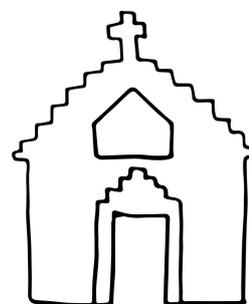


St James' News for Easter



Easter Sunday's Collect:

God 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.

This Week

Sunday 11th April - Communion Service on zoom / in church...

News

For your prayers

Give thanks for a good recovery for Milly, Sally's granddaughter

For Russell Lucas-Rowe (Michaela's father in law).

For Susan Ham whose father - Geoff Collins - has his funeral on 6th April

For Mark, and his children Liam and Charlene

For our Children and Families part time worker - that the right person would see our advert after Easter, and apply.

Carol Edwards and her family in their bereavement

John Monks - who is back home with a substantial care package

John and Dawn Cox

For Margaret Bulley and her carers

Date of APCM - Sun 18th April - 10:30am

The meeting will be part of our morning service, and will be on zoom only.

We have sent out the abbreviated report and accounts last week, if you'd like the full copy please email myself or Holly in the office - stjameschurcalderholt@gmail.com

If you have comments, questions, or matters arising, please submit these beforehand, especially if you cannot join the meeting online.

Make COP26 Count - April 2021

The UN Climate talks this November in Glasgow, also known as the Conference of Parties or COP26 will bring together international leaders to tackle climate change. It's a crucial meeting for implementing and monitoring progress on the groundbreaking Paris Agreement, signed in 2015. As part of the church's mission, we need to make it clear that the time to act decisively on this issue is right now. USPG are running a programme designed to help churches take manageable and appropriate action themselves and to build constructive relationships for climate action. If you would like to be one of the co-ordinators for St James, and take part in this, then please let Christine Hensel know before April 18th.

For latest news, sermons and links - please go to our website - www.stjameschurcalderholt.com

Church Working Party - May 8th

You should notice some scaffolding going up soon on the west end of the church. This is to enable us to paint the window bars and do repairs to the bellcote. After this the new path should be laid, making it even easier for wheelchairs and frames to get to the porch. As we prepare to open up for regular services and worship, it is time to give the church a spring clean. It would be great if you are able to join us, on May 8th, please put the date in your diary!

And a message from our Bishop!



This Joyful Eastertide

What a long journey it has been to Easter! It has felt like the longest Lent ever, not 40 days but over a year since the first lockdown. In that time a lot of our worship has been online. Where we have been able to worship together in person we have got used to being socially distanced. Coming out of lockdown, still distanced and Covid-safe, worship doesn't feel so familiar or so easy. Someone told me that they cried when they received the sacrament for the first time in months.

The Church of England has tried to do its best through the pandemic but there have been murmurings, as there were about Moses among the people of Israel in the wilderness on the journey from slavery in Egypt to the freedom of the promised land. The pandemic has been really hard work. Some of what the churches have been doing has been outstanding – worship online, community care, seeking out those most in need, schools open for the most vulnerable and the children of key workers and so on. Some of it has been less good – and you can make your own list here – but I'll own up for myself that I have been less than perfect. Most people know their inadequacies and we also know the relief as we begin to see new life emerging.

The Easter Gospel stories include John's epilogue of chapter 21, with 7 of the disciples gathered again by the Sea of Tiberias. 5 of them are named, and in various ways they had let Jesus down. Yet here they are back where he first called the fisherman. They are feeling perplexed but getting on with life when the risen Lord came among them. John is telling us that Jesus accepted their failures and restored them as a community of the resurrection.

However the pandemic has been for you and us, the task this Easter is to allow God to recall us and put us back together as a Christian community. It will take weeks and months and years. There's a big job to do. If we have been attentive we will have learned lessons about what is a person, what makes a worthwhile life and how we live together in God's creation. We don't want it to be the same as it was before. We want it to be different. We can do better in response to the God who loves us, sustains us, renews us this joyful Eastertide.

+Nicholas Sarum