



All Saints' Church

Sunday 12th April 2020

Easter Day

www.allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

Find us on Facebook <https://facebook.com/allsaintsgosforth>

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The Parish Office closed.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter

Please log on to the All Saints' Website on Sunday morning for our recorded Easter Sunday Eucharist and hymns <http://allsaintsgosforth.wixsite.com/all-saints-gosforth/worship-with-us-at-home>

Please also log on for Easter Sunday Evening Prayer on <https://www.allsaints-gosforth.co.uk/recordings/>

Dear Friends,

I asked myself during Holy week how we might celebrate Easter at this time of emergency, when so many are anxious, unwell and risking their own welfare to care for others?

I think we must be careful about giving the impression that it is not the happy ending to the terrible business of Good Friday. Jesus died on Good Friday. His life ended. It was a dead body the disciples saw. The remarkable thing about Easter is that everything that looked as though it was just an ending, just a failure, just a defeat strangely begins to look like something else. Jesus still exists. God's commitment to human beings is not over. What began has not finished. On Easter day we rejoice that evil and despair do not win. There is still hope. New life can come.

We all know that troubles go on. We in the West are largely shielded from many diseases but a whole host of illnesses are experienced in the south hemisphere. That is the world we still live in. When Jesus is raised from the dead at Easter those things are still unjust, still appalling, still painful, but we can say that they are not the last word. There is still hope. This is what inspires us to do very brave things in the face of defeat and keep us going. As people of the resurrection we are to have our feet on the ground but still have hope.

So this Easter I will reflect that we live in a fragmented, complex and often destructive world and that will continue to be. The force of evil is always near, but at Easter we think on the shock and joy of Mary Magdalene and the other Mary as they run to tell the disciples what they have seen and heard at the empty tomb. They are confused and so are we, but the story tells us that death and destruction is not the end.

There is a story told of Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy – or Woodbine Willie as he was known, the brother of our second Vicar, William Studdert Kennedy. Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy understood that Christian ministry – like Jesus' own ministry – was getting out into the world, and into those hard and demanding places that may require the self-giving and even ultimate sacrifice. In the trenches one day, Geoffrey heard of a small group of soldiers left in no-man's land, trying to save a colleague. He crawled out, under fire, to meet them. 'Who are you?' asked one surprised soldier when Geoffrey eventually reached them. 'The Church', he replied. 'What on earth are you doing here?' asked the soldier. 'My job' replied Geoffrey Studdert-Kennedy. His action was an expression of that hope. Jesus is overcome and dies on Good Friday. At Easter it is death that is overcome. That is the story we need to tell and show in our troubled times.

Happy Easter.

Andrew

Easter Prayers

Lord of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.
All Amen.

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for the love which drew Mary Magdalene to your tomb
to weep over your death.
As you broke into her grief with your death-shattering life,
so reach into our broken hearts with your promise of hope.
To you, Lord Jesus,
reaching into the deepest tombs of our despair,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.
All Amen.

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for you are with us,
even when our eyes are closed to your companionship.
Walk this day alongside the disconsolate and the despairing,
open their eyes to your gentle illumination,
and let their hearts burn within them at your invisible presence.
To you, Lord Jesus,
walking by our side,
be honour and glory, now and for ever.
All Amen.

An Easter reflection from Beverley:

The rainbow is a sign that has meaning in both biblical and the secular world, - for both it is a sign of hope. If we recall Noah in his ark – he spent his time (we don't know exactly how long) in isolation with his family to stay safe when the world around him was in chaos. Although Noah was following God's instructions, he had no idea when the rain and floods would end. When it did end, he was given a sign by God – a rainbow – a sign of hope that this would not happen again.

Recall the last time you saw a real rainbow. Even in our maturity they cause us to stop and admire their simple beauty – they make us smile and make us want to tell someone about what we have just seen – sometimes they are so vibrant they take a long time to fade away. Can you remember singing the rainbow song when you were younger, perhaps you sing it with your children or grandchildren. It is such a simple song that reminds us of the beauty and happiness seeing this arch of colour bring us. Today Christians rejoice, we are called to share in the Resurrection life of Christ, but we need to be beacons of hope to the world around us, just like the rainbows in the windows.

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Bible Readings for Sunday 12th April 2020 – Easter Day

New testament: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

New Testament: Acts 10:34-43

Gospel: John 20:1-18

We pray for:

those who are afraid for others and for themselves, especially those alone.

for all unnamed ones in ICU across the country, known and loved by God. For staff who tend them and all who have to watch and wait at a distance.

Join us in Evening Prayer on weekdays

You can follow the order of service using the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsgosforth/videos/2562216144033213/>



Easter Donations If you would like to give an extra donation for the work of All Saint' at this time please email Louise for our bank details post@allsaints-gosforth.org.uk

Mission of the Month Each month any plate donations from our services are given to a nominated charity but with services suspended this is not possible. Instead we ask members of the congregation to consider putting away money and later giving to: this month: The Church Mission Society (CMS), supporting Tony and Katherine Paton in South East Asia, and in May to uS, a charity which aims to provide support and opportunities for young people with, or at risk of developing mental illness.

A helpful resource for this time: Please see an self-isolation prayer booklet **Together network** - a resource which can be downloaded and printed out (and given to someone without internet access).

<https://togethernetwork.org.uk/uploads/shared/Prayer-booklet.pdf>

Resources are appearing every day. We will try to keep you up to date. **Andrew**

Radio programmes

Prayer for the Day daily at 5.43am on Radio 4

Sunday Worship Sundays at 8.10am on Radio 4

Daily Service Monday to Friday at 9.45am on Radio 4

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday Worship BBC Radio 4 8.10-9am. In a specially-compiled studio service, pre-recorded close to transmission, the Archbishop of Canterbury leads a meditation.

Easter Sunday BBC Radio 4- Sunday 12 April, 1.30-2pm- 'Three Vicars Talking' Richard Coles, Kate Bottley and Giles Fraser share their stories and experiences.

Easter Sunday BBC Radio 3 –3pm Choral Evensong from Norwich Cathedral (2017)

Easter Sunday BBC Radio 3. 5.30-6.45pm Easter Sunday special celebration of music, prose and poetry.

Jesus Christ Superstar. Following the National Theatre's decision to stream their plays for free on YouTube,

Andrew Lloyd Webber has now made a selection of his musical theatre shows free to watch. Jesus Christ Superstar will be available to watch for free from 10th April. The show will be streamed on **The Shows Must Go On YouTube channel** at 7 pm. You will then have 48 hours to watch and enjoy the show.

Those who knew Arthur Bramwell will be sorry to hear that he died on Sunday March 22nd. Arthur was a dedicated and conscientious churchwarden at All Saints' from 2007 and his connection with the church went back to his time as a choirboy. Arthur and Janet moved to Gloucester in 2010 where Arthur became deeply involved with the cathedral as a steward and part of the stewardship committee. If anyone would like to express their sympathy to Janet she would be grateful to hear from you: Janet Bramwell, 2 Quail Close, Bar wood, Gloucester, GL4 3EY.

Sadly, Canon Tony Meakin, who was curate at All Saints' from 1954 to 1960, died on 1st April

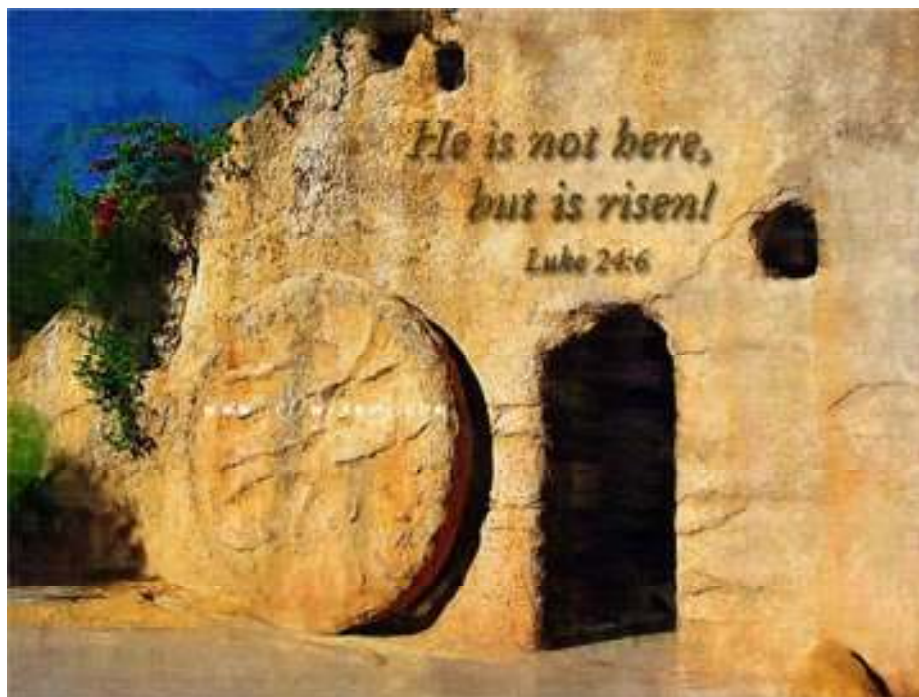
Our thoughts and prayers are with Ann and the family.

We also heard this week of the death of Ann Thom on the 27th March and pray for her family in their grief.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Many of us would have heard the very sad news that the Revd Steve Wilkinson, Isaac's Dad, died at home on Saturday 4th April. Steve was a most committed Priest who had served in Cramlington before becoming the Vicar of Humshaugh, Simonburn and Wark and Area Dean of the Bellingham Deanery. His funeral will take place at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday 15th April in St Michael's churchyard, Wark, but under the current restrictions, only immediate family will be able to attend. We hold in our prayers the people of Humshaugh, Simonburn and Wark and most especially Steve's family, Melanie, Jack and Nadia, Isaac, Isobel and Dylan, Steve's mother Jill and his sister Rosie.

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All Saints' Mission Statement

Working together as a church we are pursuing a vision to put All Saints' at the heart of the wider community. Our vision is to be a vibrant, inclusive, compassionate and outward looking church with a sensitive and thoughtful approach to faith, where there is excellent pastoral care and encouragement for all and where diversity is welcomed and our worship inspires us to transform the world.