

St David with St Michael and All Angels, Mount Dinham, Exeter Newsletter for Easter Day, 17 April 2022

Dear Friends,

Alleluia, Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Happy Easter to you all! We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus today and we pray for all those who are specially in need of the new life which God offers to us all.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Holy Week services and prepared and decorated our churches for Easter.

Please note that there will be no mailing next week so this is a bumper edition!

We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine. At St David's Church we invite you to write your prayers on the white card doves available at the back of church which will be added to our peace prayer mobile.

Face coverings in church are now voluntary in church, as elsewhere. But please keep aware of social distancing and use hand sanitizer on entering the building. We are delighted to be serving refreshments after our services and are grateful to those who are making this possible. Please be patient, kind and respect the personal space of other people if they don't wish to get too close!

Our services today are:

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's with celebrant and preacher, Nigel Guthrie (live-streamed on St David's Exeter Facebook page)

11am Sung Mass at St Michael's with celebrant and preacher, Ash Leighton Plom

4pm Thrive at St David's Church with Ash Leighton Plom – see details below

6pm Evening Prayer at St David's Church led by Belinda Speed-Andrews

Services in church and online this week and next week

Tuesday 19 April

No morning Prayer on Zoom today.

6pm Sung Vespers at St Michael's (live streamed on Friends of St Michael's Facebook Page)

Wednesday 20 April, no services at St Michael's Church this morning

Thursday 21 April, 10.30am Holy Communion at St David's Church

6pm Sung Vespers at St Michael's (live streamed on Friends of St Michael's Facebook Page)

Sunday 24 April – Easter 2

9.30am Parish Communion at St David's Church with celebrant, Belinda Speed-Andrews and preacher, Ian Cartwright (live streamed on St David's Exeter Facebook page)

11am Sung Mass at St Michael's with celebrant and preacher, Dominic Cyrus

4pm Thrive at St David's Church with Ash Leighton Plom – see details below

6pm Evening Prayer at St David's Church led by Robert Mitchell

Tuesday 26 April, St George, 9.30 – 9.55am Morning Prayer on Zoom. Please join us on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6602261392?pwd=VzdOaU1XUFBjWk9jV0xvMDZWajZBQT09>

Meeting ID: 660 226 1392 Passcode: 196651

6pm Sung Vespers at St Michael's (live streamed on Friends of St Michael's Facebook Page)

Wednesday 27 April, 9.30am Mattins and 10am Mass at St Michael's

Thursday 28 April, 10.30am Holy Communion at St David's Church

6pm Sung Vespers at St Michael's (live streamed on Friends of St Michael's Facebook Page)

Friday 29 April, 9.30am Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel and on St David's Church Facebook Page

Covid-19 Safe for Public Worship

At St David's we encourage people to wear face coverings to come forward to receive Holy Communion and then to consume the host after moving away from the altar rail.

At St Michael's the priest will distribute Holy Communion to people in their seats.

Please do not attend church if you are feeling ill or have tested positive for Covid.

Forthcoming APCM and elections for PCC and Deanery Synod

The APCM will take place in St David's Church at 7.30pm on Thursday 28th April.

Please come if you can.

We are hoping that you will give consideration to seeking election to the PCC and/or Deanery Synod. At St Michael's there will be two spaces on the PCC and at St David's there will be three.

There are two available spaces on Deanery Synod (successful election to Deanery Synod automatically confers a seat at the PCC).

Papers to complete for nomination will be available in church from early April or you can download a copy here: [PCC nomination form](#)

[Deanery Synod nomination form](#)

We will also be seeking to elect a new churchwarden, and a second chapel wardens for St Michael's. Again, there will be forms available in church in early April or you can download a copy here: [Church Warden nomination form](#)

THRIVE today... and next week

Easter Sunday 17th April, 4pm at St David's Church

Thrive: What was Jesus doing on the Cross?

Whether you're a regular at Thrive or this will be your first time ever, join this exploration through history, theology, and soteriology, as we consider models of the atonement - global perspectives of what Jesus was accomplishing on the cross.

Sunday 24th, 4pm at St David's

Thrive: St George - Social Justice Warrior?

In this St George's Day weekend special session of Thrive, we'll look at the early history of Christianity, this often misunderstood saint, and link through later saints to

God's call on our own lives to fight for justice and share the Good News. Thrive aims to be "seeker sensitive", a good place to welcome family or friends to who wouldn't otherwise come to church.

Free of charge + Refreshments served throughout + Children's packs available

Could you help with Thrive, even on a monthly basis? Ash would appreciate some support with the running of Thrive in the coming weeks. Please have a word with him if you feel you could help in some way and see his article in the April magazine about what help is needed.

TEA TIME CONCERT

On Saturday 14th May at 4.00pm you are warmly invited to come to St David's to enjoy a short concert of light-hearted music for voices and instruments - performed by Tina and Nigel and other members of the church community - followed by a delicious cream tea!

The concert is raising funds to support Latin Link, a Christian charity with which one of our students, Jemima, is doing a placement in South America during the coming year. More information about this can be found in Jemima's fundraising page here: <https://latinlink.org.uk/fundraiser-profile/jemima-firman/>

Tickets are priced £6 - inclusive of the cream tea (children free) and can be obtained from Tina at 07792188253 or on the door.

Knit and Natter

We will meet again on **Saturday 23 April** from 10.30am until 12noon. All are welcome to knit, natter or learn! Tea and coffee available.

Men's Breakfast – please note change of venue

The Men's Breakfast will be next **Saturday 30th April at 9.15am** at Boston Tea Party. We are trying a different venue to see how it works this month. Please contact Nigel if you would like to be on a mailing list reminder for this.

St David's Church opening times

After many years of general closure we are re- establishing regular opening times for St David's Church, usually having the church open from 9.30am to 5pm from Monday to Friday. So please do pop in if you are passing to pause and pray and to greet any visitors.

Tuesday Friendship Café

Please let your local friends know that we are open on Tuesday mornings from 10.30am to 12noon as a drop-in for people to find a Christian welcome and company. There are flyers available for you to take as invitations.

Thank you to those who have already offered to help or to bake cakes. There is a rota at the back of church to sign up when you can help. And do just come along if you would like to and help us to welcome any visitors who come into church!

Lent Groups

Thank you to all those who led and supported our Lent Groups.

St Michael's Church Survey and AGM

Thank you to all those who completed the survey. The numerical results and comments will be shared with the Archdeacon, PCC and St Michael's Committee. The numerical results will also be shared, with a commentary to explain them, at an AGM at St Michael's after Mass on Sunday 1st May at approx. 12.15pm.

Church Electoral Roll

The revision of the Church Electoral Roll is complete and the new roll is displayed at both churches. Thank you to Sue Wilson and Paula Lewis for their work on the revision.

New Leaves – April Edition

The April edition of our Parish Magazine is now available in our churches. Thank you to our editorial team for their hard work. Please collect your copy and share with any friends who might be interested in our life.

Green Team

It is great to see the new fruit trees coming into bud, and we are hopeful that at least some of our bird boxes will be well used. Please let us know if you spot any nesting activity in the churchyard!

Earth Day is coming up on 22nd April with the theme 'Invest in our planet'. Have a look at their website and work at <https://www.earthday.org/>.

Phone Network and Home Communion

If you would like to be phoned by someone from the church community or know someone who would appreciate Communion at home, please let Nigel know

at nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com or by ringing him on 01392 660226 or Ash on 07855305519.

St Michael's services and prayers

If you would like to access the service details and prayer list for St Michael's please contact Oliver Nicholson at virtualsaintmichaels@gmail.com and he can add you to that weekly mailing.

Your Prayers are asked for...

Please remember those who are suffering including:

Charlotte, Paul and Grace; Maggs Bedford; Monica Darch; Andrew Francis; James Ibbetson, Dan Newman, Liz Rimmington; Anne Smith; Grace Tointon; Mary Tout; Pam Smith; Iris Sutton; Bessie Wilkins; Caroline, Cliff and Stephen, Andy, Avis, Becky, Kate, Debs and Rob

Please remember those who have died recently including:

Diane Susan Evans

In the **Parish Cycle of Prayer:** We pray for joy as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

Please also pray for:

the people of Ukraine and all those injured, bereaved and made homeless by the invasion;
refugees from Ukraine and elsewhere, and the response to their needs;
for peace negotiations between Russia and Ukraine to be productive;
those bereaved, injured and made homeless by the floods in KwaZulu-Natal;
those suffering in Afghanistan through lack of food and medical facilities and the young women being denied education;
the people of Somalia facing continued conflict and famine;
members of our community to consider standing as church and chapel wardens or assistants and PCC members;
purposeful follow-up from the COP26 conference;
those being severely impacted by rising costs of living in this country;
those in the NHS struggling to keep services going in the face of many Covid infections;
those suffering from Covid and long-Covid around the world.

With every blessing,
Nigel Guthrie

Prayers, Readings and Address for Easter Day, 17 April 2022

Collect

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

First Reading – Acts 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

Gospel – from Luke chapter 24: 1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this,

suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Address by Nigel Guthrie for Easter Day, 17 April 2022

This weekend there will be many Easter eggs given and many cards with chicks and bunny rabbits shared. And, in a good way, these are symbols of spring and new life which link with our celebration of the resurrection. But they also fall short of expressing the depth of the meaning of the resurrection. And that's because they don't require death to have happened before new life emerges. Chicks and bunnies along with blossom and new leaves certainly reflect the amazing ability of God's creation to renew itself, and they illustrate the endless creative power which we believe comes from God. And in fairness to the chicks and bunnies even St Paul's illustration of the resurrection falls short. He describes a seed which falls to the ground and dies before it grows again (1 Corinthians 15: 36). But we know that a seed isn't exactly dead. Forgive me if the science is wrong but I would say that a seed is dormant rather than dead.

By contrast the gospels are clear that after his crucifixion Jesus was well and truly dead. In fact the gospel writers go out of their way to underline it, just to deny the possibility that Jesus might have passed out and then revived in the cool of the tomb. St Mark tells us that Pilate actually checked with the centurion that Jesus had been dead for some time, before releasing his body for burial. And St John tells us that Jesus was so obviously dead that the soldiers didn't have to break his legs as they usually did to make sure the victims of crucifixion did not survive.

And our worship in Holy Week underlines the need for us to come to terms with death, before celebrating resurrection. It can seem a bit odd that on Palm Sunday

we read the whole passion narrative of Jesus' suffering and death. Those who designed the liturgy perhaps realise that only a minority of people will usually attend worship on Good Friday and that the main gathered Sunday congregation needs to hear the full story to its bitter end.

As we get older the inescapable reality of death becomes clearer and more painful to us as we lose dear family members and friends. We can't escape death and I do find the modern phrase 'he or she has passed' quite unhelpful, as if we can't bear to mention the 'd' word. But in any sort of mature Christian understanding we need to look death square in the face and in doing so appreciate what the resurrection of Jesus means for us. And what resurrection means is the final power of God over life and death, and the absolute desire of God to bring us to new life after we have died. Resurrection signifies the passionate love of God for us which transcends even what we know as human love, amazing and wonderful though that can be.

And looking at the world we realise that resurrection cannot happen without death. Think of the environmental crisis we're facing. Without dying to our addiction to fossil fuels and to an ever-growing rate of consumption there is little hope of resurrection for our battered eco-system. Facing up to this death is going to be very challenging indeed, not least because, in political terms, it still doesn't win enough votes.

And in the political sphere too, there needs to be a death to the desire to build empires and dominate others, if peace and prosperity are to grow and flourish. And I'm not just talking about Putin and the present catastrophe in Ukraine. A serious repentance for the evils of our own imperial past is only just seriously underway. I'm not saying it was all bad. Indeed there were many British people who went out with very good intentions. But our past does need to be reassessed and understood differently if we are to find a positive and realistic place in the modern world.

Many dreadful stories have emerged from Ukraine during these past two months and we can see that the suffering, hardship and grief caused by this war of aggression is going to endure for many years to come. So, what does it mean for us to celebrate Easter against such a grim backdrop?

Among the terrible stories of suffering and inhumanity from Ukraine there was a beautiful, heartrending and yet hopeful story that emerged this week. Perhaps it came to your attention, too?

It concerns Sasha Makoviy from Kyiv who was packing her belongings with the sound of bombs falling around her, unsure whether to flee because of the intense danger the situation. Sasha wrote the details of her two-year-old daughter, Vira, on the back of the little girl in case she survived but the rest of her family were killed. She knew that Vira was too young to understand what was happening or even to remember her mother and family in future years. So she wrote the little girl's name and date of birth on her back with a mobile phone number and took a photo, posting it on Instagram in the hope that, if anything happened to them, Vira would be able to find out about her parents and family through social media accounts.

Sasha and Vira did flee Kyiv and took a long escape route through Moldova, Romania and Belgium finishing in France where they now feel "surrounded by love and care". Sasha was interviewed by the BBC and admitted that she is mentally crushed. But she also said 'Vira is fine. She can feel something from me, but she is too small to understand. I'm really happy about her age. Really happy.' Perhaps this can be a story of resurrection for us out of all the horror? The love and care of French people bringing new life and hope to this battered family after the terror of war and displacement.

Easter is the most powerful sign we can have that we are surrounded by God's love and care. And it is this love that will bring us to resurrection. Therefore we can live with hope, alongside the pain and the despair we sometimes feel, because Alleluia, Christ is risen...

Post-Communion Prayer

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son
to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Prebendary Nigel Guthrie
95 Howell Road
Exeter EX4 4LH
nigel.guthrie1@gmail.com

