

Good Friday For Kids

A day to celebrate?



Good Friday is one of the most sombre days in the church calendar. And yet we call it 'Good'! Not just because it is a Bank Holiday...

Do the children in your life know about it? We will be running a child-centred 'service' at 10.30am on Good Friday - 2nd April this year - along with fun crafts and activities all socially distanced, and designed mainly for primary age children with their carers.

If you aren't comfortable with meeting, we will be offering take-away craft packs on the day so you can come and collect one to have a special time at home.



Christopher Hobbs,
Vicar



[www.
standy
.uk](http://www.standrewsheadleholme.org.uk)



But why do we call it 'good'?

The answer was illustrated by what happened in the temple, which you can read about eg. in Mark chapter 15. When the curtain was torn in two it showed that Jesus' death made it possible for us to be friends with God: we no longer had to be separated from him. He died to take our sinfulness away, so that if we trust him, we can be with him for ever. The most famous verse of the Bible, John 3:16 says, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not die, but have eternal life". That's really good news!



Peter Selby,
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ROUND THE HOUSES

SPECIAL Spring Edition 2021

Spring into action

What are the plans?

It seems a long time since our last edition - but in some ways so little has happened. Hopes raised, then dashed; church open then closed again. How have you coped? We are looking ahead and hoping very much that we will be able to offer some of our usual activities soon, as we are aware that the isolation is really tough for many people. However, we don't want to put anyone at risk, or to have to change plans and disappoint people, so we are planning cautiously and for example have decided to move our annual Holiday Club for primary age children to the end of the Summer, 24th-27th August.

What have we been doing?

The wonderful techy people in our congregation have managed to set up things so that we can live-stream our



Sunday services on YouTube. Did you see our Advent Windows?

We streamed our Christmas services for those unable to come in person, and even managed a virtual Nativity: there's a Virtual Easter planned too! We get together for social chats on Zoom after the services, and continue to host daily Zoom prayer meetings. We are trying to support youth, children and their parents on YouTube, and running our socially distanced toddler group - breaking for the lockdown which started in the New Year, but opening again once the local COVID rates started reducing.

What is coming up?

Inside there are a few details of some plans. We haven't forgotten our promise to have a service for all those bereaved. Do keep an eye on our website.



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A time for change?



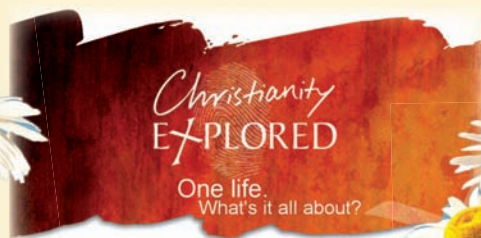
People are talking about us all coming to a fork in the road. We are rethinking the things we assumed to be self evident. Where are we in the world now? Has the USA lost dominance, is the future China, but what about Russia? Will the EU expand? Nationally how much longer can the Queen be with us, what has Brexit done for us, what is the future of the United Kingdom? Regionally what has happened to the Northern Powerhouse, HS2, and the local economy post Covid? Personally what has the impact of this last year been on finances, retirement plans, education, health? What will the future be? We all wish we knew.

A time for decisions?



Could God be telling us to sort out some things in our lives? Are there things we need to change?

Would we say we are in tune with what God wants for our lives? Some people have been doing the Alpha course and have found it very stimulating. We are doing another one soon. Other people know they are Christians but want to consider more why did Jesus Christ come, and we have a Christianity Explored course soon too.



Our nation has been at a fork in the road before. Often it has returned to its Christian foundation and Christian hope. Will you join us?

A Game Changer!



We are hoping we will be able to meet normally again later this year So we are planning a "Jesus the Game Changer holiday club" for children in the last full week of the summer holidays, **Tuesday 24- Friday 27 August.**

A time to remember

- a sorrow event

So many sad things have happened in the last year. We plan to come together to remember them and hand them over to God. Funerals, weddings and anniversaries missed, work places closed, trips of a lifetime postponed. Come and join us as we remember the sad loss of friends and family, and events together.



Goodbye to all we have lost, a service at Emmanuel Church on **Saturday 12 June**, and St Andrew's Church on **Saturday 19 June**, both at 3 pm.

A time to party!

We also plan to have a Community Party at both church buildings, but not until **29 August** at St Andrew's and **5 September** at Emmanuel

A time to treasure

Looking after little ones can be very hard work, especially during lockdown, when it is supposed to be a time to treasure. Our group for pre-schoolers

and their carers, Little Rews, has been running in a Covid Safe way. At the moment places are restricted to 6 families in each of two weekly sessions on Thursdays - do check out our Facebook page or the church website for details (www.Facebook.com/littlerews).



A time to meet up

We haven't met him yet, but Bishop Mark Tanner has agreed to come to our parish on **Sunday 23rd May**. We hope you will come to hear him chat about himself and his role in a cafe-style event at St Andrew's at 6.30pm. We'll be following whatever COVID restrictions are in place at the time, but hope to be able to serve some sort of refreshments. and at the very least to give everyone an interesting evening!



Mark Tanner, new Bishop of Chester