

ST. JOHNS CHURCH DONISTHORPE

# GRAPEVINE

EASTER EDITION - MARCH 2018



## THE MEANING of HOLY WEEK and EASTER in the CHRISTIAN FAITH

Dear All,

I wonder what children would most associate with Easter celebrations. What do we most think of? I suspect many think of bunnies, eggs, chicks and so forth. It's not easy to find Easter cards that still have on them the cross, which for Christians lies at the heart of Easter and of the whole of life. It's a bit like adverts where you remember the ad but not the product – always the nightmare of advertisers.

So I've checked out some of our Easter traditions in the hope that through them we can remember the profound meaning of Holy Week and Easter in the Christian faith. And give thanks to God for his great love for us and the lengths to which he was prepared to go.

**Hot cross buns** apparently date back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Very tasty they are too but we perhaps forget their meaning now the shops stock them all year round.

*Originally they would be eaten only on Good Friday at the end of Lent – the cross on top reminding us of Jesus' death on the cross for love of us. The buns are full of spices to remind us of the spices used to embalm Jesus' body at his burial.*

**Eggs** (and chicks): I can remember as a child, on Easter Day, my father would boil eggs with gorse flowers in the water so the shells went bright yellow; we then decorated them.

*Eggs have long been used as a symbol of Jesus' resurrection: the shell reminding us of the sealed tomb and then the cracking of the shell as Jesus' breaking out into new life. The promise of resurrection is that we can make a new start, forgiven where we've messed up, and that life and goodness will have the last word.*

Nowadays eggs are largely chocolate but the symbolism is still there.

**The Easter bunny** is something I'm less sure of so had to research, as I don't remember the bunny featuring so much in the past. I read 'it is not entirely clear how the rabbit is a symbol of Easter'. However it appears that in Germany, the rabbit was pictured bringing Easter eggs to children; in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, this custom went over to America and has since come to us.

*I guess rabbits speak of new life and energy – very much what the resurrection of Jesus is all about.*

And finally the **Simnel Cake**: a delicious eat; fruit cake with a layer of marzipan in the middle and on top. Marzipan balls then decorate the top to represent Jesus' disciples, but there are only 11 balls as Judas is excluded, having betrayed Jesus to the authorities.

Do enter into the wonderful story of Easter as we follow these traditions, the story that lies behind them all. *For it is the greatest love story ever: that Jesus came to earth to show us how much we are loved, to wipe the slate clean where we have got it all so wrong; and to give us a new start. So that we are better able to love Him, ourselves and the world.*

If you want to know more then come along to some of our services in Holy Week and Easter; visit our website at <http://www.stjohnschurchdonisthorpe.org.uk>

Yours

Vivien



### **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: FRIDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MARCH at 7.00pm St Lawrence's Church Measham**

This year's Day of Prayer has been prepared by the women of the Suriname and is called 'All God's creation is very good.' For more information go to <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/> Do come to this service as the churches of this area join together with women across the world in prayer.

*This logo was designed for the 1982 service. The design comprises arrows converging from the four points of the compass, four figures kneeling in prayer, the Celtic cross and a circle representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.*

### **THE 'GETHSEMANE GARMENTS' COME TO APPLEBY CHURCH**

From Passion Sunday (March 18th) till Easter, Appleby church will be hosting the 'Gethsemane Garments'. A collection of four Gethsemane Garments by artist Peter Privett, which show pain, suffering, hope and renewal. The garments – red, purple, green and white - comprise cotton, silk, wool, synthetic fabrics (dyed, painted and printed), recycled clothes, shells, beads and muslin. These will be displayed as 'stations for reflection and contemplation', and will be open for all to visit.

### **OUR LENT SESSIONS CONTINUE IN MARCH.**

Our Lent groups continue on the theme of 'Lent is for Loving' – an important feature of life in the church. We're looking at 4 sessions which will be:

**Tuesday evenings 7.15 for 7.30pm on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> (Measham Vicarage)**

**Thursday mornings 9.45 for 10 am. on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> (Measham Church Hall)**

The sessions will take place in Measham as the most central venue with parking. Cost £1.30 per session to cover the cost of heating, refreshments and materials. Let Vivien know if you'd like to come (01530 270354)

### **MOTHERING SUNDAY: 11 a.m. on March 11<sup>th</sup> at St John's:**

We always mark this day with a special family service. It's a chance to say thank you to God for our mums, dads and all who care for us. If you've never marked Mother's Day in this way, why not make this a first? The service is aimed at all ages and there will be a gift for mum. It will also include Holy Communion.

### **COFFEEANDCHAT@CHURCH. Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 9.30am -11-30 a.m.**

A chance to chat and to meet others socially over a cup of coffee (or tea) and a bite to eat.

### **3T'S - TABLE, TALK AND TEA**

A much appreciated informal, friendly get together. Anyone is welcome to come along, we meet in church on the third Tuesday of every month, 2.30pm - 3.45pm. Stay for the whole of the time or just drop in arrive when you can and leave as you wish. If you enjoy stimulating conversation, good company over a cup of tea or coffee and cake, then 3Ts is for you! Join in with the discussion as you wish or just enjoy a cuppa amongst friends. We round our conversations off with a song and a prayer. If you would like to join us, our meeting this month will take place on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 2.30pm in the Church.**

### **LUNCH LIGHT**

If you are feeling the pain of bereavement and would like some company, a chat and a bite to eat, why not drop in to St. Johns on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March between 12.30pm – 2.30pm.** There is a charge of £2. Telephone Janet 01283 215000, if you would like to come along, or if you wish to help out.

### **SPRING COFFEE MORNING at St Laurence's Church Hall, Measham - Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 10 a.m. – 12 noon**

Come along for a good social morning – coffee and eats, raffle, tombola and things to buy.  
In aid of Measham Church funds.

### **EASTER READY STEADY STICK – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March – St. Lawrences Church Measham 2-4 pm**

Come and join in with the Easter Story - Crafts; Games; Drama; Junk Modelling and Refreshments.  
Open to all children under 11 (under 5's must have an adult stay. **£1.00 per child**

Further details from Ceriann Kelly (Childrens worker) 07946376500 [woodfieldchildrenswork@gmail.com](mailto:woodfieldchildrenswork@gmail.com)  
Facebook: Woodfield childrens work Twitter: @Woodfieldteam

## SERVICES for HOLY WEEK and EASTER

Holy Week and Easter are already upon us! In Holy Week, we follow the most deeply important and moving part of the Christian story. It's worth trying to cover the whole week to feel the impact of these extraordinary events.

**PALM SUNDAY** is on **March 25<sup>th</sup> at 11 am** and we will be looking at Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The crowd received him with joy but there was plotting in the air and the cries of welcome would change very quickly. Our celebrations are helped by the scout band and a parade around the village, leaving church at 10.45 a.m.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** is **March 29<sup>th</sup> and we have a 7.30pm Holy Communion this year at Appleby and Normanton Churches** when we put ourselves at the table with Jesus at this last supper with his disciples. He knows what lies ahead.

**GOOD FRIDAY** **March 30<sup>th</sup> 'The Way of The Cross' is an 11am service**

as we follow Jesus on the way of the cross, amazed at how far he is prepared to go for love of us

**Then EASTER SUNDAY** **April 1<sup>st</sup> at our 11 am All-Age Communion Service** we rejoice that Jesus is raised from death to life – a new start is possible for all of us, then at **6pm** we sing **Easter Songs of Praise at Measham Church**



## THE TRANSFORMATION OF ST JOHN'S

In the last Grapevine, we wrote of the exciting plans to transform the interior of St John's Church. This is our invitation to a preview of what the plans look like at this stage. There will be a public meeting on **SUNDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> March at 4.00pm in church**. Do come along and see what is on the cards.

**ANNUAL MEETING DATE IS APRIL 25<sup>th</sup>:** the annual meeting for St John's will be taking place on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm. More details and invitation in the next magazine.

In the meantime, we do revise the church's electoral roll at this time of year. Being on the roll means you have the right to vote at the annual meeting but more than that, says that you want to be a member of, and associated with, the church. If you would like to go on the roll, please contact Derek Tomlin on 01283 225552



## BISHOP'S SCHOOL FOR PRAYER 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> MAY at LAUNDE ABBEY

Bishop Martyn writes: "the theme of prayer is something that I continue to explore with different groups around the diocese. From 9th-13th May I will be at Launde Abbey for the Bishop's School of Prayer. I hope you will join me for one day or all five days. The teaching is being shared with the staff at Launde and there will be plenty of space for conversations and reflection". Go to <https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/events/bishops-school-prayer/> for booking details/cost etc.

## LOOKING AHEAD - AN IMPORTANT DEANERY WEEKEND – FRIDAY EVENING APRIL 20<sup>th</sup> – SUNDAY MIDDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL

Do get this date firmly in your diary. It's a deanery weekend which will be held at Measham.

Some of you may remember the visit by Adrian and Bridget Plass a few years ago. It was very popular. This year, we have a more local talent coming – Revd Chris Webb who is deputy warden of Launde Abbey.

He's a great speaker and will be introducing us to praying with the psalms.

Fuller details in April magazine but do keep the dates free.



Revd Chris Webb

## REFLECTION

*Between 1941 and 1945, the Nazis attempted to annihilate all of Europe's Jews. This systematic and planned attempt to murder European Jewry is known as the Holocaust (The Shoah in Hebrew). From the time they assumed power in 1933, the Nazis used propaganda, persecution, and legislation to deny human and civil rights to Jews. They used centuries of antisemitism as their foundation. By the end of the Holocaust, six million Jewish men, women and children had perished in ghettos, mass-shootings, in concentration camps and extermination camps.*



**HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY TRUST**

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As I sat on the 27<sup>th</sup> January watching some of the programs broadcast as part of holocaust memorial day, I wondered how far the world has really come in terms of its tolerance to "minority" groups, in particular minority religious groups, since that time.

I am sure that you will agree that the holocaust was a terrible thing, spreading from the obsession of one man to becoming the policy of a nation, resulting in the killing of 6 million Jews and other minority groups in Europe.

But how far have we really come since then?



**CHRISTIAN  
SOLIDARITY  
WORLDWIDE**  
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

The situation has undoubtedly improved in Europe but across the world it is reported that 75% of the world's population live in countries where religious freedom violations are commonplace. The areas most affected by these are Asia, Africa and Latin America where national religions are intolerant of other minority religions, leading to oppression and violence against those groups, or states that seek to suppress religions and their practices. In some countries it is even one

denomination of a religion against another denomination.

So how far have we come? Well the wide scale rounding up and killing of vast numbers of people has gone but constant suppression, oppression, harassment and imprisonment of religious minority groups and their members is certainly still with us. And all of that is not taking into account the actions of groups such as IS. So maybe, in this world that we perceive to be full of freedoms, we haven't come that far in our tolerance to those who are different to the accepted norms.

If you would like to know how you can get involved and make a difference to this situation visit the Christian Solidarity Worldwide website at [www.csw.org.uk](http://www.csw.org.uk) or contact me on [cheethamadam@talktalk.net](mailto:cheethamadam@talktalk.net)

Adam Cheetham

## WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHNS CHURCH - MARCH 2018

Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Holy Communion
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup> 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Tuesday Prayer Group (in Church)
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am – 11.30am	Coffee & Chat (in Church)
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> <b>Mothering Sunday</b>	11.00am	Family Worship
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup>	11.00am	Baptism
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm – 4.00pm	3T's
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	12.30 – 2.00pm	Lunch Light
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> <b>Palm Sunday</b>	11.00am	Parade Service Family Worship
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> <b>Maunday Thursday</b>	7.30pm	Holy Communion at Normanton or Appleby
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> <b>Good Friday</b>	11.00am	The Way of the Cross
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> April <b>Easter Day</b>	11.00am	All Age/ Family Worship - Holy Communion

