

800

ST PETER'S BRACKLEY

"Loving God, loving each other, loving Brackley"



Revd. Rich Duncan writes.....

With the highpoint of the Christian calendar fast approaching, I hope you can appreciate the significance of the Easter story in even greater depth this year. Its implications are endless, but let me unpack just three.



Easter means: God loves us outrageously

"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

There's a moving part in *Life of Pi*, the award-winning novel by Yann Martel (Mariner Books, 2003), when the main character meets a Christian minister called Father Martin and hears about Jesus' crucifixion for the first time: 'What a downright weird story... the first thing that drew me in was disbelief. Humanity sins but it's God's Son who pays the price? Why would God wish that upon Himself? Why not leave death to the mortals? Why make dirty what is beautiful, spoil what is perfect? *Love*. That was Father Martin's answer. This Son is a god who died in three hours, with moans, gasps and laments. What kind of a god is that? What is there to inspire in this Son? *Love*, said Father Martin.'

Do you look at the cross and know that you are loved outrageously?

Easter means: God knows our pain intimately

"Christ suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

After Nicholas Wolterstorff, an American philosopher, lost his 25-year-old son in a climbing accident in 1983, he wrote a book called 'Lament for a Son'. In it, he wrestled with his Christian beliefs and how they fitted with his pain, "How is faith to endure, O God, when you allow all this scraping and tearing on us? If you have not abandoned us, explain yourself! We strain to hear... But instead of hearing an

answer we catch sight of God himself scraped and torn. Through our tears we see the tears of God.”

Do you look at the cross and know that God understands your pain intimately?

Easter means: God will raise us ultimately

“In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye... the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:52).

Later in that chapter, the apostle Paul taunts death, quoting Hosea, “Where, O death, is your victory?” John Donne expresses a similar sentiment in his sonnet, ‘Death, Be Not Proud’. Copyright forbids me from sharing the whole poem, but you can get the gist from the first and last two lines:

*Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so...
One short sleep past, we wake eternally
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.*

Do you look at the empty tomb and know that God will also raise you, ultimately?

Have you seen these three things in the Easter story? Once you have, your life can never be the same again. Happy Easter!

This year's Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting will be held at 11am in St Peter's Church on Sunday 23rd April 2023 (following our usual 9:30 Holy Communion service). All welcome.

Easter at St Peter's



Sunday 2 April, 9.30am
Palm Sunday service

Tuesday 4 April, 7.30pm
Communion service with prayers for healing

Thursday 6 April, 7.30pm
Maundy Thursday Communion

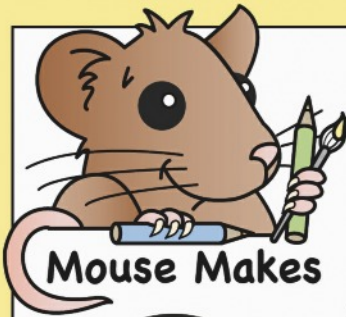
Friday 7 April, 9.30am
Good Friday reflective service

Saturday 8 April, 9.30am or 11.30am
Bake the Easter Story (for young families)

Sunday 9 April, 9.30am
All-age Easter Sunday service followed by Easter egg hunt

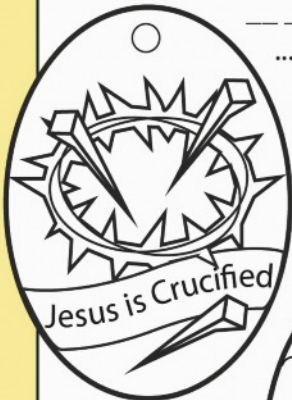
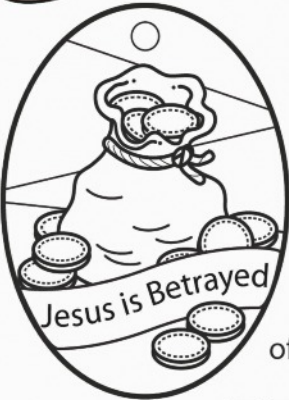


**"He is not here: he has
risen. just as he said"**

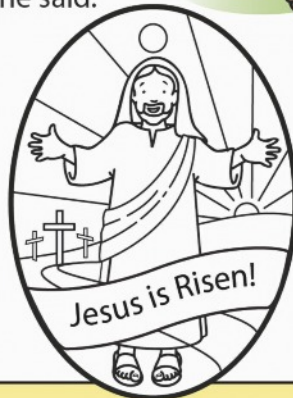
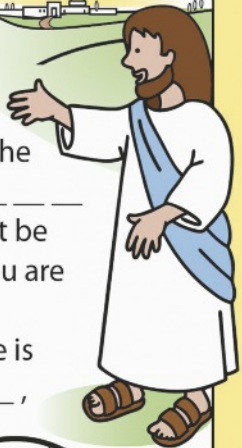


HE IS RISEN!

Read the story of
The Resurrection in
Matthew 28:1-20



An _____
of the Lord came down from
_____ and going to the
_____ rolled back the _____
... the _____ said, "Do not be
_____, for I know you are
looking for Jesus who was
_____, He is
not here; he has _____,
just as he said!"



Glue this page onto
card. Cut out the
ovals then colour in.
Punch a hole at the
top and hang up
for Easter

800 events and fundraising updates

Film afternoon

The film afternoon on Saturday February 25th was very well attended. Everyone enjoyed watching 'Sing 2' on the huge screen in St Peter's church. It was like being in a cinema. The hotdogs in the interval were delicious and enjoyed by all. £100 was raised for the 800 appeal.

Butterflies

The butterfly display is growing very well. It is exciting to see each and every butterfly look so different and so beautiful. If you would like to buy a butterfly to colour, paint or glitter they are available after the Sunday morning 9.30 service in church or from Edd Frost in the Market Place Brackley. A large butterfly costs £3, medium sized butterflies cost £2 and the small butterflies are £1. We are hoping to display 800 butterflies by the end of this year of celebration. We have already raised £570 for the 800 appeal.



Quiz Night

Further details will appear in the May edition of the magazine

Art Exhibition

A big event coming up in April is the Art exhibition. All Brackley primary schools are taking part. This will be held April 23-26th. Come along to see the masterpieces and vote for your favourite work of art. Entry is free. Voting slips will cost £2.



Art Exhibition

Friday 28 & Saturday 29 April 10am - 4pm
Sunday 30 April 1pm - 4pm

Artwork from Brackley primary schools will be on display in the church. The exhibits will be based on a Medieval theme. Come along to enjoy the displays and vote for your favourite work of art.

Voting slips cost £2. Prizes will be awarded to the winning exhibitor in each category (5-6 year olds, 7-8 year olds and 9-10 year olds).

Refreshments will be available. Children can buy and decorate a butterfly to add to our amazing 800 butterfly display.

Free Entry

www.stpetersbrackley.org.uk/800



Would you like to hear more from St Peter's?

If you are online and would like to receive the weekly Vicar's Update, just send an email to brackleyvicar@gmail.com and ask to receive the church's email bulletin



CHRISTIAN HOLIDAYS FOR THE YOUNG, 8-18 YEARS OLD

Further to notice in church on 19 March 2023. There are a series of camps for children this summer. In particular as regards leaders within St Peter, we spoke of;

5-8 and 9-12 August 2023 for 8-11 year olds at Tonbridge. Further details from Richard Waterhouse on 07808 764981.

6-12 August 2023 for 9-14 year olds at Reigate. Further details from Helen Price on 07840 206108.

Further information on these camps is at www.ventures.org.uk although it may not be right up to the minute on camp dates. There is in this site a section on leaders and support staff and we encourage adults to step forward. In particular, at Tonbridge we have lost this year the services of a long-standing couple; it is enormously rewarding work within a strong team - RW has done it for 30 years!

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION

If you have enjoyed this short online edition of the current magazine you can purchase the full 20 page printed edition for the modest sum of 40p.

It is available from Jems on the Market Place.

The printed version contains so much more.
Service Times, Contact details, and local adverts.
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