

Connected

Sunday 4th April 2021
Easter Sunday

Verse For The Week

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with
the news:
"I have seen the Lord!"

(John 20: 18)

Sermon Snippets

John 20: 1-18

The thing I love about some stories is – once you realise someone's true identity, it changes the whole way you look at the story. So, for example, you can now "read the story backwards" armed with the knowledge you now have. Star Wars fans have loved to do this; once Darth Vader's true identity was revealed we can understand some of the twists and turns of the plot that led to this point.

The Easter story is the same – armed with the knowledge of Jesus' Easter resurrected identity, we can now read the gospel "backwards". So, as we read in the gospel that Jesus cares for those on the outside and those lost in their sins for instance, we now realise that this is God caring for those. When we read of the events of Good Friday, we now realise that was God incarnate hanging on that cross and taking upon Himself our wrongdoing. Reading the gospel with the knowledge of how it ends gives everything far more meaning.

But we can also read things "forwards" starting now. . . armed with that Easter knowledge, what does the active presence of a living Jesus – crucified and risen and building His kingdom – mean for our own lives going forwards?

He is
risen
indeed!



Has it really been a year? What a strange one it has been! This has been a historic year for our churches – after the first lockdown I can remember writing in the church service register about the fact that services had not been held for many Sundays.

And yet, despite the fact that our on-site worship has been limited at best, the church has remained active. God has not deserted us – I have seen so many examples of care for our community, acts of kindness to church family members and growth in faith. We have a living church because the one on whom we base our faith is living! That's the wonderful message of Easter (and indeed in the passages in Acts which we've been looking at) – that this Jesus is not simply a historic figure, that this Jesus is not simply an example for us to follow – but rather that He is alive and continues His work building His church and His kingdom.

As we begin to meet together again, what will that Easter message mean for us?

"He is not here; He has risen!"

Happy Easter!

Tom

Watch this Sunday's Service

at www.ccwsm.org.uk

Go to the 'Church Life' menu and click on the 'Sunday Services' page.

Prayer Pointers

Monday

To many of us it doesn't feel much different but it's the school holidays. Pray for all students from pre-school to university and their parents who may have to juggle work and child care. Pray for all teachers and other staff to have a real break to rest and recover their strength and enthusiasm.

Tuesday

As we are allowed to meet outdoors, we anticipate visitors coming to Weston. Please pray for all our visitors to act responsibly and rejoice with our tourism industry who are longing to restart their businesses.

Wednesday

Please pray for those with a role in the trial concerning the death of George Floyd, that God's wisdom rules and peaceful relationships prosper.

Thursday

Ask God to bless Tom, Keith, Terry, Ian and Julie and their families, and our readers and their families. May he continually inspire them as they lead and teach.

Friday

Pray for all those who are unwell in any way, those who are grieving and those who are lonely. They need comfort, encouragement and healing.

Saturday

Remember in your prayers Andy Page and the work he does to foster global prayer. He hasn't been able to travel as usual so we pray that the technical side of his work is especially successful.

"Never let anything so fill you with sorrow as to make you forget the joy of Christ risen."

~ Mother Teresa

Private Prayer

Christ Church will be open for private prayer from 09.00 to 12.00, but only on the following days:

- Wednesday 07 April
- Wednesday 14 April
- Thursday 15 April

More dates in late April and May will be announced later this month.

Notices

Annual Church Meetings Postponed

Because of a further review of Government guidelines, the C of E have instructed that Annual Church Meetings will need to be postponed until after 17 May, the earliest date when lockdown restrictions will be sufficiently eased. Please watch this space for news of when the meetings will take place.

In the meantime, if you are not on the Electoral Roll and would like to be, forms are available from the Church Office. You will need to be at least 16 years old, be baptised, and either a resident in either parish or have been engaging regularly with the online services for around six months.

If you have any questions please get in touch with Phil in the Church Office.

Office Closure Dates

The Church Office will be closed on Good Friday, and Monday & Tuesday 06/07 April.

Letter from Rosemary Aldis

Rosemary's latest letter is available to view on the [Christ Church website](#).

CWR Bible Notes

For this year at least, CWR, who publish "Every Day with Jesus" and "Inspiring Women" are issuing these free. Those who have paid a years' subscription will receive a refund with the May-June distribution of Notes. It does not apply to "Lucas on Life".

Fair Trade Coffee

Because we have been unable to serve coffee in church this past year we have 3 x 500g tins of coffee. They are greatly reduced at £10 each with a sell by date of Sept 2021. Please contact Liz (782886)

Plants for sale

Penny is planning on growing lots of bedding / vegetable plants again this year, for any church members who would like them. Donations will go to Christ Church and Weston Hospicecare.

Please email Penny with requests of any plants that you would like her to grow.
(pennylester3@hotmail.co.uk)

Coffee after the Service...

Easter Church Services

Both Christ Church and Emmanuel are opening their doors over Easter for public worship. When you come in to church, please use the hand sanitiser and wear a face covering (unless exempt). Social distancing will be maintained.

Good Friday Reflection

Good Friday 2nd April

at 10.30am in Emmanuel

Julie Birkett will be leading a 40-minute service of meditations. Everyone is welcome to attend this special service.

This reflection will also be available to watch on the Christ Church website.

A Walk Through Easter

Good Friday 2nd April

10am - 12noon in Christ Church

Everyone is welcome to this event, but you will need to book a time for you and your household to arrive. Please phone Tom (01934 709343) to reserve your time-slot. There are still some spaces available.

As you travel through church you will hear and see the stories of Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, Good Friday and Easter Morning.

Come and experience the true story of Easter and find out what it means for you. There will be something for everyone to take home too!

Easter Sunday

Both churches will be open for services at 10.30 on Easter Sunday morning.

The service at Christ Church is nearly fully booked, but you will still be able to join the service live online starting at 10.30.

It will not be necessary to reserve seats for the service at Emmanuel, but we recommend arriving early.

I believe in Christ, like I believe in the sun - not because I can see it, but by it I can see everything else.

~ C.S. Lewis

The Shape Of The Cross

I've long thought of our relationship with God as being a 'vertical' relationship and our relationship with others as being a 'horizontal' relationship. But I'd not realised until this morning quite how perfectly the Cross expresses that.

The upright of the cross represents our 'vertical' relationship with God, the strong structure from which all other relationships stem. Without that vertical relationship with God being strongly rooted, our other relationships will tend to be wobbly and to topple over when the winds of storms and stresses come. But when our relationship with God is rooted in love, repentance, acceptance and forgiveness, so our other relationships can be also. All our other relationships hang off the structure of the vertical relationship and without it there is really nothing to hang them on.

The horizontal arms of the cross represent a reaching out to others, an enveloping and drawing near of other people. They provide a platform for others to rest on and under; from there we can lift others closer to having their own 'vertical' relationship with God, and also help to cover and protect them with our love and prayers. Having our arms wide open is a very vulnerable and defenceless position to be in, but it is what Jesus did for us. He welcomed us with open arms and died for us with His arms wide open.

The deep love of God is a permanent 'vertical' structure in our lives. The stronger it is in us, the stronger and longer the arms with which we reach out to others can be.

Courtesy of the Christian Gift Company - www.thechristiangiftcompany.co.uk

Easter Story Trail

A fabulous Easter Story Trail has been set up in the grounds of Christ Church. All are welcome to use this space for personal reflection. It will be available until Friday 09 April.



Another coffee, anyone?

"Easter is the only time of year when it is safe to put all your eggs in one basket."

~ Anon

Services in April and May

Services for the rest of April and May will continue to be held in church. Each service at Christ Church will be live-streamed.



A Thank You Message

YOU ARE AMAZING!!!

THANK YOU

TO ALL OF YOU

Cleaners and Tidiers

Sanders and Painters

**Brushers and Dusters and Polishers
and Fixers**

**For coming out on a chilly, rainy morning last Friday week
and doing all that stuff to make Christ Church
a safe and welcoming space.
We really appreciate everything you did.**

*God loves each of us as if there
were only one of us.*

~ Saint Augustine

Giving to Christ Church

If you would like to make a donation to Christ Church, you can do so from your smart phone by scanning this QR code:



*"Christ has not only spoken to us by his life,
but has also spoken for us by his death."*

~ Soren Kierkegaard

Saturday 10th April 2021 from 2.30pm

Collect your question sheet from Christ Church before going on a leisurely stroll to find the Treasure Hunt answers. The walk will take about 45-60 minutes.

In line with Covid rules, your group should not exceed 6 people unless you are from the same household. Please contact Phil in the Church Office to book your time-slot to start.

This event is weather-dependent. Contact Tom or Chris (01934 709343) if you want to check if the Treasure Hunt is going ahead.

"The resurrection completes the inauguration of God's kingdom. . . . It is the decisive event demonstrating that God's kingdom really has been launched on earth as it is in heaven. The message of Easter is that God's new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ and that you're now invited to belong to it."

~ N.T. Wright

Contact Details

Rev. Tom Webber (709343)
(Day off - Tuesday)

Church Office (641016)
(8.30-12.30 Mon-Fri)
e: office@ccwsm.org.uk
w: www.ccwsm.org.uk