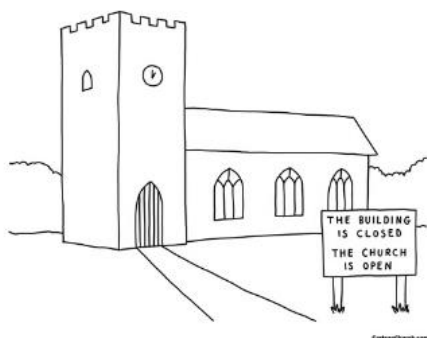


St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill



The Church continues to be alive and active, but our buildings must close.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR:-

MAUNDY THURSDAY, GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER SUNDAY

REFLECTIONS FROM THE RECTOR:

The Rector has written a brief reflection and prayer for tomorrow, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday – the documents are attached.

SISTER HAZEL EUCHARIST:

Sister Hazel is celebrating daily Eucharist at Paddock House at 2.00pm. She has been given dispensation from the Bishop to celebrate alone and will continue to do this seven days a week for as long as she has permission to do so.

The Eucharist can be followed on you tube:-

Go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duh6tBj5AkU) and in the Search enter:- [youtube.com/watch?v=duh6tBj5AkU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duh6tBj5AkU)

RADIO 4:

Good Friday Meditation at 3.00pm

The cross is a place and a moment of isolation – on 'A green hill far away'. At the same time, it stands close to the heart of every Christian believer and community. With worshipping communities scattered, and communal worship impossible – Baptist minister the Revd Richard Littledale asks whether the cross stands further from us or closer to us in current circumstances. Neil McGregor has been enthralled by Salvador Dali's depiction of the cross since he was a boy. As Director of the National Gallery, he would bring the painting to London as a key element of the Seeing Salvation exhibition, but he believes it speaks into every context even especially our current isolation. Richard also speaks to a medic on the front line of treating the COVID 19 infection and asks, when sickness, and even death loom larger to all of us, whether they think the cross seems closer to us or further away?

Easter Sunday:

Something Understood at 6.05am

Dr Rowan Williams, Master of Magdalene College Cambridge and the former Archbishop of Canterbury, explores reunions and recognitions in the context of the Easter narratives.

The Sunday after Easter, traditionally known as Low Sunday, is a time when Christians reflect more deeply on the celebrations of the previous weekend. Rowan Williams describes the human story as full of creating, breaking and restoring relationships and

illustrates his thinking with powerful moments of reconciliation in War and Peace when Natasha seeks forgiveness from Prince Andrei, and in King Lear where the King is revisited by his daughter, as well as with the reuniting of Jacob and Esau in Genesis.

It is this mending of brokenness that Dr Williams uses to link in to the Easter stories. "They move us – and challenge us as well," he says, "because they echo these deep feelings around finding and losing, separating and reuniting, recognising and failing to recognise and discovering that what seemed completely lost has not been destroyed. They are good news for us because they say that there is no relationship beyond mending in God's providence and God's time – that even the most final of separations or the most bitter of betrayals will not stifle the possibility of the reconciliation we long for."

The programme also features the poetry of Wilfred Owen, as well as Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro where the unfaithful Count is forgiven by his wife, accompanied by music, which has been described as the sound of God absolving the world.

Sunrise Service at 6.35am

A service of celebration for Easter morning with award winning gospel group Volney Morgan & New-Ye, exploring love and the ultimate sacrifice shown through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Music will include gospel classics and hymns like 'Lord I Lift Your Name on High' and How Deep the Father's Love, and songs from Volney Morgan & New Ye, 'You Are Worthy' and 'Everlasting God'.

Reading: John 20:11-18.

Sunday Worship at 8.10am. Christ is risen!

The Archbishop of Canterbury cannot this year give his Easter Message as usual to a packed Canterbury Cathedral. Instead he is speaking to the nation as part of Easter Sunday Worship, which will also include an intimate communion service with his wife from the Archbishop's own kitchen at Lambeth Palace. Easter music sung by massed voices in happier times includes 'Jesus Christ is risen today, and This Joyful Eastertide. "Thine Be the Glory" was recorded this week by a virtual congregation of the homebound. The Bishop of Dover, the Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin shares something of what churches in the Diocese of Canterbury are doing to enable prayer and worship while Christians are unable to gather together in church buildings. Readings: Acts 10.34-43; John 20: 1-18.

BBC TELEVISION:

Good Friday:

Britain's Easter Story:- Episode 1 of 2 BBC 2 at 3.00pm

In the first of two special programmes for Easter, choirmaster Gareth Malone and gospel choir conductor Karen Gibson travel round the UK to uncover the stories, music and traditions that have marked this most important of Christian festivals both in the past and today. From the stunning island of Lindisfarne to a Welsh mountain with a unique connection to Good Friday, Gareth finds out what links Easter to some of the country's most stunning historic sites. Meanwhile, Karen unravels the origins of one of the best-known Good Friday hymns and, with her mum, revisits some of the traditions she grew up with. And, as the pair join the preparations for events in York and Birmingham, they explore Easter's relevance in Britain today.

Easter Sunday:

Britain's Easter Story:- Episode 2 of 2 BBC 1 at 10.10am

Gareth Malone and Karen Gibson uncover more of the history, music and traditions linking Britain to Easter, in the second of two special programmes. They travel across

the country to explore how celebrations have changed over the centuries, taking in sites as varied as Whitby, Glastonbury, Hampton Court and Leeds. They discover how a medieval marital spat sparked change in the British church forever, why Easter was banned and by whom, and the story behind an Easter hymn by the nation's most prolific hymn writer Charles Wesley. And they're joined by the Kingdom Choir for an inspirational musical performance.

Urbi et Orbi BBC1 at 11.00am

On this the eighth Easter of his pontificate, Pope Francis gives his Easter message and blessing to the city and to the world. Martin Bashir sets the scene.

Easter Sunday Worship BBC 1 at 11.25am

To celebrate Easter Sunday, the Very Reverend Kathy Jones leads a service from Bangor Cathedral in north Wales. The preacher is the Right Reverend Andy John, the Bishop of Bangor. The programme includes Easter hymns sung by the Songs of Praise congregation recorded in March 2018, and was filmed before the closure of all church buildings was announced.

To download the Order of Service:- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000hbq5>

Songs of Praise BBC 1 at 1.15pm

Katherine Jenkins is in Birmingham to celebrate Easter Sunday, in an episode recorded before the current restrictions came into effect. She hears how a new church, St Luke's Gas Street in the heart of Birmingham, has grown in just four years. She meets its leader, Tim Hughes, and a member of its young congregation whose life has been transformed by Christianity. Sean Fletcher talks to former Birmingham City footballer, now pastor, Ricky Otto and hears his story from prison to pitch to pulpit. Sean also learns the skills of making stained-glass windows with a father and son who have been doing it all their lives. With Easter songs and hymns from across the country and a special rendition of a hymn from St George's Cathedral in Jerusalem.

OXFORD DIOCESE LIVE STREAMING:

The diocesan live-stream services will be:-

Maundy Thursday:

11.00am The renewal of vows for parish and ordained ministry

8.15pm Diocesan Eucharist. Bishop Colin presiding.

Good Friday:

A series of six short addresses from Bishop Steven with hymns and prayers.

Easter Eve, Saturday 11th April:

8.00pm A Vigil for Our Times - see rumoursofhope.co.uk

Easter Day:

10.00am Diocesan Eucharist. Bishop Steven presiding.

To watch the services live, or at a later time, follow the link:-

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/coronavirus-covid-19/livestream/>

CHURCH OF ENGLAND LIVE STREAMING:

For information about possible worship opportunities, follow the link:-

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/stories-and-features/how-church-england-adapting-plans-holy-week-and-easter-meet>