



Newsletter and Notices

**Alleluia. Christ is risen!!
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!!**

8am Holy Communion, in Church

10am Service of the Word, in Church & via [Zoom](#)

You are welcome to share in our worship in the following ways:

1. Come to Church All are welcome! Remember to bring your order of service.

2. Join with Zoom on your computer

When you are signed in you can 'Join a Meeting'.

Meeting ID **846 662 9590**, Passcode **834900**

3. Join with Audio Zoom via phone

a) Call **0131 460 1196** b) Enter Meeting ID: **846 662 9590** followed by #

c) You may be asked to enter Participant ID: press #

d) Enter Meeting Passcode: **834900** followed by #

You will be muted automatically when you join the 'meeting' (service).

Whether or not you might like to do this, let's be aware of the prayerful communion in God's Spirit that we all share, wherever we are, whether or not we are able to talk, video-call or communicate with one another.

Collect for Easter Day

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.

Gospel for Easter Day, Mark 16. 1-8

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.

If you'd like the Prayer Chain to pray for some concern which is on your heart, please make your prayer request to the coordinator: diane.pettitt@hotmail.com / 461845.

A Psalm for today, Psalm 118. 1-2, 14-24

Refrain: I will give thanks to you, for you have become my salvation.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

Let Israel now proclaim, 'His mercy endures for ever.' [R]

The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.

Joyful shouts of salvation sound from the tents of the righteous:

'The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds; the right hand of the Lord raises up;

the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.' [R]

I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me sorely, but he has not given me over to death. [R]

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me and have become my salvation. [R]

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. [R]

*Saving God, open the gates of righteousness,
that your pilgrim people may enter and be built into a living temple
on the cornerstone of our salvation, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

An anthem for today

On Easter Day in 2019 our Choir sang Stainer's *Hallelujah, from Messiah* (Handel) at our 10am service. You might like to listen to [this version](#) sung by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge.

Easter for Young People

Whilst it's not practical for our families to meet, do explore the links on our [Children & Young People](#) page: each week there are fresh and inspiring resources including prayers, games, quizzes and videos. Also -

- There's a [printable sheet on our website](#) which offers a prayer and activities that will help young people get to know the person of Jesus. This week's is based on a different version of the story of Easter Day, from the Gospel of John.
- You might also like to share in this week's Godly Story, 'Easter Sunday', also from today's Gospel. It's a fantastic visual version of the scriptures, with wondering questions for families to share together. The video's on YouTube [here](#).
- **Easter Eggs** - There won't be an Easter Egg hunt this year but there will be a few tiny wrapped Easter eggs in church at the 10am service this Sunday, Easter Day.
- **Churches Together Easter Trail** - Hunt for the QR video and quiz codes in town and pick up an Easter Egg from the CTBS Stall in Market Square, from 10am-4pm until Easter Sunday.
- **Easter reflections/art/video in the Lady Chapel** – Come and think, enjoy and praise!



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Sunday 4th April 2021 Easter Day



The church is open for personal prayer from 11am to 1pm every day (NOT Monday 5th)

An opportunity to spend some comforting time in prayer, peace and reflection.

Piano music will be played on Fridays 2nd and 9th April from 12-12.30pm.

Philip Smith RIP. Many of us have been saddened by the news of Phil's death: afflicted with grief yet grateful with thanks for his life, not least his dedicated service at St Michael's. Please hold Maureen and all Phil's family in your prayers. It is hoped that invited members of the congregation will be able to represent the church in person at Phil's funeral, and that a Zoomcast will enable others to participate, given the current restrictions. Please look out for further details. Thank you, Derwyn.

Forum to discuss music and worship – Restrictions around singing are beginning gently to ease. We hope they will gradually allow more and more musical worship as time proceeds. So it would be good to take stock of where we are, what worship in lockdown has taught us, and how God might call us to move forward with music in worship. To begin this conversation, I'll host a Zoom discussion forum on **Monday 19th April** at 7:30pm. It's open to all – please let the Office know you'd like to come and details and discussion questions will be forthcoming. I hope a subsequent step will be a face to face discussion, before too long, but it will be good to start talking. One outcome I am hoping for is the recommencement (and probable re-imagining) of the Director of Music appointment process. Thanks for considering if you'd like to join this conversation. Derwyn.

Easter Day is the last day to donate to our The Charities Support Group Lent Red Bucket Appeal – We'll split the money between Mary's Meals, who we always support through our Lent Lunches, and The Church Army. To find out more, please see our website's [CSG page](#). Red Buckets will also be in church at our Easter Day services.

Families Minister Working Group – "Whilst our young people have been able to take part in some church activities in person and online during the Covid crisis, we have all keenly felt their absence in church. A group of us (for the PCC) have been looking at what face to face family/children activities we might be able to start - as soon as this can be done safely. An essential element involves reactivating the recruitment process for a Families Minister (paused last year) as soon as it's possible. If you're interested and would like to join the group, or have any suggestions/comments, please email me at bill.macdonald@hotmail.co.uk. Many thanks. Bill". Information on the Families Minister post as advertised last year is available [here](#).

Zoom prayer with June on Mondays – A support chat and prayer room each week. If you're interested in joining, do call her for more details (771756).

Town Project invitation – Would you like to help with planting some trees and shrubbery, in mid-April, in a newly created 'wet woodland' near to Old River Lane? If you're interested in being kept up to date, please contact megan.kervin@salvationarmy.org.uk / 01279 507464.

Virtual Choir for Easter – Members of Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford have come together as a virtual choir to sing 'Risen' (Shawna Edwards/Daniel Blomberg). You might like to listen to / watch it on YouTube [here](#).

Prayers for our Community in Church and via Zoom, Saturday 3rd April, 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer (ID 458 034 0358, Code 435609). All welcome.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 7th April, 10am – On Wednesday we will have a service of Holy Communion, in church and **via Derek's Zoom**. You can also dial in by phone; instructions on previous page. (ID 927 480 8728, Passcode 889123).

Holy Week and Easter

For more details see our website [Lent and Easter page](#)

Church open for prayer, including stations for reflection for all ages on the 'Way of the Cross'. There is a special 'Gethsemane' and 'Golgotha' prayer corner where you might like to pray, light a candle or write a prayer on a paper cross and hang it beside the cross. We give thanks for our church children and the children of St Michael's School for their artwork included in these reflections, and we also thank the flower arrangers for their amazing displays.

Good Friday 2 April

9am-3pm Church open for extended prayer

12noon Good Friday Service with music (*via Zoom also*)

Saturday 3 April

10am-1pm Church open for extended prayer

1-1:30pm Singing in the churchyard

Easter Sunday 4 April

8am Holy Communion

10am Service of the Word (*via Zoom also*)

11am-1pm Church open for Prayer, including Easter Resurrection story flowers



Riding Lights Theatre Company presents a Lockdown Passion Play – Filmed remotely in lockdown, *Breaking Day* by Les Ellison is an innovative passion play for Easter 2021, immersing us with stark intimacy in decisions that led to crucifixion. **Available to stream until 15th April.** Tickets £10 per household and can be purchased from the Riding Lights website: www.ridinglights.org/breaking-day

APCM, 23rd May after 10am service – Electoral Roll revision is currently taking place (ending on 26th April) if you'd like to join our electoral roll / nominate for PCC election.

More details of all services and events are available on the [Calendar](#) page on our website.

Do follow us on Social Media too, for regular updates.

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