



The Parish Church of St Mary Oldswinford

Sunday April 4th 2021

Easter Sunday

www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk

www.facebook.com/StMarysChurchOldswinford



Contacts: Revd John Flitcroft 01384 395410 st.mary.os.priest@btconnect.com

Roger King 01384 379800 st.mary.os.reader1@btconnect.com

Parish Office 01384 441003 st.mary.os@btconnect.com

Judy Hall 01384 377349 st.mary.os.warden2@btconnect.com



Services and other events in church and being broadcast this week.

Sunday April 4th at 5.45 am Dawn service to light the Pascal Candle

Sunday April 4th at 10.00am A Service of Holy Communion for Easter in church led by Rev'd John Flitcroft **Preacher:** Rev'd John Flitcroft **Warden:** Judy Hall

Stewards: Richard Hall, Gill Davies and Toni Evans **Readers:** Judy Hall & Gill Davies

Intercessions: Kanthi Ariaraj **Zoom Manager:** Colin Roberts **Bellringers:** Tony and Georgie

Thursday April 8th at 10.30am A service of Holy Communion BCP in church led by Rev'd John Flitcroft **Preacher:** Rev'd John Flitcroft **Stewards:** Sue Wakeley & Elaine Buchan **Reader:** Marjorie Ferguson **Zoom Manager:** Colin Roberts

The church will be open between 9.00am—4.00pm Monday—Thursday and 9.00am—12 noon on Friday, 9.00am—4.00pm on Saturday this week.

Both of the services above will be broadcast on Zoom and Facebook. Please get in touch if you need the meeting ID and password for Zoom.

THE EGGSTRAORDINARY STORY TRAIL

A team of people have been busy building a display which is now placed outside church for Easter. The display is part of a trail, similar to the one that was put in place at Christmas. People are invited to follow the eggs to discover the story of Easter and find some posters with fun activities to do along the way. To see the route of the trail scan the QR code shown below using your phone.

The trail has been put together by Chawn Hill Church, Oldswinford School, St Mary's, St James and St Michael's churches and will be in place between 28th March—16th April.

You may want to bring a stone with either a prayer on, a name of a loved one or one you have decorated to put in a special place at the end of the trail. A huge thank you to everybody who has been involved in the construction and organisation of this event.



Collect for this week:

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. **Amen**

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25: 6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.



This is the Word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD.

The New Testament Reading

Acts 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as

witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

This is the Word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD.

The Gospel Reading

Mark 16: 1-8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.



This is the Gospel of the Lord
PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

Post Communion Prayer:

God of life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen Amen**

We invite you to offer prayers for

Worldwide Church:

Uppsala in Sweden with Archbishop Antje Jackelén. Also Llandaff in Wales with Bishop June Osborne

Churches Together: St James' Church Wollaston

From our Diocesan Prayer Diary..

It's no accident that Easter, which speaks to us of new life, occurs in the Spring when everything is bursting into leaf and bloom. The word Lent is a shortened version of the Old English lencten, which means spring season and at this time of year, the world around us speaks of the triumph of life over death, of love over fear, of light over darkness. The resurrection of Jesus – new life emerging from pain and death - is at the heart of our Christian faith. It is a reminder that our lives have an eternal significance. Death does not have the last word for those who have died and neither must it for those of us who survive. Although each of the many thousands of pandemic deaths is a dreadful tragedy, we need to commend them into God's hands and look to the future – for their sake as well as our own. There is now real hope on the horizon, with many people receiving the vaccination and the gradual easing of restrictions.

This Easter day, let us remember that God can bring good out of bad and pray that we will all play our part in ensuring this happens by working for a better society as a fitting memorial to the thousands who have died.

The work of St Mary's: For each other as the body of Christ at St Mary's as we celebrate Easter together and rejoice as Easter people.

For all those who will stop and visit the exhibition outside church and be reminded of the Easter story and what it means for us today.

Those living in: Siskin Road and Chaffinch Road

Local Community: The What? Centre

Among those who are ill:

Bob Bowen and Martin Raybould

We continue to pray for:

Peter & Angela Viner, Helen Hunt, Susan Haskew, Norma Wren, Mary Joyce Tolley, Sam and Natalie Jones, Audrey Tranter, David Johnson, Colin Millward, Roy and Pamela Peacock, Josh Raffan, Ian Moore, Judy Taylor, Joe and Ros Yeates, Rory Macintosh, Elian Irvine-Boden, Martin Aston, Ruth Hardy, Anna Scudamore, Jonathan Bryan, Noah Cantius, the May family, and the Rogerson family.

Those in nursing home care:

Dorothy Gibson, Melitta Ling, Brian Drew and Betty Shore.

The departed:

Beatrice Gale, and Trevor Dannatt

All those who have lost their lives to Covid 19 this week. All those that we think of with love today through the displays of lilies in church.

Prayer 





The parish office will be closed next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. It will be open as normal on Thursday and Friday.

A huge Thank you to Sally and her team of flower arrangers who have decorated church so beautifully for us this Easter. We remember with love all those who are commemorated through the displays of lilies in church. The list of their names has been placed on the altar.

Congratulations! Congratulations to Anne and Howard May who celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary this weekend.

SCAM EMAIL

If you received an e mail from Kanthi this week asking for a favour please ignore and delete it. It is a scam. If you reply you will be asked to submit your bank details to purchase Google play vouchers. DO NOT REPLY.

We are still able to make contributions to the Stourbridge Foodbank through the donation of food which can be left at the back of church or you may still wish to give financially in lieu of food. If you visit their website at <https://www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk/support/how-to-donate/> you can see the various ways in which you can give. Or you can send a cheque payable to Black Country Foodbank to Mrs Jen Coleman, Black Country Foodbank, Albion Street, Brierley Hill. DY5 3EE.

**BLACK COUNTRY
FOODBANK**
LOVE . CONNECT . INVEST

An Easter message from Bishop John

Alleluia, Christ is risen. Happy Easter.

It's a great joy to be able to speak to you on this, the most important and crucial and significant Christian festival. When we celebrate the fact that God raised Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, from the dead and enabled us to become an Easter people whose song is Alleluia.



At the centre of the resurrection as recorded in the gospels, is the empty tomb. I remember as a young man, reading a book which had a big impact on me by a man called Frank Morrison. It was entitled: 'Who moved the stone?' It was an attempt to examine the evidence. As a scientist wanting proof, wanting analysis, I found it very convincing.

Later than that, I read a most wonderful book by Bishop Tom Wright: 'The Resurrection of the Son of God'. That's a huge tome in which he presents a closely argued and meticulously researched argument to the effect that when the empty tomb and the meetings with Jesus are combined, we're presented with:

"Not only a significant condition for the rise of early Christian belief, but also, it seems, a necessary one. Nothing else that historians have come up with has the power to explain the phenomena before us."

As people have tried to explain the empty tomb, they've wondered who might have removed the body. The Romans wouldn't have done it, or if they had done so, they would have produced it in no time at all in order to show that this claim by the disciples of Jesus having risen was a lie. The same is true of anyone else. And although the Christians themselves could have stolen the body, it's unlikely that they would have gone to their deaths proclaiming his resurrection as they did. So the empty tomb is right at the heart of our faith.

On one of my pilgrimages to the Holy Land, I was very affected by seeing a First Century tomb, which would have been very similar to the one in which Jesus was buried; with the huge stone, rolled like a millstone in front of it along a groove. No wonder that it needed several very strong men to move it. No wonder the women were so astonished when they got there to find that the stone had been moved. Of course the empty tomb *itself* is not a sufficient condition for the believing in the resurrection, it's that, as Bishop Tom Wright maintains, combined with the meetings with the risen Lord Jesus. Meetings that we find recorded in the New Testament. Meetings which, in a different manner, following the ascension, have continued ever since.

The resurrection is what gives us hope. It give us the Christian hope and that hope is nothing less than that God has destroyed death; God has overcome death. It means that God's love is stronger than anything that life can throw at us, and stronger than death itself. So it gives us hope for an eternal future.

But the resurrection is not just about the future. The resurrection is about the here and now. It's about giving our lives new hope and meaning, purpose and conviction. My hope is that the resurrection of Jesus and its truth will so permeate your heart and your mind this Eastertide, that you will be filled with a new hope, an infectious hope, in that love of God; which created the universe, which created you and me and which raised Jesus from the dead. Yes, it was that love which raised Jesus from the dead and yearns to embrace you now and into all eternity.

God bless you this Easter and forever.

