



St John's, Whorlton. Your Church. Here for You.

St John's Church, Whorlton April 2026

A Message from Reverend Bob

April 2026 begins on the Wednesday of Holy Week. Whereas last year the Wednesday of Holy week was over two weeks later, on April the 16th. And next year, it will occur much earlier, on March the 24th. This is because Easter is what we know of as a Moveable Feast.

From earliest times Easter has been the most important feast in the church calendar, and the date of its observance has varied. In contrast, no day of the week was ever associated with Christ's birth, so around A.D. 400 the Church assigned December 25 as the date for the observation of Christmas.

Easter, however, does have specific weekdays associated with its events and these influence the moveable nature of dates upon which Easter is celebrated. Historically, Jesus held the Last Supper on the 14th day of Nisan in the Jewish calendar, which is the known date of Passover.

However, the date of Passover is based on a lunar calendar and, consequently, Passover doesn't always fall on the same day of the week. But we know that Christ's Resurrection occurred on a Sunday, and therefore Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday, which led to conflicts that were resolved by the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325.

The Council of Nicaea decreed that Easter should be celebrated by everyone, everywhere, on the same Sunday, and that this Sunday must follow the fourteenth day of the paschal moon, which is a moon whose fourteenth day follows the spring equinox.

The date of Easter, therefore, comes from a lunar calendar, and its date can vary. Once the date of Easter is determined, the other dates are calculated: Ash Wednesday, the Wednesday before the first Sunday of Lent (count back six weeks from Easter to the first Sunday of Lent, then go back to the Wednesday before the Sunday); Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter; Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday are observed in the week immediately before Easter Sunday. Pentecost is the 50th day after Easter, it marks the day when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and others while they were praying.

So, there you have it...

But, as my childhood friend Moleworth would have said: "Everyone know that!"¹ Don't they...

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DIARY DATES

11am-1pm, Sat. 21st March: Coffee Morning

5-8pm, Sat. 18th April: St George's Night (postponed, alternative date TBC)

2-4pm, Sat. 16th May: Spring Fayre

2-4pm, Sat. 13th June: Afternoon Tea

1pm, Sat. 4th July: Tynemouth Walking Tour - led by Martin Stait

5pm, Sat. 15th August: Meal at the Engine Inn

5-7pm, Sat. 12th Sept.: Pub Quiz with Pie and Peas supper

12 noon, Sun. 4th Oct.: Harvest Lunch

2-4pm, Sat. 21st Nov.: Christmas Fayre

6:30pm, Sun. 13th Dec.: Christmas Carols by Candlelight

Mothers' Union meets on the last Monday of the month – programme to be confirmed.

The Women's Group meets 8pm, first Tuesday of the month at The Chapel Park.

Men's Breakfast meets at Dobbies at 10am on the first Saturday of the month.

Friday Bible Study group -please speak to Rev'd Bob if you are interested in joining this group.

SUNDAY SERVICES AND BIBLE READINGS FOR THE MONTH

2nd April Exodus 12: 1-4(5-10) 11-14; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

3rd April Isaiah 52: 13-end of 53; Hebrews 10: 16-25; John 18: 1-end of 19

5th April Acts 10: 34-43 or Jeremiah 31: 1-6; Colossians 3: 1-4 or Acts 10: 34-43;
John 20: 1-18 or Mathew 28: 1-10

12th April Acts 2: 14a, 22-32; 1 Peter 1: 3-9; John 20: 19-end

19th April Acts 2: 14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1 : 17-23; Luke 24: 13-35

26th April Acts 2: 42 -end; 1 Peter 2 : 19-end; John 10: 1-10

Easter Services:

Maundy Thursday service 2nd April 6pm led by Reverend Bob

Good Friday service led by Bob and Sue, Church Hall at 10am with tea/coffee and Hot Cross Buns

Easter Eve service 6pm 4th April led by Reverend Bob

Additional services are also being held at Holy Nativity church throughout Easter

Defibrillator maintenance

We have now installed our defibrillator in the car park at St John's church. The defibrillator is accessible from Stamfordham Road and is available to all who require assistance in the event of a cardiac emergency. We have kept the just giving page open to allow organisations and individuals to donate to the annual maintenance.

<https://www.aeddonate.org.uk/community-projects/25-072/>

Reminder to be collecting those coins for the tubes of smarties to be returned at Easter to use as funds toward the defibrillator maintenance.

If you are new to St John's Whorlton and wish to register your contact details temporarily until the next electoral roll revision please collect a form from the back of church and give to Martin or Lesley (church wardens).

HALL BOOKINGS

We're open to taking new bookings: do get in touch with the parish office for details or with any enquiries (whether for a regular booking or one-off event): 0191 271 2992.

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