

# **The Parish of St Paul Kersal Moor and St Andrew Carr Clough**



## ***Easter 2024***

**Our aim is to KNOW God through Jesus  
To GROW in faith  
To SHOW God's love in our community**

Revd Daniel writes:

Signs of new life and renewal are part of Easter celebrations: chocolate eggs, chocolate bunnies, flowers and various other things. At this time nature comes back to life after the hardship of winter in the cycle of the seasons, as farmers know well. But although there are similarities, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, which we celebrate at Easter, is not some long-awaited and expected natural renewal. Yes, it is a victory of life over death, but not merely in the way of flowers growing once winter has finished. There is something more remarkable, more surprising and more conclusive happening here. What happens with the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ is not a phase change in a natural cycle, but the death of death itself.



For this reason, the initial reaction of those present at the Resurrection of Christ is not one of jubilation, but fear. In Matthew 28, the guards of Jesus' tomb and the two women, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, witness an earthquake and an angel who rolls back the stone, appearing like lightning and clothed as white as snow. And they are afraid. Matthew tells us that the guards shook and became like dead men, and the angel told the women not to be afraid. The angel tells them to see the place where Jesus lay so they can see for themselves that he is risen, then go and tell the disciples. We are told that they ran to the disciples 'with great fear' and when they meet Jesus himself on the way, Jesus again tells them not to be afraid.

There is something deeply unsettling about this new life that God demonstrated in Jesus Christ at the first Easter, the same new life that he offers to us today. This new life changes everything and challenges us to the core. But as John Chrysostom says, 'let us not fear and shudder. Let us rise out of our sins. We can by grace, if we are willing'. Then we experience renewal. This is not natural renewal, but the death of death itself in us.



## **Readings for Passiontide and Easter**

**Sunday 24 March (Palm Sunday):** (both) Mark 11: 1-11; (St A) Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

**Wednesday 27 March:** Isaiah 50: 4-9a; John 13: 21-32

**Thursday 28 March (Maundy Thursday):** (St P) Reflection: Luke 23: 1-25; (St A) Holy Communion: John 13: 1-17, 31b-35; (St P) 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26; John 13: 1-17, 31b-35; John 15: 1-17; Psalm 116: 10-end

**Friday 29 March (Good Friday):** (St A) meditation on Salome; (St P) John 19

**Sunday 31 March (Easter Day)** Acts 10: 34-43; Mark 16: 1-8

**Wednesday 3 April:** Acts 3: 1-10; Luke 24: 13-35

**Sunday 7 April:** Acts 4: 32-35; John 20: 19-end

**Wednesday 10 April:** Acts 5: 17-26; John 3: 16-21



A meditation and prayer for Passiontide:

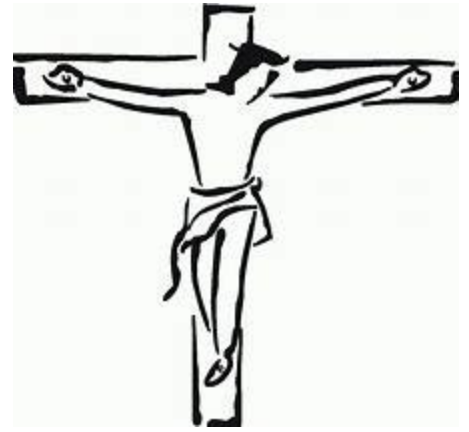
How are you preparing for Easter this year? Are you writing cards, looking for that special Easter egg for the grandchildren, hoping for a gift of Easter flowers? Or do your thoughts turn at this Passiontide to the reminders in scripture of what was to be fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus? The festivals and holidays on the traditional Jewish calendar point to the ultimate sacrifice for us that is to come. Sometimes it's hard for us when we pray to think on Jesus' sufferings, but when we do, we gain a greater appreciation of God's great love for us through the message of the cross. As we ponder on Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for our sins, let's make our most important Easter preparations through prayer to Him.



Dear Jesus,

We thank you for being our Saviour. We thank you for the gift of Easter. As we come to you in prayer today, we ask for your forgiveness. We are humbled that you chose to live a human life and to die a cruel death for us so that we could have new life in you. Forgive us for our selfishness, for our pride, for our bitterness, for our disobedience, and for our judgmental attitudes. We know that we have broken every commandment and that we need a Saviour because our works are not enough to cover the wrong that we have already done. Thank you for covering our sins and becoming sin for us so that we might have your righteousness. Thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit in our hearts, and that by enabling us to live by the Spirit and not by our flesh, you give us hope. Amen.

*With thanks to [christianity.com/your-daily-prayer](http://christianity.com/your-daily-prayer)*



Now that Alpha's over, what next?

Our proposal is a 6-week **follow-up course** of films and discussion called 'Life Explored.' It looks at what the Bible says about the big questions of life. It's ideal for those who want more after Alpha, and for anyone considering confirmation at our confirmation service on 9 June 2024. We are planning for two opportunities to take part: Tuesday evenings at 7pm, and Sunday mornings at 11.45am, both at St Paul's. We hope to start the Tuesday group on 16 April and the Sunday group after consultation. If you are interested, and especially if Sunday suits you better, talk to Revd Daniel.



LIFE|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST GIFT  
GOD COULD GIVE YOU?

# Holy Week & Easter Services

## **Palm Sunday 24 March**

St Paul's: 10am All-Stage Morning Praise for Palm Sunday

St Andrew's: 11am Morning Praise for Palm Sunday

## **Wednesday 27 March**

St Paul's: 10am Holy Week Communion

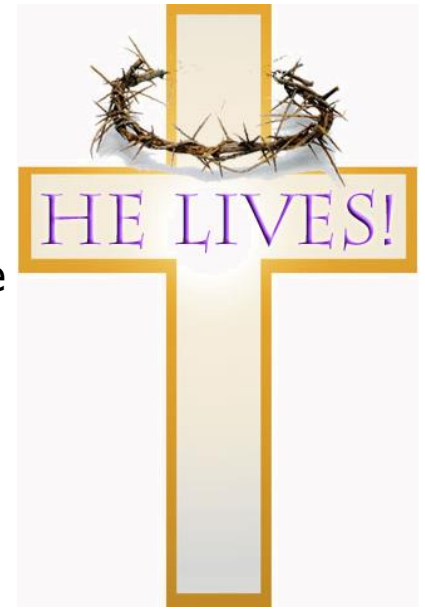
## **Maundy Thursday 28 March**

St Paul's: 9.30am St Paul's School Easter service

12 noon Reflection and simple lunch

7pm Holy Communion and altar stripping

St Andrew's: 3pm Holy Communion and altar stripping



## **Good Friday 29 March**

10.45 for 11am start: United Walk of Witness from St Mary's Flower Park (Bury New Road entrance) to Tesco for an outdoor service 11.45 – 12.15pm

St Andrew's: 3 – 4pm Good Friday Meditation

St Paul's: 7 – 8pm Good Friday Passion Play



## **Easter Day Sunday 31 March**

St Paul's: 10am Holy Communion

St Andrew's: 11am Holy Communion

## **Saturday 6 April**

St Andrew's: 2.30pm Easter Messy Church

**All welcome!**

## *Why do we eat eggs at Easter?*



Most of us enjoy eating chocolate eggs at Easter, but why do we do it? Remember how we eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday? That was in order to eat up the eggs people were not allowed during the Lenten fast. Eating eggs in Holy Week was strictly forbidden, so any eggs laid that week were saved and decorated to make them Holy Week eggs. They were then given to children as gifts. Victorians adapted the tradition with satin-covered cardboard eggs filled with Easter gifts.

This has now developed into the tradition that many people enjoy today. The first chocolate eggs appeared in France and Germany in the 19th Century, but they were bitter and hard. As chocolate-making techniques improved, hollow eggs like the ones we have today were developed. The first hollow chocolate Easter eggs to be sold in the UK were released in 1873 by the company Fry's. They very quickly became popular and remain a favourite tradition with children and adults alike today. We enjoyed a special egg hunt at the Time out Easter party on 19 March and were presented with chocolate eggs by our own answer to the Easter bunny, Paul Smeeton.





# The Lightbulb Community Drop in

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March  
12 noon to 2pm

Looking for somewhere warm and friendly?  
Do you need support or advice?  
Pop in for a FREE lunch or brew and a chat  
At St Andrew's Woodward Road M25 9TY  
FREE Wi fi

ring Hilary on 07817651408  
[revhilaryshedlock@gmail.com](mailto:revhilaryshedlock@gmail.com)



Lightbulb Community Drop in



## **"Now that I am free to be myself, Who am I?"**



Rev Mike, Rev Andy and I are just back from Whalley Abbey. Three days away from work and parish life, quietly and peacefully led by Andrew and Wendy and accompanied by six other lovely people. During the retreat we were reminded of two important things: making space for God and time to be with others.

It was a blessing to be able to go away and to make space at this busy time of year. We would recommend a retreat to everyone (not just those of us who wear collars!), but the challenge is keeping that space and time now we are back home.

I would like to share with you some ideas from our retreat that we all can try at home. Ideas that could help us to make space to be with God, away from the business of life, even if just for a few minutes each day.

Do you enjoy reading, perhaps poetry, or listening to music? How about sitting in silence, looking at a picture or looking out of the window? Maybe some crafting, writing, drawing or going for a walk? There may be other things you can think of, it doesn't have to be 'religious' or 'spiritual' and you don't have to be good at it. Just do something you like, something that speaks to you or perhaps something you haven't tried before. Spend some time doing what you choose, quietly and thoughtfully, keeping in the moment. It doesn't have to be for a long time, but doing it regularly is helpful. Notice what you are doing and pay attention to how you feel. Enjoy the process, the result isn't important. Afterwards spend some time being in the quiet.





If you like you can think of these questions in the quiet time:



How are you feeling now? Have you glimpsed anything about yourself? Have you glimpsed anything about your situation? Have you glimpsed anything about God? Even doing a little each day, creating a space to be, can help us to connect with God, if you like you can keep a journal of how you feel and what comes to mind while you are sitting quietly.

One other benefit of being on retreat was coming together and spending time with other people, having the opportunity to walk alongside each other on this journey of discovery about ourselves and about God. If you think you would like to try making space for God alongside others. or are interested in going on retreat, please speak to me, Rev Andy, Rev Mike or Rev Daniel.

With every blessing from Rev Hilary

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In the soft falling rain

In the call of the breeze

In the greening of Spring

In the voices of silence

In a smile, in a tear

And a gentle touch

In the earth beneath my feet

In the heavens stretching out

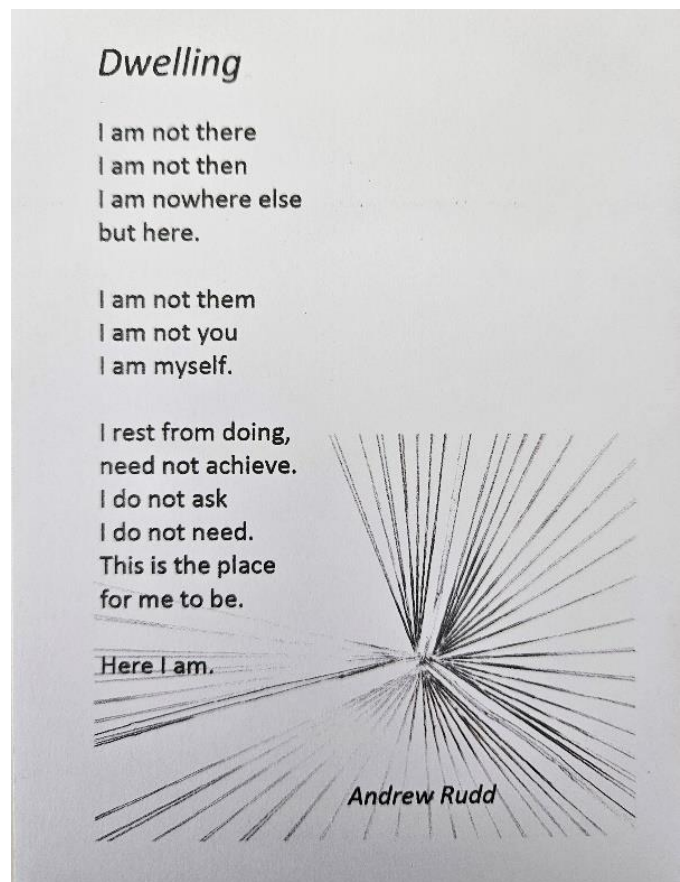
In the emptiness of my soul,

In the fullness of my heart,

I have not forgotten you

I am here.

Hilary Shedlock March 2024



## World Day of Prayer 2024

Jean Dyson writes:

Mike, Pat Smith and I had a very enjoyable time at Salvation Army citadel in Swinton on 1<sup>st</sup> March for the World Day of Prayer event hosted by Major Mike and his wife Verity. It was led by Shelagh Hollington, local rep for WDP Committee for the Manchester area. The theme of 'I beg you, bear with one another in love', inspired by the verses from Ephesians 4: 1-7, was written by the women of Palestine before 7<sup>th</sup> October attack in Israel, which made the words even more meaningful and moving. Additional prayers were later added to the service to reflect the latest situation in Gaza. Before the service began, pictures were shown as part of a PowerPoint presentation, of scenes from the Holy Land, along with a brief explanation of the recent complex history of the region.

As we were not able to have a service in our own Prestwich Churches Together group this year, it was good to be able to share with a group of Salford churches and to worship with them.



### *Prayer of the Palestinian Women of Jerusalem*

Let us walk with you in the way of the cross, O Christ, faithfully enduring its demands, constantly sharing its message and daily revealing its love. Amen.



## *Easter Quiz*

**1:** Who wrote The Tale of Peter Rabbit?

**2:** What kind of bird delivers eggs to children in Switzerland for Easter?

**3:** According to the Bible, how did Judas identify Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane?

**4:** What is Easter known as in France?

**5** Which company makes Creme Eggs?

**6:** What is the day before Good Friday called?



**7:** What is the name of the rabbit in Winnie the Pooh?

**8:** True or false – Easter is named after the pagan goddess Eostre?

**9:** What does the rabbit from Alice in Wonderland always carry?

**10:** What food is traditionally eaten on Good Friday?

**11:** What happens in spring to the clocks?

**12:** What did children traditionally wrap eggs in before egg rolling competitions?

**13:** How much is the most expensive Fabergé egg worth, to the nearest million?

**14:** Which Scottish football team play their home games at Easter Road?





## Events coming up soon

**Thursday 28 March** 12-2pm at St Andrew's **Lightbulb Community Drop-In** – all welcome

**Sunday 21 April** welcome service for Revd Canon Steve Williams as Incumbent of St Margaret (Holyrood), Prestwich, and St George, Simister at St Margaret's Church

**Sunday 12 May** Annual Parochial Church Meeting (**APCM**) following joint Holy Communion at St Paul's Church

**Sunday 19 May** end of Christian Aid week: special service at St Paul's with collection at both churches

**Saturday 18 May** 3pm **Songs of Praise** at St Andrew's and tribute to Judith Walsh on her retirement as Churchwarden

**Sunday 2 June** 3pm **Memorial Service** at St Paul's to remember the recently departed

**Sunday 9 June** 3pm Mission Community **Confirmation Service** at St Paul's

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Useful parish contacts:

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**Emergency prayer chain requests:** contact Maureen 0161 792 4873 [rober382@sky.com](mailto:rober382@sky.com)



St Pauls Kersal and St Andrews Carr Clough; Group for St Pauls Kersal and St Andrews Carr Clough

**For more information** visit our websites:

St Paul's: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15877](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15877) St Andrew's: [www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15878](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/15878)



## Answers to Easter Quiz

1: Beatrix Potter

2: Cuckoo

3: By kissing him

4: Pâques

5: Cadbury's

6: Maundy Thursday

7: It's called Rabbit

8: True

9: A pocket-watch

10: Fish

11: They go forward

12: Onion skins

13: £23.9 million

14: Hibernian FC