, the world has changed. She is on the brink of awakening. She will know inexpressible, incomprehensible joy...

But now, there is no theology in her actions, simply love – the ache to give final honour to a man who has already changed her life forever.

Jesus has healed her, has broken through the barriers of sickness that excluded her. More even than that he has given her a new sense of herself, a dignity, a real worth, a confidence that she matters. All this I believe to be true, but she doesn't gather these gifts around herself and hide, she faces the cross, and steps into this perilous dawn.... As though in Jesus she has truly caught sight of something different.

The purity of eyes that see every person as precious, ears that listen no matter who you are, a heart so full that the challenge of his words could be heard without fear, even when those words were rejected. Does Mary have her strength and resolve because in Jesus she sees the possibility of a new world? That she has seen a glimpse of God's kingdom? With a clarity that's cut through the boundaries of regulations the law has accrued.

As though God has before been shrouded in rules, hidden behind often stylistic 'oughts' and 'can'ts', protected from misfits, riff-raff, the poor, the afflicted. A people trying desperately to be worthy enough to regain their freedom as a nation. To be saved. Hopes that are too small, and misguided. They cannot earn freedom. They cannot save themselves. Only God can do that. And in Jesus this is precisely what he has done.

I wonder how much we are able to grasp this gift? This new life unencumbered by worldly demands of status or power. Perhaps the pandemic has opened our eyes a little. Because suddenly we were helpless. Restricted, limited, and often reliant on the sort of people who are paid poorly and who rarely make headlines. Until now. In this strange world we saw afresh the precious values of love, kindness, self-sacrifice. For once we were encouraged to put others before ourselves, to applaud – literally – those who did.

We discovered too that we still have Christian roots, that although it took a public outcry to protect care homes, the vulnerable weren't discarded, as they so often have been, and are still, in secular totalitarian regimes. The value of every life, no matter whether productive or useful, we learned from Jesus. From the beauty of his life, from the uncompromising gift that was his death, and from the final life-changing revelation that his way leads to eternity.

Do we understand, just a bit more clearly, what Jesus has done for us? And how much that matters? I believe many of us are hoping, and praying, that this is so. That we too have caught a glimpse of the kingdom in this darkness, that we will cherish the gift Jesus has given us, let go of the detritus of false gods that distract and seduce us. We need this gift of forgiveness and love. We need to face the cost of the cross. We need to hold fast to the resurrection. Without these the world flounders.

There are small signs of hope. Just this week a teacher asked her 10 year olds, as she does every year, to think of all the things that they were grateful for, that made them happy. The answers are normally their X-box, new trainers, things. But this year it was different – 'seeing my grandma', 'playing with friends' – the loving relationships they had inevitably taken for granted before the lockdown. We all learn from loss. Often painfully.

For the disciples, for Mary, the loss must have been unimaginable – the expectation and delight of Palm Sunday so vivid in their hearts. But they will know a joy they could not have conceived of. The joy we meet today.

In the quiet light of morning he comes. Not with a fanfare, not with a triumphal procession, but gently, unobtrusively, in a dawn garden to a frightened woman. Saying her name: Mary... She is loved. Jesus has called her. She will not be silent.

We will not know, this side of eternity, the immensity of Jesus' sacrifice. But we do know we have been freed from the weight of our failures, and that we are called to respond.

As we emerge into a new world, our prayer is that we will not lose all we've learned. That we will not lose the intensity of this day, the deepened recognition of our need – of all creation's need – for Jesus. This year we have tasted fear. In Jesus we taste new life.

On this glorious Easter morning, as we accept his gift, as we celebrate all Jesus has done, listen quietly for his voice. Hear him saying your name... He loves us and calls us all...

Avril

Easter Sunday Hymns and Music

Hymns

**Jesus Christ is risen today
Thine be the glory
To God be the Glory
Be still for the presence of The lord
O praise the name
10000 reasons**

Anthems

**Ye choirs of new Jerusalem by Stanford
This joyful Eastertide by Wood**

Children's Songs

**Our God is a great big God
My lighthouse**

Prayers

The Prayer Bowl

The red Prayer Bowl continues to contain the names of those from Church and community who have asked for our prayers.

Prayer requests come by phone call, Facebook, personal request, text and whatsapp, and all are equally good. A picture of the card with the name on is often sent to those who have sent in the request.

The cards are lifted out and each person prayed for one at a time on Sunday evening when the candle is lit in the window.

If you would like to join us in prayer for our church, community and wider world, light a candle and pray on Sundays at 8.00pm.

Those who are unwell

Ian Northcott
Paul Nadin Salter
Diana Heard
Joyce Lord
Freda Clowes

Those who have died

Margaret Tate (Funeral Thursday 8th)
Jenny Hammond

Prayer Diary

Day	Prayer Topic
Sunday 4th	We pray for today's worship, as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.
Monday 5th	We pray for those who mourn and all who have lost loved ones in the pandemic.
Tuesday 6th	We pray for the Diocese as it seeks fresh vision and direction in this time of change.
Wednesday 7th	We pray for those returning to work from furlough and those who have lost their jobs.
Thursday 8th	We pray for the Upton Food Pantry and its volunteers, that positive faith conversations would naturally happen.
Friday 9th	We pray for children and young people as they break up from school and for their mental and physical well being.
Saturday 10th	We pray for local clubs and social groups in our community that are struggling at this time.

Opening for private prayer

St Peter's is open for private prayer from 10.00am to 12noon on Fridays.
CoRe is open for private prayer from 11.30am on Wednesdays.

Worship for Sunday 11th April

Sunday 11th 9.00am Holy Communion Core

Sunday 11th 10.30am Family Service St Peter's Streamed on [St Peter's YouTube Channel](#)

Sunday 11th 11.00am Morning Worship St John's

Sunday 11th 4.30pm Evening Service St Peter's