

This Easter, we again celebrate that you, our God, sent your Son to save us. We celebrate that, despite all his suffering, he defeated death and took all the wrong of the world to the cross with him. We celebrate that the darkness of the sky when Jesus cried 'It is finished' was replaced by the light of hope. We celebrate that the tomb was empty, and with those followers who met the resurrected Christ, we celebrate that he lives again.

This Easter, we think of how much the gift of life and salvation we are offered means to us. We think of the joy and hope that you, our God offer us, and the purpose you give to our lives. We think of your Son Jesus who faced pain, torture and humiliation, and did it all for us. We think of how we can follow his example of care, love and service to others, and obey your call on our lives. We think of our calling to bring change and share his love at home, at school, at work, where we volunteer or wherever we are.

This Easter, we look around the world at the pain and suffering that continues. We look to you, our God, to bring light into darkness and replace despair with hope. We look for talks and desires for ceasefires and ultimately for peace in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan. We look for leaders to think of humanity and to value every life as equal and precious. We look for comfort for those who have lost homes, belongings, family, friends and hope as a result of war and conflict.

This Easter, we pray for all those who are suffering in our own nation. We pray for those who have been injured in incidents and accidents on our roads and in our communities, and whose holidays have turned into times of sadness. We pray for those who face financial challenges and the fear of losing their jobs. We pray for those held in the grip of addiction and substance abuse, and those who are sliding back into reliance on drugs and alcohol. We pray for those facing tough decisions and all who are ill and in pain. We ask that you speak into peoples' lives and show them ways to cope and to thrive.

This Easter, we reflect on the need for quiet and peace in our busy lives. We reflect on all that we do in our churches to serve our communities, and the need for rest. As we spend a few moments in peace and silence now, help us to reflect personally on all your goodness to us, and the many blessings we have.....

Help us to reflect on the times and moments when we have felt you close to us, and to seek those moments again. God, give us peace in our communities, churches, families, and lives.

Weekly Notices

Rector: Rev. Jonathan Gordon 01442 871547
Associate Priest: Rev. Michael Eggleton 01442 823273
Readers: Peggy Sear and David White

www.stbartholomewschurch.org

Services for April 20th
Easter Day
8am Holy Communion BCP

10.00 am Parish Eucharist
Hymns; 267, 26, 355, 503

Readings

Acts 10-: 34-43
1 Corinthians 15: 19-26
Luke 24; 1-12

6pm No Evening Prayer
This evening

Services for April 27th
Easter 2
8am Holy Communion BCP

10 00am Parish Eucharist
Hymns 99, 490, 553, 228

Readings:

Acts 5: 27-32
Revelation 1; 4-8
John 20: 19-end

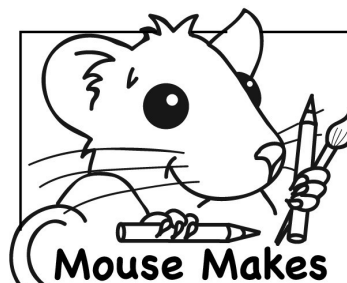
6pm Evening Prayer
Psalm 16
Isaiah 52: 13-53.12
Luke 14: 13-35

Prayer for today

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.

Prayer for Peace

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.



Mouse Makes

On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,
and showed us the resurrection to
come by His raising to new life!

Jesus is risen!
The angel said:
"Jesus ...is not here, for He
has risen, just as He said."
Matthew 28:6

Jesus is here
Jesus said:
"Where two or three
come together
in my name I am
there with them."
Matthew 18:20

Jesus will come again!
Jesus said:
"I will come back
and take you to
myself so that you
will be where I am."
John 14:3

READ the story of
the resurrection in:
Matthew 28:1-10
Mark 16:1-19
Luke 24:1-49
John 20:1-29
and *21:1-14*

JESUS • ALIVE • RISEN
LORD • SAVIOUR • KING
RESURRECTION
PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS • GO TELL • EASTER

MESSIAH • REDEEMER
CHRIST • SON OF GOD
HOSANNA • PRAISE

REDEEMER
EASTERPI
SAVIOURS
ULTIMJAE
RIEDELIN
RVJESUSS
EEWBSPEP
CCLOISSN
THOSANNA
IRROHYEU
OIDNPWS
NSGOTELL
KTAFOAIO
IYOGJCFR
NUJOYEEB
GOODNEWS

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The Lighter side of life

The Rectory

St James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

My generous offer to take last week's marriage service for you in your church, so that you could attend your weekend plumbing course, proved most unwise. You may now be qualified to unblock church hall kitchen sinks, but I will not be taking another marriage ceremony for you again, no matter how much you have set your heart on that electrician's course next year, so that you can re-wire the vestry.

At first, I was delighted when the bride's mother called, inviting me to the reception. I assumed that somewhere called Charnley Hall would be a most fitting location, full of oak floors and waiters bearing sherry to guests. I did not realise until too late that it is only the rather dubious pub next door to your church.

At least I had been placed with the happy couple and both sets of parents. Then it slowly dawned on me: I was there to stop the bride's mother from attacking her newly-acquired son-in-law. My presence may have kept an uneasy peace at our table, but it had no such effect on some of the others. Well before the speeches, bride's and groom's supporters were exchanging snide remarks and bitter looks. Then all hell broke loose: a bridesmaid slapped an usher and burst into tears.

That was the starting signal for the liveliest wedding reception I have ever attended: chairs were knocked about, plates broken, wedding cake thrown, flowers snapped in two, and memorable insults exchanged. Of course, I could cope with all that, but then someone snatched the bottle of champagne that had been placed in front of me. They were going to waste it by breaking it on someone's head. I knew then that things had gone far enough.

It took but an instant for me to leap to my feet, lean over the table, and grab my bottle back. Unfortunately, that was when the police arrived. Were our churchwarden, Lord Jelleby to have been on the bench that day, matters could have been settled quite amicably. It was not to be: you may enthusiastically pass the peace in your church; I am now bound over to keep it.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Church website. Check out the website regularly for updates and news of services etc.