

The Church in Warden Hill

Letter from Revd Iain for Easter Sunday, 4th April 2021

This is the second Easter of the coronavirus pandemic. Last Easter the future looked bleak. Places of worship had unexpectedly closed to the public just weeks earlier, there was no defence against the virus and the number of deaths from covid was increasing. This Easter the future is looking brighter. We have rolled out an effective vaccination programme and death rates are falling. The lockdown is being eased. The Church in Warden Hill will be reopening for public worship on Easter Sunday. The elders of St Andrew's and Prestbury will be meeting after Easter to consider a possible reopening of the church buildings in May. We can dare to dream of life in a post-pandemic world. We can begin to have hope for the future.

Hope is the predominant mood of the Easter season. When the Jesus they had seen crucified rose from the dead, this signalled to the disciples that their faith in him had not been misplaced. The resurrection story witnesses to the victory of life over death, to the triumph of hope over despair. It is not going too far to say that, without Easter, the Church would not have come into being. Christianity is fundamentally a hopeful religion and this has been a source of strength during the course of the past year.

I have been re-reading the letter I sent to my then congregation for Easter last year. It seems prescient in retrospect and so I will reproduce the conclusion to that letter here: 'The present time of tears will come to an end The Good News of the Easter story is that Jesus' death was not the end, but the beginning of new life. Note this life is a new life. Unlike Lazarus, who was raised from the dead but then died again, Jesus was raised to a new, eternal life. We can therefore have hope that, when the coronavirus pandemic is finally over, life will be renewed. We will not merely return to life as it used to be before the pandemic, but will embrace a new way of living informed by the lessons we have learned from overcoming the virus. As Christians, we live in the faith that our life will be renewed by Christ's grace.

I will end by sharing the words of the communion acclamation:

Christ has died!
Christ is risen!
Christ will come again!
Yours in Christ,
Iain

Arrangements for Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child, Baptism, Confirmation, Banns of Marriage, etc., should be made with Revd Gary Grady.

If you are aware of anyone who is ill, in hospital, or in need of a pastoral visit please contact Clergy, Elders or Readers.

If you have anything for the Grapevine please send it to: grapevine@tcivh.org.uk by midday on Wednesday or call Brian Miles on 01242 862142.

Website: www.tcivh.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Debbie Cypher



The Church in Warden Hill
(Anglican & URC)

Welcome



THE GRAPEVINE 4TH APRIL 2021
EASTER SUNDAY

The 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. Amen.

Easter Sunday

10.30am Holy Communion from St Christopher's with Revd John Horan

Readings: Acts 10.34-43; Mark 16.1-8

Please book with the Church Office (office@tcivh.org.uk) if you would like to attend. Mask wearing and social distancing are still needed.

There will also be a live stream Holy Communion service from St Peter's at 10am with Revd Gary, which can be accessed here:

www.facebook.com/pipandjims or www.stpetersleck.org

Daily Devotional Readings

Morning Prayer will **not** be live-streamed next week, but will return at 9am from 12th April. You can attend in person at St. Christopher's (Tue) or St. Peter's (Thu) or join the live-stream each day at the above web links. Daily readings are below:

Monday

Psalm 111

Song of Solomon 1.9-2.7

Mark 16.1-8

Wednesday

Psalm 113

Song of Solomon 3

Matthew 28.16-end

Friday

Psalm 115

Song of Solomon 7.10-8.4

Luke 8.41-end

Tuesday

Psalm 112

Song of Solomon 2.8-end

Luke 24.1-12

Thursday

Psalm 114

Song of Solomon 5.2-6.3

Luke 7.11-17

Saturday

Psalm 116

Song of Solomon 8.5-7

John 11.17-44

The Church in Warden Hill

'TELLING THE STORY'

+Robert writes, 'Stories really matter. We have a deep desire to hear them and to tell them. Love or loathe it, this is one of the key attractions of social media. It is the place where I can share 'my story' and be invited into other people's lives and stories.' Social media has been full of stories these last weeks: stories of lockdown and vaccines, of children returning to school and, especially in these last days, of the murder of Sarah Everard and the right to protest it. Over these past days, we have also heard a story of betrayal and death, of abandonment and fear. But we are now encouraged to travel from this darkness and despair, to a place where love triumphs over hate, life over death as we wait for that moment when we can say 'Alleluia, Christ is risen!' As we journey from the empty tomb in this story, we are reminded that there is hope even in the darkness, and that all things are possible once again. Every blessing on your Easter journey. **Revd Gary.**

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

There will be a service of worship at St. Christopher's each Sunday at 10.30am in April, as follows:

4th April	-	Holy Communion	-	Revd John Horan
11th April	-	URC Holy Communion	-	Revd Iain McLaren
18th April	-	Morning Worship	-	Rachel Tarling
25th April	-	Holy Communion	-	Revd Gary Grady

The South Cheltenham Team will continue to live stream a service each week, which is available via www.stpetersleck.org or www.pipandjims.org.uk/online.

TEAM NEWS

I wanted to let you know that for the next few months Cheltenham Network Church (CNC) and Emmanuel will be worshipping together on Sunday mornings at Emmanuel church. The leadership of both churches recently decided that this would be a good way to share resources over the coming months and to enable each congregation to support one another as each discerns their sense of calling. During this time, Revd Sarah will continue to lead CNC and I will continue to chair the PCC at Emmanuel and work with them and the wider team as we look towards advertising for a new Team Vicar in the autumn. **Revd Nick Davies.**

LANTERN - APRIL ISSUE

There are printed copies of the April Lantern available at St Christopher's on Easter Sunday. No need to try and make payment, we will collect payments later in the year.

The Church in Warden Hill

PLEASE PRAY FOR Christians around the world as they celebrate the Resurrection. Pray for those living in the troubled Holy Lands of the Middle East, especially remembering Fr. Fadi and the congregation of St. Andrew's, Ramallah.

PLEASE ALSO PRAY FOR all who are sick in body, mind or spirit; those who have died, and those mourning their loss.

GIVE THANKS for our South Cheltenham Team congregations joining together to worship in our churches for the first time in months. Pray for them, and for those who are not yet able / ready to attend services in person.

R.I.P. Elsie, wife of John Hutton, died on Wednesday 17th March. Her funeral will take place at 3pm on 9th April at the Oak Chapel, Cheltenham crematorium.

R.I.P. Revd. Ken Shill died Thursday 11th March. His funeral will be on Thursday 8th April 12.30pm at Emmanuel and will be live-streamed. The link is https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOL_Oq-Sulwc3SW7-5ch3kw/featured?app=desktop

WEEKLY PRAYER

4th	Canterbury Walk & Norwich Drive	8th	Lichfield Drive & Rochester Close
5th	Oxford Way & St. David's Close	9th	Hawkswood Road & Abbots Close
6th	St. Michael's Road & Wells Close	10th	Hampton Close & St. Alban's Close
7th	Lincoln Avenue & Durham Close	11th	Farmfield Road & David French Close

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES and CELEBRATIONS let's celebrate together: If you have a birthday this week—happy birthday and have a happy day. Please let me know of any future birthdays that we can celebrate together. **Brian Miles.**

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Arphe Gwyn Sidney Kelly 4th year
Maisie Jane Hopkins 4th year
Harry Anthony Hopkins 4th year

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM will take place following the service on Sunday 18th April at St Christopher's and will also be on zoom.