



A message for Easter

Andy shares some thoughts based on John 20

John, like his fellow evangelists begins his account of the resurrection with the empty tomb. These eye-witness accounts provide for you and me evidence of both the power displayed by God and God's compassionate nature.

The power of the resurrection

Simon Peter and John run to see what has happened when Mary brings them news that the stone has been rolled away from the entrance. As Peter enters the tomb and 'looks at' the scene – the Greek word is *theoreo* from where we get the word 'theorise' – a thousand thoughts are going through his head. The same 'theorising' occurs today when people are confronted with what happened on that first Easter morning. Who moved the stone? What has taken place here? Where are the guards? Where is the body? Who will take the blame? Who brought this about? Then John arrives and sees the same scene and the evidence before him leads to one conclusion. He believes! He believes that all that Jesus told them whilst they journeyed with him is true. Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is the Messiah. Jesus has been raised from the dead through the power of God. Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

The compassion of God

Then the focus turns to Mary who is outside the tomb weeping. Mary is sad, confused, fearful, angry, doubting, and grieving for her Saviour. Mary, whom we are told was healed by Jesus from seven spirits (Luke 8). Mary, who saw Jesus die upon the cross and with his broken body, all her joy, hopes, and dreams for the future, were destroyed as well. Now, there is one last chance for her to find her beloved and she pleads with a figure who she believes to be the gardener "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus may have wanted to challenge Mary's apparent



lack of faith in this question. Hadn't Mary remembered all his teaching that the Messiah would suffer, be killed and raised on the third day? But no! His humanity and ability to walk in another's shoes, his love and compassion leads the risen Jesus to voice the one word at that moment in history that she is longing to hear, "Mary". In one word Jesus turned Mary's sadness into joy, doubt into faith, fear into hope, and an impatience to let the whole world know "I have seen the Lord!"

Over the past year, many of us will, like Simon Peter, have theorised about what has been happening through events that have occurred in this world. My prayer is that you will also, like Mary, have looked out beyond your own resources and heard God reassuringly speak your name, showing that God is not only powerful but personal, and above all dependable, through this strange and difficult time.

God bless

Andy McPherson, vicar

Easter at St Saviour's



Holy Week Communion

Wednesday 31 March • 9.30am • church

Youth service online

Maundy Thursday 1 April • 7pm • [online](#)
(see article page 3)

Good Friday 2 April

Good Friday trail • church garden •
sessions at 10am/10.45am/11.30am •
book via [Eventbrite](#) (see article on right)

Good Friday family time • [online](#)

Music and readings • 7pm • church •
book via [office](#)

Easter Sunday 4 April

Traditional Communion • [online](#)

Morning praise with Communion •
10.30am • church • book via [office](#)

Morning praise with Agape • [online](#)

Easter weekend

Youth scavenger hunt • Actionbound
app/local area (see article page 3)

Please help everyone to [stay safe](#)
when attending church: observe social
distancing, no congregational singing,
wear face coverings (unless exempt).

Benefice services

Good Friday 2 April

10.30am • Good Friday morning service •
St Barnabas Church, Queens Park
2pm • Reflective 'Hour by the Cross' •
St John's Church, Holdenhurst

Easter Sunday 4 April

9.15am • Easter Day Holy Communion •
St Barnabas Church, Queens Park

Good Friday trail



Good Friday 2 April • Sessions starting at
10am/10.45am/11.30am • church garden

Come along to our Good Friday trail in
the church garden!

The Good Friday trail is a fun way for children
and parents to find out about the Easter story
and what Jesus has done through the cross. To
book your places, choose from three sessions
during the morning. In line with government
guidance, up to 15 (parents and children) are
allowed at each session. The sessions begin at:

• 10am • 10.45am • 11.30am

Free event, but booking is essential via
[Eventbrite](#). Any difficulties with booking,
contact Clare via the [office email](#). Social
distancing and face coverings (unless exempt)
are required. At the end of the trail, pick up a
craft pack to take home and watch our Good
Friday family time online at home!

Thy Kingdom Come



Thu 13 May to Sun 23 May

This year *Thy Kingdom Come* (TKC) will look different. It *must* look different, because of all that we've been through over the last twelve months. Some people have drifted away from participating in worship; but huge numbers have joined in because they have been able to taste worship online. We're going to pray for both groups. The heart of TKC is beautifully simple - to pray. You're invited to pray between Ascension Day and Pentecost with Christians all over the world that more people will come to know the love of Christ. Find out more [here](#).

Youth scavenger hunt

Join in our Easter-themed scavenger hunt, test your Easter knowledge, and be in with a chance to win an Easter egg!

How about some fun over Easter and a bit of time in the great outdoors? The hunt can be done by anyone at any time!

To complete it, you will need to download the app [Actionbound](#) (available for free from the App Store and Google Play). Then, either search for *Core Easter scavenger hunt* or scan the QR code below.



The hunt will take approximately three hours to complete. There will be a pre-recorded message with the Easter story to listen to as you're going round (going 'live' next week).

We recommend that where possible people do the route as a family (just in case of injury, etc.) and be aware that the route involves crossing roads, etc. The first clue will take you to somewhere near St Saviour's Church building. You can earn points as you go and the young person with the most points by Thursday 8 April will win an Easter egg! How good is that?! Hope you have a great time!

Youth service: 'Redeemed in the Spirit'

Our next youth service will be 'live' online at 7pm on Maundy Thursday 1 April.

Looking forward to our next youth service (primarily for the youth, but everyone is welcome). Our Moorlands student Jordan will be leading us in the second of our three-part series on our identity in Christ. This time we'll be looking at how we are 'redeemed in the Spirit'. Eleanor and Lydia will be leading us in worship, and there will be opportunities to interact with comments and questions as the service goes on. We will put them to Jordan during the discussion segment at the end of the

service. The best question will win some chocolate! We hope you will join us - just go to St Saviour's [YouTube channel](#) a few minutes before the service starts.



Church door appeal



A **big** thank you to everyone who has donated to the church door appeal. We are now on our way to achieving the goal of replacing another set of doors during the first half of this year.

If you have yet to make a donation, whatever the amount, all donations are very welcome. These can be made online or via the church office. Please mark any envelopes with 'Church Doors Appeal'. Or you may like to consider sponsoring Peter ...

Walking door to door to door to door

Peter Strawbridge, a member of our church family and PCC, has kindly offered to put on his pilgrim sandals to help raise funds for the new doors appeal. Starting at Christchurch Priory bright and early, Peter will walk to Salisbury Cathedral via St Saviour's and

Wimborne Minster. This will be a walk of some 35 miles. Peter aims to complete the walk over the course of the day on Friday 23 April, which is St George's Day, whatever the weather! Please see the church website [here](#) for details of how you can support Peter with your sponsorship. Or you can go straight to our Give A Little campaign page [here](#) to select an amount and donate.

Peter says, 'If what it takes is some blisters and aches, you can make me smile with every mile by supporting the cause to get our doors!' Way to go Peter! Thank you for getting involved in this way. We'll all be with you in spirit and prayer, and we look forward to your post-walk report when you have had time to put your feet up.

Christine Moyes, churchwarden



Greetings from Ethney



Ethney sends her greetings to the church family. She moved from Sunrise to Primrose Lodge Care Home some months ago, and

Margaret Shelton gives news of our friend

says she's settled happily. She has a room on the ground floor, and we visited her in the summer when we were able – although of course could only see her through the window. When I phoned a week or two back, she said her granddaughter had given her a present of a hair rinse – and so she had purple hair!! This photo is taken back in the summer – normal hair! She still has a lot of pain in her legs, and gets very tired. She would dearly love to be well enough to lead a service in the home, but that isn't able to happen at the moment. But Ethney being Ethney, she will undoubtedly be a blessing to the other residents.

An open letter

An abridged letter on behalf of UK Christian event leaders

March 2021

We know that life is difficult for all of us right now. Being separated from those we love And unable to be together as families is painful. It is therefore with sensitivity, that we need to share with you about some of the challenges faced by Christian events. [...]

Christian events in the UK have a legacy that has impacted millions, and that legacy is refreshed year on year as more come to faith and respond to God's work in their lives. Christian events create space for us to come away from the day-to-day routine and for God to impact us. This has birthed new ministries, charities, and dreams in us which have gone on to bring cultural transformation and support the mission of the church.

But now, the Covid-Pandemic has had a profound impact on us all both practically and financially. As we contemplate two years without gathering in the normal way, we have had to rapidly learn to meet in new ways – either online or in smaller hybrid events. We have all seen a change in this time - 'free' is becoming increasingly expected, but 'free' comes at a high cost for us. So, from us all in the UK that run a Christian event, we need you to know that most of us just can't do it.

Standing together as Christian event leaders, we're asking for your help this year. No organisation is the same – we have different funding models for our events and festivals. Although it may be tempting to compare us and our different approaches, this really doesn't help you, or us. [...]

If you want to see Christian gatherings survive, then now is the time we need your prayerful and practical support. We need people like you to stand with us financially, and to support us in any way you can – so that we are all here to gather again in 2022.

We're standing together now and ask you not to compare us, or even worse - to use

the approach of one of us to publicly criticise another. Behind the scenes we all stand together, support and cheer each other on. It is Kingdom we serve, not competition.

The gospel brings freedom and is free to share. However, putting on a gathering where that truth is celebrated is not free. Gathering thousands together takes infrastructure and so much more and we simply cannot do these things for free. The very many elements that are needed to keep organisations running so that they can put on the spring and summer gatherings you love, need financing.

We don't mind who you support, we're all part of His kingdom. We come to you as one, because we prefer one another, and we want to see Jesus glorified. We don't watch and wait to see who will survive; we stand together as we know we will need more gatherings in the future, to accommodate those who have searched for hope during this pandemic and have found that hope has a name, and His name is Jesus.

We look forward to welcoming new believers, new seekers, and YOU at an event when this utterly cruel season has passed, and when the biggest tent, the biggest arena, will not be large enough to celebrate all He has done.

But to get to that place, we do, humbly, ask for your help. Here's how you can help.

1. Pray for us.
2. Join us if you can!
3. Consider a donation even if you can't go.
4. Sow into our future

If you are blessed financially please consider a one-off gift if you are able. A gift in 2021 – this is the make-or-break year for some of us and your gift could make the difference.

We stand together. Thank you.

New Wine | Spring Harvest | Festival of Life | Fusion | Youthscape | CreationFest | Kingdom Worship Movement | Festival of Praise

Food for Faith 9: From acorns to trees

Laura Simpkins is over-awed by God's ever-present and everlasting nature



'May the seeds of peace be scattered, birthing trees whose shade gives us rest.'

From *All is Not Lost*
by The Brilliance

Listen to the song [here](#).

One of the things that sets dogs apart from most other animals is something they have in common with humans. It's a sophisticated aspect of memory observed by developmental psychologist Jean Piaget called object permanence. Simply put, this means that even though the subject can no longer see something that was hidden or that has moved out of their sight, they know it's still there. It hasn't just disappeared. And they are wired to try to find it. For our dog, Milo, it is an obsession, and a source of endless fun.

Before moving to the New Forest a few months ago, I hadn't fully appreciated how enormous some of the old oak trees are here - it has totally amazed me. There are some oaks with a girth of nearly thirty feet! The canopy of one of these giants reaches out over the boundary of our garden. I can't wait for it to stretch its leaves out to offer restful shade on our first hot summer days here.

It's honestly a great relief that the tree is not ours. It would bring an incredible sense of responsibility - it's around 800 years old! Some days as we mooch around in the woods, me hiding and Milo finding treats, I have trouble getting my head around the history that these behemoths born of tiny acorns have witnessed. Many of them were young saplings as Henry VIII hunted and feasted among them.

I don't know about you, but I sometimes forget what it means that God is ever-present and everlasting. When I am reminded, I'm so over-awed I can't quite take it in - it's such a surreal and intangible idea. How do we begin to quantify these notions? God has reigned for a mathematically immeasurable period of time. The universe is so vast and active, largely unnoticed by us. In one sense it's comforting to think that despite the largess of time and space, we tick along most of the time unscathed, while objects in space burn, explode, and whizz around at cataclysmic speeds.

These strange times in 2020 and 2021 have meant tragedy for some, difficulty for many, and at least some experience of concern and anxiety for everyone. But even now, in many ways humankind seems to be pausing to reflect. People have been

Images by Csaba Nagy and jettess Nagy from Pixabay



inspired to choose to express kindness and creativity in the dark. We have cause to look for the blessings that spill out over us day in and day out, and count the times when we have been spared from any number of possible disasters. Certainly now we can start to see a better future within reach, due to lockdown measures and the Covid-19 vaccinations. There is undeniably growing hope.

The Lord made Joshua a weighty promise when it was his turn to lead Israel:

5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you ... 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. *JOSHUA 1:5, 7-9*

And just as earthly history has rolled along, so will eternity, forward into the future. When we arrive in heaven, be it next week or in the next millennium, we will be healed, made whole, and no longer in need of protection. All the hurts and sadness of the past will be erased. For now, in expectancy, as we look out and see a zillion stars, this can help us feel grounded. Perhaps momentarily lost and immaterial, sometimes tested by real trial; but ultimately rooted in a history that God created, which connects us all. In eternity His plan will reconcile us all and creation together to Him in unity and rejoicing. Peace is ours for today, as we hop from stone to stone, dodging the rushing currents; and, peace for perpetuity where even 'my' oak tree is a mere grain of sand on the riverbank, a brief second in time. And that is an awesome comfort and the best hope I can imagine.

Laura Simpkins, discipleship coordinator

My view A poem by Jo Welch

Birds swooping here, birds swooping there
Over the rooftops in the cold night air.
Lights coming on, in windows large and small
Blinds being drawn, no sound at all.

Workers coming home, by foot or by car.
Some from quite near, others from afar.
Kettles turned on, supper on a tray,
What a perfect way to end a long day.

But that's not all, as the moon shines bright,
Glowing throughout a cold, crispy night.
In no time at all the sun starts to rise,
Not a hint of rain.

To start a new day, all over again.

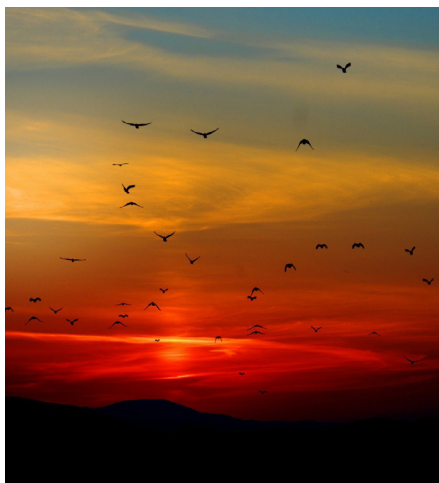


Image credits: 'Acorn' by jettespy; 'Sunset' Giani Pralea; both from Pixabay

Letter to Gamaliel

Tony Blunden looks at the crucifixion from the viewpoint of the High Priest



My dear Gamaliel,
Now that Sabbath is over I would like to take the opportunity to write to you about our recent little problem. I was aware that you were not entirely happy about the turn of events. Let me convince you that this was the best of outcomes. In our position as spiritual leaders of this nation we cannot be too careful. Politics are a delicate business and above all the traditions of our elders must be preserved. I could not accept that the crisis would just blow over.

This man persistently flouted conventions ingrained in our national life. Unless the traditions of the elders are observed, the whole edifice of our society will crumble. He even insulted us to our faces. He mixed with riff-raff that no decent rabbi would associate with – no sense of position. I had reliable reports of his meetings with prostitutes, Gentiles, and even Samaritans. I have no need to remind you that if we fail to keep ourselves separate from such people, our nation will lose its distinctiveness and the ability to survive the oppressions of other cultures. He even healed people in the middle of a synagogue service. There were six other days he could have chosen, but he openly flouted our Sabbath laws. As far as I was concerned, the incident in the Temple was the last straw; turning out good business is plain insanity. He must know how much money is needed for the upkeep. We cannot afford to upset influential sponsors.

That so-called prophet Jesus would not restrain himself. You cannot go around saying anything you like and not expect to meet trouble. He brought it upon himself. If we had not stepped in, the Roman legions would have done it in the end. One single life cannot be compared to the life of the nation.

So, we had to bend the truth a little at the trial. Those witnesses were useless! However, it was necessary to get the business settled. He had to die to save the rest of us.

Now it's all over; the guard is in place at the tomb. I assure you that nothing more can happen. I will look forward to our next Council meeting.

Yours most sincerely,
Caiaphas, High Priest in Charge



Image credits: Crosses by Tumisu from Pixabay; tomb by Joseph Hooper from Freely

Looking to Easter

Prayerful thoughts by Peter Strawbridge

Heavenly Father, I rejoice, to read your word and hear your voice.
It is with wonder that I see you came to earth to rescue me,
Freed me from sorrow, death and sin; provided the door knob to let You in.

You ask no more than we do our best; so faithfully You do the rest.
You conquered death, gave the new law, and joy awaits, for evermore.
Praise be! There's nothing we should fear: Jesus has shed the final tear.

His sacrifice has set us free; opened our eyes that we might see
Our Saviour's everlasting grace, came from the cross where he took our place,
And carried on to conquer death, to give all humankind new breath.

Give us grace to live your word; and speak it, so that it is heard.
And when we meet adversity, in body or mind, or hostility,
May your Spirit lead us in what we do, bringing us closer, Lord, to You.

You teach us love is at the core,
for man possessed on Gentile shore,
For mother bereaved, for sick and lame,
for blind that you made see again.
Love like the truth can set us free,
God's great sacrifice at Calvary.

To love our God and love our neighbour
are weapons sharper than a sabre
To liberate from slavery, inspire and foster unity
and vanquish hate and tyranny.
Help us to spread your love around,
that all your earth may be sacred ground.

Christ is risen! We are free!
He reigns for all eternity!



Alone A poem by Jo Welch

The air is clear, the ground is white.
Not a person is in sight.
In the distance children sing
Carols, and the church bells ring.

A match is lit, his only heat.
Crispy snow covers his feet.
He wanders towards the market place.
Glances at many happy a face.
But he's left out, is all alone,
Feeling the chill and without a home.

He draws his coat closer now
And sits upon a bench somehow.
When people leave, he waits to find
Some scraps they may have left behind.

There's just one thing he doesn't know.
When up he stands, about to go,
A light shines down from up above
Filling him with warmth, peace and love.
(When the Lord saw his footprints in the
snow, it was then that he carried him.)

It's a puzzle!

Peter Strawbridge gives us an Easter Bible challenge!

Easter Bible Puzzle

Use the
NIV
(New
International
Version)
to find the
words

The fifty-three words you find, make up the first and last verses of which Easter Hymn in the English Hymnal?

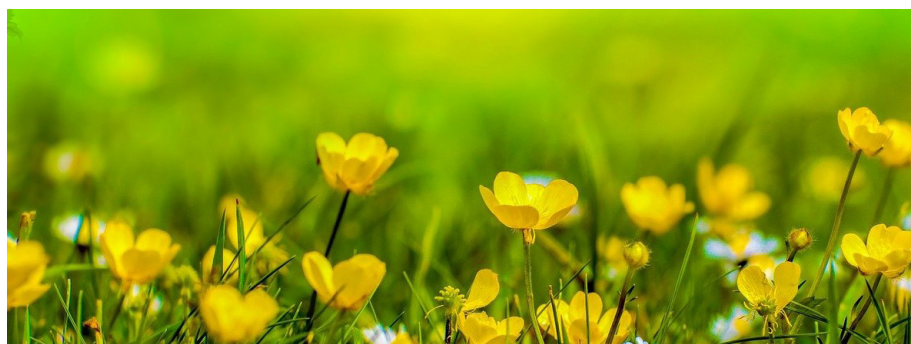


Image by PublicDomainPictures from Pixabay

The clues!

ACROSS

2. Matthew 21:16 (2)
4. Luke 16:9 Increment (4)
5. Matthew 22:36 (5)
7. Luke 10:32 Sounds between one and three (3)
9. Luke 22:6 Not about observation (7)
11. Luke 23:1 (5)
12. Matthew 27:9 Not three but four times (3)
14. Matthew 26:28 Still flows without little Edward (4)
15. John 9:40 The last word (3)
16. Luke 16:11 Wealthiest if followed by tea (7)
17. Matthew 5:9 (2)
18. Matthew 13:23 Not 100, 60 or 30 times but just three (3)
19. Luke 1:46 (2)
21. John 13:22 Bereavement? (4)
23. Luke 2:30 (2)
25. Luke 23:24 Make it plural at the end (7)
27. John 19:23 In the scripture (2)
28. John 14:6 (1)
29. John 6:48 (1)
30. Romans 9:13 (3)
31. Romans 12:10 (4)
32. Matthew 27:3 But not that (4)
34. Romans 11:13 (5)
36. Joshua 3:5 (7)
37. Mark 9:26 (2)
39. Joshua 18:8 What he asked them to make (6)
40. Luke 12:15 Everything in the middle (3)
41. Matthew 26:27 (1)
42. Luke 22:21 Where you dig deep (4)
43. John 14:6 (4)

**SOLUTION IN NEXT
WEEK'S NEWSLETTER**



DOWN

1. 1 Thessalonians 5:20 (8)
3. Mark 5:24 (2)
5. Matthew 21:15 Archaic version fits. It's amazing (8)
6. Exodus 30:12 (5)
7. Luke 22:30 (4)
8. Luke 24:26 Acclaim at last (5)
10. John 19:19 (5)
11. Luke 23:10 (4)
13. Luke 5:1 Word it's not (4)
18. Mark 14:72 Not twice or three times but four (3)
19. Mark 3:33 In what he asked (2)
20. John 9:14 (2)
22. Matthew 26:38 Music amidst sadness? (4)
23. John 8:51 (2)
24. Luke 17:27 The whole lot at the end (3)
25. 2 Corinthians 10:4 (6)
26. Matthew 22:27 (4)
33. Romans 11:24 (6)
35. Romans 8:9 Twice (5)
37. Mark 8:7 (5)
38. Matthew 27:11 In Pilate's question, but it's not a race (4)
40. Luke 22:19 It's not you (3)
44. Luke 16:23 Sound of Music puts it in scale (3)

The Messenger

A poem by Tony Blunden based on Matthew 11: 1-15

In the desert, a voice cried out
strong words to a people in chains.
That voice once cried with leaps of joy,
safe within a warm cocoon,
where deep called to deep,
in Elizabeth's womb.

The word that spoke creation into being
called him out to wilderness gates,
where Israel waited on Jordan's banks
for water's washing and Spirit's cleansing.

The purposes of God came so clearly then
In the wild place of sand and stones,
so real, so very black and white;
wrestling with Satan, comforted by angels;
heat and cold, drought and sudden rain;
honey in the rock and a scorpion's tail.
That time has passed, now the waiting,
now the doubting,
around the walls reverberating,
boxed within this prison cell,
this deep valley of darkness.

But who can hear?
When is the dove's returning?
A voice answers drawing upwards,
deep joy from wells of salvation
as four walls bend and fall,
unlocked to sound of transformation,
water flowing still in the deepest valley;
once again heaven torn open,
invisible made visible as the messenger returns
telling of a kingdom beyond the now
when closed eyes will see,
the lame will dance and sing,
heavy loads lifted from the crushed,
cages releasing prisoners and the poor.
Messenger and message agree:
A path is made in the desert land
where crocus blooms along the way,
springs break forth from stones
and laughter rises to greet the King.



Photo by Gabriel Lenca on Unsplash