

St Mary's Monthly Message

April 2025



A Note From Andrew BY THE CURATE

A reflection on Easter

We are coming very soon to the end of Lent and we will move during April into the next season of the Church Year; Holy week and Easter. This is a time of year that I love, perhaps even more than Christmas, as I find this season quite emotional as we move from the highs of Palm Sunday to the low of Good Friday, back to the high of Easter Day.

As we finish lent on the Thursday evening of Holy week, we move into a time known in the ancient church as the Great Triduum, where for three days we encounter in our own lives Christ's final moments. This starts with Maundy Thursday where we remember Jesus' last night when He met with His disciples for a meal. In many churches the final act of the day is to strip the altar and leave the church looking bare in a symbolic act of Jesus being stripped of his clothes in Matthew 27:27-31. Thursday moves into Good Friday, a day of contrasts and pain as we hold in tension the sadness of the death of Jesus, but also the celebration that comes with the sacrifice of one who was slain for all of humanity. Friday then moves into Holy Saturday, a day of pause and reflection, as Jesus lay in the tomb. Often a Saturday eve vigil is held to remember and look forward. Then we arrive at Easter Day. This day is the source of all the days in the Christian year. It has been described as the neck of the hour glass as all events flow through this point and into the rest of the year. Easter Sunday you could then argue is the Sunday of Sundays, the focal point of our whole year.

As we approach this important season we need to be challenged to consider the complexities of these events in and for our lives. I invite you come and join us for the different services from Palm Sunday onwards, as we move through Holy Week to Easter day. Use the time to reflect upon the sacrifice that Jesus made for us, and reflect on what we need to do individually and as a church community to make His sacrifice known to others.

God Bless, Revd Andrew Walmsley



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Easter Garden with Maker & Fixer

This Easter, our Maker & Fixer community came together to explore the theme of Wild Hope—the hope that bursts forth from the most unexpected places, just as life triumphed over death in the resurrection of Jesus.

As a shared project, we created an Easter Garden using repurposed materials—soil, moss, wood, polystyrene, stones, and plants—transforming what was discarded into something beautiful and life-giving.

Alongside this, we took time to whittle small wooden crosses, teaching new skills and inviting both children and adults into the creative process. It was a powerful reminder that God's hope is never tamed or contained; it grows in the wild places, in renewal and resurrection, in the hands of those willing to shape and create. As we gathered, prayed, and built together, we saw how even the smallest acts of restoration mirror the great restoration at the heart of Easter.

We hope to display the Easter garden in the Churchyard throughout Holy Week.

Easter Eggs-plained

How many creme eggs do Cadbury makes every hour? (* see answer at bottom of page) Erica and her team from Wycombe Youth for Christ had many such questions to ask the Year 6 pupils from Princes Risborough Primary School when they attended a workshop here last week.

Easter Eggs-plained is an interactive session that explores the events of Easter according to the Bible, and why Christians celebrate this event. The presentation is led in a fun, interactive and informative way; including upfront presentations, games, quizzes and a craft activity. The session content includes exploring Easter traditions, considering the events of Easter in the Bible, the meaning of the celebration for Christians, and reflection activities for the children to consider their own lives from themes in the Easter story (i.e. heroes, friendships, hopes and joys).

The children enthusiastically joined in the quiz and then learned more about the Easter story as they visited 'stations' around the church. Thank you Erica & Team.

Why Eggs at Easter?

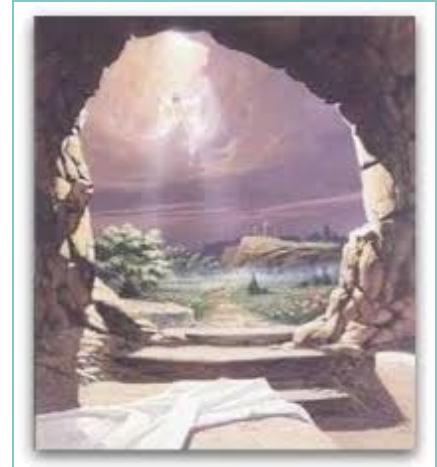
'So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!'
2 Corinthians 5:17

Eggs have been a part of Spring rituals since before recorded history. After the long winter, birds start to lay eggs again, each egg bursting with new life, mirroring the season of Spring.

Early Christians, recognizing the power of the egg as a symbol for new life, connected eggs to the new life found in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ at Easter. Eggs are a perfect Easter symbol, and a symbol of new life in Christ. The egg is an illustration of the Resurrection itself - a chick emerging from its shell represents Jesus emerging from the tomb on Easter Day.

Eggs also remind Christians of the end of the Lenten fast, and the joyful conclusion of that discipline at Easter. Traditionally eggs, milk & meat were not eaten during Lent, so eggs are symbols of Lent turning to Easter. As Christians, we rejoice in the abundance of God's love – no longer fasting, we are full of joy.

*Cadbury make 600,000 eggs per hour



**Children's Church will
enjoy an Easter Egg hunt in
the Churchyard on
Easter Sunday!**

In other news...

Update on the **Vacancy Process** by Neil Dyson & Heather Hardy

Dear friends, just a short update regarding our journey as we seek a new Rector. The PCC and a group of church members have been working on our Parish Profile. This is critical to telling the story of who we are as a church and the parish that we live and serve in. We hope to complete this, along with a job description and person specification, by Easter. The next stage is a meeting of all the team PCCs plus our Parish Development Officer, Asa Humphreys, and Bishop Dave. Following that we can advertise and then interview candidates. We are hoping that this will all be completed by late July.

In the meantime, our acting Incumbent during the Vacancy is Jonathan Hawkins, the Area Dean. His contact email is Jonathan.d.hawkins@gmail.com. Please continue to pray for all those involved in the selection process as we seek a new spiritual leader for our parish.

The **Children's Society Box Opening** morning on 26 March raised **£1,145** - thank you to everyone who contributed. The Children's Society have dedicated more than 100 years to protecting the hopes of children threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect. If you would like to have a collecting box, please contact Helen Lidington or to donate online go to: <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk>.

Messy Easter welcomes children and families to church on Sunday 6 April at 3.15pm for the usual mix of fun, faith and food with an Easter twist. Sign up for free at <https://bit.ly/MessyEaster2025>.

Princes Risborough **Town Easter Trail** runs from 7th to 19th April. Children, accompanied by adults, can pick up a trail leaflet from Princes Risborough Library or download it from the PR Town Council website.

Please remember that parking in the **Parish Hall car park** is reserved for hall users from Monday-Saturday. Church members may use the car park on Sundays, with priority given to those with limited mobility or visiting Clergy.

Beka's Mad Macmillan (ultra) marathon

Having sworn never to run a marathon again, I've signed up to take part in the most famous 26.2-mile race in London next month. Not content with that, I've also agreed to join this year's Race to the Stones - a 100km trek across the Ridgeway in one day, in July. Yes, ladies and gents you read that right, 100km, two and a half times the marathon distance. Midlife crisis anyone?

Seriously, what's inspired this mad (ultra) marathon is my desire to support a charity very close to my heart, and I'm sure close to many of you reading this, Macmillan Cancer Support. Too many of us have had to call on their incredible support as we walk alongside loved ones negotiating a cancer diagnosis or find ourselves hearing the words no-one wants to hear: "I'm sorry, you have cancer."

I lost my beloved dad too young to the disease which went on to take my nan just a few years later. Macmillan were amazing, in every way, and that's why I'm supporting them. If you would like to support me please sponsor me via my Justgiving page (https://www.justgiving.com/page/bekas-macmillan-marathon-madness?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM). I will also be selling raffle tickets, if you'd like to support that too. Prizes include a bumper pamper hamper, a Soap and Glory goodies basket, chocolates, wine and liqueurs.

Thank you, as ever for your support and your prayers, Beka x



Beka and Olympian Daley Thompson who she met on a training session with Barnardo's

Sign up for our weekly e-news by going to the homepage on our website. Receive all the news from St Mary's direct to your phone!

Dates for your Diary

Lunch Club Wednesday, 2 April, 10am-3pm in St Mary's Church

Messy Easter Sunday 6 April, 3-5pm in St Mary's Church

Bereavement Drop-in Group in the Chapter House, 3pm on Mon 14 April

Prayers at the Yurt: Mon & Fri mornings, 7.30am to 8am

Tea for All in the Chapter House, 2.30pm on 27 April

APCM Tuesday 29 April, 7.15pm, open to all to hear the report on the year at St Mary's

Play Cafe: Tuesdays during term time from 9.30am to 11am in church

Youth Group: Sundays during term time from 6.30pm to 7.45pm in the Chapter House

Ladies Breakfast Saturday 3 May, 9-10.30am in St Mary's Church Hall

80th Anniversary of VE Day, Celebrated nationally on May 8.

Services at St Mary's and St Peter's

Please see the leaflet in church for a full list of our special Easter Services

Holy Communion at 8am (*said*)

Parish Communion at 9.30 on Sundays in church and live streamed to your home.

See the St Mary's website for the link to our YouTube channel.

Live@St Mary's all age service at 11.15 in church. Kid's Church welcomes children to join them for activities during this service - contact the Parish Office for further info on sessions.

Mid week Holy Communion is on Wednesdays at 10.30 followed by coffee.

St Peter's Church, Ilmer - Evensong & shortened HC 20 April at its summer time of 6pm.

For your Prayers this month

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Amen

We remember these families in our prayers following the deaths of:

Antony Brooks, Jacqueline Auckland-Cooke

We uphold in prayer: Sarah Drewett, Joyce Wooster, Lily Matthews, Dennis Scourfield, Kathryn's family, Pete Wynn, Elaine Needham and granddaughter Emma, Paula Knall, Geoffrey and Joy John, Jenny Deverill, David Coleman, the Rolfe family, Carl State-Claridge, Kelly May, and all those bereaved, suffering ill health or facing operations.

Please pray for:

- the Maker & Fixer Community as they continue to explore faith & the wonder of God's plan for creation
- Our local schools, that staff & pupils may be refreshed during the holidays
- the Vacancy team as they work to produce the Parish Profile

Copies of this newsletter are available in Church for you to collect and pass on to friends and neighbours. They are also on the website.



Join our weekly prayer meeting on Zoom every Wednesday at 9am – Zoom invite available from the Parish Office .

We encourage everyone to pray for one another. Ask the Parish Office if you would like to receive details of prayer requests.

Contact the Parish Office
parishoffice@stmarysrisborough.org.uk

Tel: 01844 273300