



## Easter Day



Easter Day is usually the biggest party the Church has all year! We have already heard and thought about why Jesus dying on the cross is ‘good news’ for me and you. What Easter Day reminds us is that Jesus dying on the cross wasn’t the end of this story... because in three days Jesus rose from the dead and is alive with us today! (This is more of the mystery of Easter, and it is still ok to think it is tricky to understand.)

This year, we will party at home with our families instead of being in church, to keep everyone safe – which is also ‘good’! I wonder if you have already had some treats today, like a chocolate egg or two maybe! Perhaps you can’t see other members of your family today, like your grandparents, because we are all helping to stop people getting coronavirus. But you can call them, or see them on your computer.

This is a happy ending to the Easter story, and it is definitely ok to feel happy about it!

After Jesus died on the cross, his body was taken down and buried in a tomb, with a large stone covering the entrance. This part of the Easter story is in John’s gospel, chapter 20, verses 1-18. Here’s a bit of it:

Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. It was still dark. Mary saw that the large stone had been moved away from the tomb.

Mary stood outside the tomb, crying. While she was still crying, she bent down and looked inside the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white. They were sitting where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and one at the feet.

They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?” She answered, “They have taken away my Lord. I don’t know where they have put him.” When Mary said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there. But she did not know that it was Jesus.

Now that we have heard about how Jesus rose from the dead and is alive, I wonder...

- How did this story make you feel?
- This story has angels in it. Have you ever dressed up as an angel? Can you think of other Bible stories that have angels in them?
- Where are you in this story? Are you Mary Magdalene, who found the stone was rolled away? Are you an angel, or Jesus?
- Maybe you could act out this part of the story?



If you made an Easter garden, today's the day to move the large stone away from the entrance of the tomb, because Jesus isn't there, he has risen from the dead! This is good news for you and me because now that Jesus is alive, he is able to be with us every day, right now.



Jesus is alive today, and he promises to be with us, when we are happy and sad, excited and worried, because he loves us.

And the next time you eat a hot cross bun... we hope you remember something of this first Easter story.

From everyone at St Mary's Church, we hope you have a very Happy Easter!

*What happens next...*

If you are reading this and you want to find out more about who Jesus is and what the church is doing in Bottesford, Muston, Redmile, Plungar and Barkstone, you can contact St Mary's Church either by ringing our Office on 01949 842859, emailing [stmbottesford@gmail.com](mailto:stmbottesford@gmail.com) or sending us a message on our Facebook page. We'd love to hear from you!