



Sunday, 17th April: Easter Day

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion – *a simple said service*
(St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. Festival Communion and Baptism (St Michael's)
all age celebrations - followed by chocolate egg hunt
- 11.30 a.m. Festival Communion (St Mary's)

Wednesday

- 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Sunday, 24th April: Second Sunday of Easter

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
- 9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St Michael's)
- 6.00 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

Resources for today's 9.30am service

The **children's corner** in the North Aisle contains themed-worksheets, books and toys. Parents please remain responsible for your children in this space. If your child needs time-out or privacy (e.g. nappy change) the Tower Room is available and has sound relay of the service.

Toilets are available in the Parish Centre at the east end of the churchyard; please see a steward for access.

Please stay for **refreshments** after the service in the Parish Centre.

Peter spoke to the Roman centurion Cornelius and his household, saying, 'Now I 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.'

Acts 10: 34-43

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women 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.

Luke 24: 1-12

Resources for today's 9.30am service

During communion the choir sings:

Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection Thou! Alleluia!

Music: David Ogden (b.1966)

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Please remember in your prayers

- those who are **ill**, including: Peter Bell, Jacqui Follett, Jo Frost, Debbie Greenwood, Edna Hames, Michael Hogben, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Janice Western, Paul Wiggett
- for **healing and wholeness**: Peter Loyd

Notices

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard behind the scenes this **Holy Week** - those involved in leading worship at both churches, those who invited friends, family, neighbours or colleagues to services, those who delivered flyers, church cleaners and decorators, even those who hid Easter eggs!

Sections of the walls inside St Michael's church were stripped in 2020 as the first phase of a scheme to correct historic damp damage. The walls are now dry enough to receive fresh plaster. **Replastering will begin in Easter Week** and will be on-going most weekdays until July. A traditional technique involving multiple layers of plaster will be applied by expert heritage plasterers Rob and John. Regular services and normal opening will continue around the replastering but please bear in mind that parts the church will be temporarily unavailable throughout this period.

The Mission & Community Committee write: "Weather permitting, we will resume the monthly **Wednesday walking groups** led by Kathryn Mathews on **Wednesday 20 April**. Ann Dean has kindly agreed to give us a guided tour of the Roman Theatre at Gorhambury (entry fee £2 per person). Please be aware that at intervals we will be standing for some time and there are a few steps to negotiate. Walkers to meet at 11am at the Six Bells, returning there at around 12.30pm for lunch. All welcome on the tour or for lunch, at which we will be entertained by jazz duo John Mole and Dave Comley. Please confirm interest to suecvaughan@btinternet.com / 01727 811443."

Along with many churches in the UK, St Michael's and St Mary's are preparing for a **return of the chalice** for those who wish to receive Communion in both kinds. (Some, including St Albans Cathedral, have been offering the chalice for a number of weeks.) **From Sunday 24 April**, we will revert to the pre-corona practice of distributing Communion at the altar rails, rather than from a standing station, with a chalice administrator following down the line from the priest who is distributing the bread. If you wish to receive in only one kind, simply leave the altar rail after the bread has been distributed. As before corona, if you wish to receive in both kinds please do not intinct (dunk) your wafer: while the silver metal of the chalice is understood to have a natural disinfecting quality, direct finger-to-wine contact is known to transmit germs.

During the first few services in which the chalice is offered, the presiding priest will talk through what is going to happen and why. The Church of England has always offered Communion in both kinds because that is what Jesus did at the Last Supper. We are equally clear that Jesus meets us fully in Communion whether we receive in one kind or both. It remains your choice whether you wish to receive in one kind or both, just as it remains our shared duty to support one another in the individual choices we make as we continue to emerge from the restrictions and emotions of the last two years. Kenneth and John would welcome the opportunity to discuss this theology or practice further with any who wish. Parents please talk this through with your families if you have children who receive Communion.