

# CHURCH News

April 2026



Newsletter no: 121

## Hello Beautiful

Okay, he was fully divine and there was something of the prophet about him, which means he likely saw that it was a) coming and b) unavoidable. But his fully human nature? That vulnerability that caused him such terror in that garden? Why didn't Jesus just get up and run?

Why did he die for me? For you? *For anyone?* What made human beings so worth saving that he went through with it?

I'm often accused of *getting emosh*. I've been told by people who know about this stuff that I have 'high emotional intelligence' and something called 'advanced empathy.' Whether these things are spiritual, neurological, a bit of both, or something else entirely, my default state seems to be to wear my heart on my sleeve and talk openly (and sometimes quite vulnerably) about things that really matter to me.

And I *get emosh* when I talk about Jesus because what Jesus did moves me utterly. I don't consider myself beautiful enough to be worth all that pain of saving, so it bowls me over that Jesus so obviously and decisively disagreed. I think people who know about this stuff would say Jesus had high emotional intelligence too - but for 'high' in his case read 'stratospheric.' Not a level

achievable by mere non-divine humans like you and I, because Jesus was God. And it turns out we're God's beloved.

God made us, at the beginning of everything, his most precious creation. So treasured were we by him that he designed us like him, in his image. He crafted us in his likeness, gave us the breath of life, that we would have him in our lungs, in our blood, in our bodies, our divine DNA. God with us. Innate in us. And he walked with us, and he delighted in us, and he gave us the earth, and the waters, and all the creatures within them, and he adored us, and it was all for us.

As everything Jesus did was all for us.

There's beauty in us that God can see, even though we can't. But I think Jesus could see the beauty in everyone. Even in a multitude, Jesus could pick someone out and speak with them like they were the only person in the room, the only person who mattered. There were no anonymous faces in the crowd with him.

How astonishing to be able to see the beauty, utterly untarnished, in everything and everyone. To see the absolute capacity for beauty, and love, and joy, in every human being. To see the

glorious, magnificent colours pouring out of everyone and everything, despite the grime, the hurt, the darkness. To see the colours in humanity that humanity can't see itself, to see the awesome possibility in every single one of them.

So beautiful that saving us was worth all of what he went through.

It's simply this, isn't it? Thank you, Jesus. Thank you for the cross.

Have a joyful Easter.

*Simon*

But the great thing to remember is that, though our feelings come and go, His love for us does not. It is not wearied by our sins, or our indifference; and, therefore, is quite relentless in its determination that we shall be cured of those sins, at whatever cost to us, at whatever cost to Him.

*C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity*



### **CALLING EASTER EGG HUNTERS!**

The Easter Bunny has promised to hide some chocolate eggs around St. Mary's

Lowdham churchyard on Sunday 5th April.

We'll be searching for them after the 9.00 a.m. Easter Service.

All welcome, any age any size!

# April services

## 2026

### **Good Friday, 3rd April**

4.00 pm. Stations of the Cross,  
St. Mary's, Lowdham

### **Sunday 5th April**

9.00a.m. Easter Day Holy Communion,  
St. Mary's, Lowdham

11. 00a.m Easter Day Holy Communion,  
St. Helen's, Burton Joyce

### **Sunday, 12th April**

9.00a.m. Morning Worship, St. Mary's,  
Lowdham

11.00 a.m Morning Worship, St. Helen's,  
Burton Joyce.

### **Tuesday 14th April**

10.00a.m. Holy Communion, Holy Trinity,  
Bulcote

### **Sunday, 19th April**

9.00a.m. Holy Communion, St. Mary's,  
Lowdham

11. 00a.m Holy Communion, St. Helen's,  
Burton Joyce.

### **Sunday 26th April**

9.00a.m. Worship for All, St. Mary's,  
Lowdham

11.00a.m. Worship for All, St. Helen's,  
Burton Joyce

*Please note there is no Holy Communion  
service at St. John's or St. Luke's this  
month*

## What's On...

*Our churches are living communities at the centre of village life, offering help, fellowship and welcome to everyone. Do come and join us. We'd be delighted to see you.*

### Coffee Chit Chat

Mondays 9.15a.m—11.30a.m

St. Helen's Church Centre, Burton Joyce  
*Come and join us for a cuppa and a natter!*

### Parents & Toddlers

Monday 9.30 –11.00a.m. (term time only).

St. Helen's Church Centre, Burton Joyce.  
*Everyone is welcome. With refreshments*

### The Tea Shop at St. John's

Tuesdays 9.30a.m. –12 noon at St. John's,  
Gunthorpe. *Join us for coffee, cake and chat.*

### Churches Together' Baby & Toddler Group

Tuesday 9.15 –11.00a.m. (term time only)  
Methodist Chapel, Lowdham. Coffee &  
snacks, crafts & songs.  
*£2.50/ family to cover costs.*

### Home Groups

Come and join us as we share prayers,  
explore the bible and grow together in faith  
and friendship .  
*For more details, please contact Tracey, the  
Vicar's P.A.*

Come & join us for



10.00a.m—12 noon, 3rd April  
St. Mary's Church, Lowdham

Easter Crafts and lovely refreshments.  
Everyone is welcome!

Dave Machell, Artisan Singers & Guests  
present a

## MUSIC VARIETY SHOW

*A selection of popular vocal and instrumental  
music, including much loved jazz and swing  
tunes, organ favourites and a splash of comedy!*

7.00p.m, 25th April 2026,  
St. Mary's Church, Lowdham  
Light Refreshments, Raffle

Tickets: £12 each from Tracey Akehurst:  
[administrator@stmaryslowdham.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stmaryslowdham.org.uk) / 0115 965 2114

*Raising money for St. Mary's music funds*

## Crucifixion

"Weep not for Me, Mother,  
in the grave I have life."

I.

The choir of angels glorified the great hour,  
the heavens melted in flames.  
He said to His Father: "Why hast Thou forsaken me?"  
and to His Mother: "Oh, weep not for Me..."

II.

Mary Magdalene smote her breast and wept,  
the disciple whom He loved turned to stone,  
but where the Mother stood in silence  
nobody even dared look.

Anna Akhmatova (1889–1966)

## Contact us...

**Revd Anna Clarke**

0753 501 7591

[reverend.anna.allis@gmail.com](mailto:reverend.anna.allis@gmail.com)

*For enquiries, including church bookings,  
weddings, baptisms and funerals please contact:*

**Tracey Akehurst**

**Vicar's P.A. & Benefice**

**Administrator:**

0115 965 2114/ 0780 516 2088

[administrator@stmaryslowdham.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stmaryslowdham.org.uk)

*We take safeguarding very seriously. If you have  
any concerns or questions please contact:*

**Heather Brown**

**BJBSB Parish Safeguarding Officer**

[sgbj@united-benefice.org](mailto:sgbj@united-benefice.org)

**Zena Cameron**

**LCG Parish Safeguarding Officer**

[zenabramall@hotmail.com](mailto:zenabramall@hotmail.com)

*Raising funds for St. Mary's Church*

## Find us...

**Facebook** at Revd Anna & Friends or the United  
Benefice of Burton Joyce & Lowdham

**A Church Near You:**

**<https://www.achurchnearyou.com>**

Each church has its own individual web pages  
where you can find further information

*He has given us new birth  
into a living hope through  
the resurrection of Jesus  
Christ from the dead.*

*1Peter 1.3*