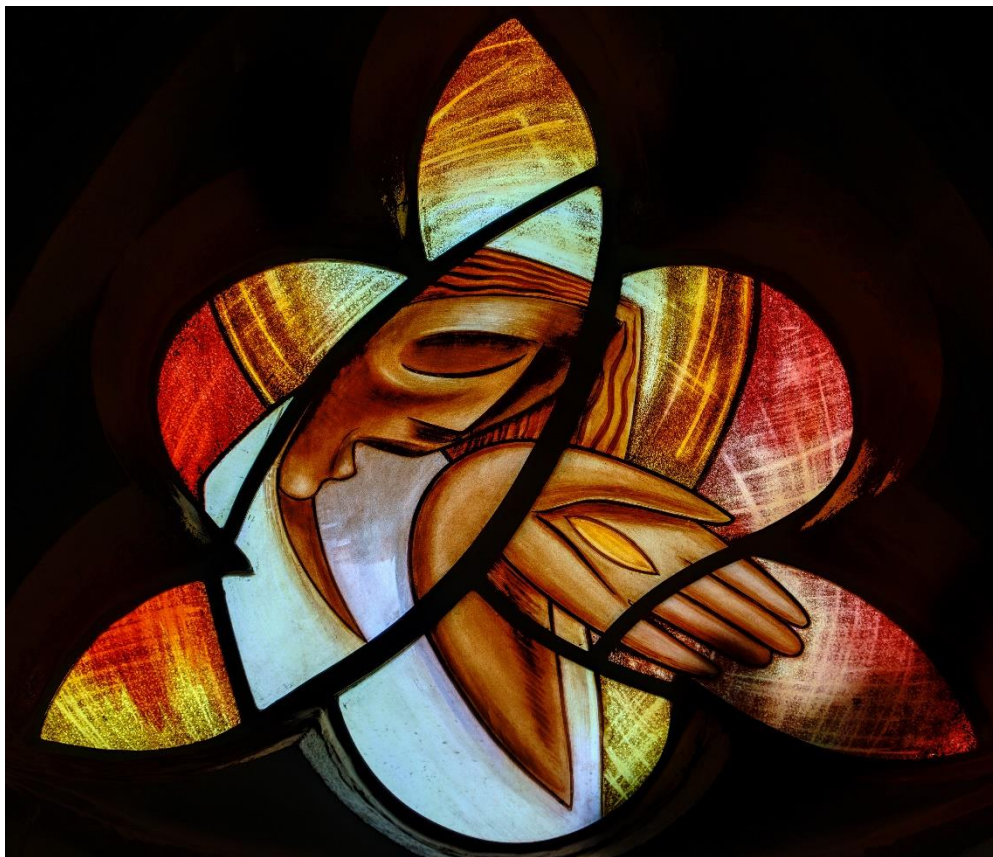


The Parish Magazine
St Andrew's Church
Old Headington



April 2024

50p

PARISH DIRECTORY

www.standrewsheadington.co.uk

Enquiries about marriage and baptism should be made directly to the Vicar, by telephone or email.

The Clergy will gladly visit and (if requested) bring Holy Communion to people who are ill at home or in hospital, by arrangement.

Vicar	Fr Darren McFarland The Vicarage, 33 St Andrew's Road, Headington. vicar.headington@gmail.com .	761094 07773 772610
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Captain of the Tower	Clare Fairbairn	515816

THE NORMAN ARCH is published on the last Saturday of each month.

The parish magazine is named after the splendid Norman chancel arch in the church.

Editor Fr Darren McFarland
Sub-Editor Vacant

Deadline for next issue: 25th of each month

THE VILLAGE HALL

DUNSTAN ROAD, OLD HEADINGTON
www.oldheadingtonvillagehall.co.uk

We can offer use of a large hall and smaller meeting room, ideal for community groups, classes, meetings and children's birthday parties

A fully equipped kitchen and car parking are available

Reduced charges for regular and long-term bookings

To book or for enquiries contact oldheadingtonvillagehall@gmail.com

The front cover shows the top light of one of the 900th Anniversary windows – the resurrected Jesus.

April Calendar

1 M	Eucharist		9.30am
2 T			none
3 W	Eucharist	BCP	10.00am
4 Th	Eucharist		7pm
5 F			none
6 S			none
7 Sun	2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER		8.00am
	Parish Eucharist		10.00am
8 M	Eucharist		9.30am
9 T			none
10 W	William Law, Priest		
	Eucharist	BCP	10.00am
11 Th	Eucharist		7pm
12 F			none
13 S			none
14 Sun	3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER	BCP	8.00am
	Parish Eucharist		10.00am
15 M	Eucharist		9.30am
	Knit & Natter at Tea on Monday		3.00pm
16 T			none
17 W	Eucharist	BCP	10.00am
18 Th	Little Fishes play group		9.30am
	Eucharist		7pm
19 F	Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury		none
20 S			none
21 Sun	4th SUNDAY OF EASTER	BCP	8.00am
	Parish Eucharist with Confirmation		10.00am
	Baptism		noon
22 M	Eucharist		9.30am
23 T	George, Martyr, Patron of England		none
24 W	Eucharist	BCP	10.00am
25 Th	Mark the Evangelist		
	Little Fishes play group		9.30am
	Eucharist		7pm
26 F			none
27 S			none
28 Sun	5th SUNDAY OF EASTER	BCP	8.00am
	Parish Eucharist		10.00am
29 M	Catherine of Siena		
	Eucharist		9.30am
	Knit & Natter at Tea on Monday		3.00pm
30 T			none

On **21st April** the Bishop will be at St Andrew's for **Confirmation**.
If you are interested in exploring this please speak to one of the clergy as soon as possible.

From the Registers

Funerals

21st March Gary Hibbens

April Readings

7th April

Old Testament
Psalm
New Testament
Gospel

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4.32-35
133
1 John 1.1-2:2
John 20.19-end

14th April

Old Testament
Psalm
New Testament
Gospel

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3.12-19
4
1 John 3.1-7
Luke 24.36-48

21st April

Old Testament
Psalm
New Testament
Gospel

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4.5-12
23
1 John 3.16-end
John 10.11-18

28th April

Old Testament
Psalm
New Testament
Gospel

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8.26 - end
22.25-end
1 John 4.7 - end
John 15.1-8

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2024



16th – 19th September 2024

Please speak to Malcolm Nichols for more information

APRIL MISSION OF THE MONTH



MSF is an international, independent medical humanitarian organization providing medical assistance to people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters, or exclusion from healthcare. Their teams are made up of tens of thousands of health professionals, logistic and administrative staff - most of them hired locally. Their actions are guided by medical ethics and the principles of impartiality, independence and neutrality.

In more than 70 countries they provide medical humanitarian assistance to save lives & ease the suffering of people in crisis situations. Rapid & effective response to emergencies is at the core of what they do.

Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders often hits the headlines when an emergency dominates the news, such as an earthquake, tsunami or conflict. But they constantly deliver humanitarian aid projects – from disaster response to long-term medical programmes – which can stretch over decades.

An unprecedented humanitarian crisis is unfolding in Gaza. MSF teams have worked to treat the wounded and supply overwhelmed hospitals as indiscriminate airstrikes and a state of siege threaten millions of men, women and children.

What is MSF doing in Gaza?

MSF is an independent, impartial and neutral humanitarian organisation. We operate based on medical need alone, going wherever that is greatest.

In Gaza, one of the most densely populated places on Earth, 2.2 million people were already living through a chronic crisis before what has become a humanitarian catastrophe.

As of 15 March 2024, over 31,000 people have been killed and 71,000 have been wounded according to local health authorities. A further 7,700 are estimated to be buried under rubble.

Over 1.7 million people are estimated to be forcibly displaced and living in appalling conditions that are unsafe and unhealthy. This number represents nearly 75 percent of Gaza's population.

From the start of the conflict, hospitals across the Strip have been completely overwhelmed and have faced running out of critical supplies. Some medical facilities have been hit by indiscriminate bombing while others have been under siege. Our staff have repeatedly spoken of the wounded screaming without painkillers, how already sick people cannot reach care, and the fear of being hit in an airstrike. Now, after months of conflict, the threat of injury, illness and death has evolved beyond the violence.



■ Regions where MSF had projects in 2022
● Cities, towns or villages where MSF worked in 2022
The maps and place names used do not reflect any position by MSF on their legal status.

Map of MSF activities in Palestine as of 2022

In Gaza, the risk of infection has become incredibly high and is putting lives at risk. Infected wounds are common with patients facing the double hit of unsanitary living conditions and a healthcare system that is unable to provide the in-hospital treatment and support that they need. Meanwhile, infectious diseases – including diarrhoea, respiratory infections and hepatitis – are increasingly reported across Gaza. Pregnant mothers struggle to access maternity care and delivery rooms, leading to dangerous childbirth complications. And, as food and water shortages deepen, the UN has warned that 40 percent of Gaza's people are at risk of famine.

MSF teams have been working in Palestine since 1989, providing trauma care, mental health services and running a specialist reconstructive surgery project. We currently have around 300 staff members in Gaza. The majority are Palestinian and many have now lost homes or family members in the violence.

LENT APPEAL



Drug and Alcohol Wellbeing Service

This year, Turning Point celebrates its 60th year providing support for people with drug and alcohol or mental health issues and people with a learning disability. They are dedicated to promoting wellbeing and recovery from addiction when people feel ready to take those steps.

Back in 1964, London philanthropist Barry Richards first established the 'Helping Hand Organisation', with its first service being the Camberwell Alcohol Project. This eventually took the name Turning Point in 1979 and has grown into a multi-sector service provider, supporting over 171,000 people each year in over 280 sites across the country.

The past few years have seen the organisation go from strength to strength – with our turnover increasing steadily and enabling us to support nearly 40,000 more people each year. In 2022/23 over 171,000 people were supported by Turning Point services around England

Turning Point Oxfordshire (Roads to Recovery) have several service locations in Oxford, Banbury, Didcot and Witney. The team across Oxfordshire includes doctors, nurses, psychologists, recovery workers, support workers, complementary therapists, peer mentor volunteers, counsellors and trainers. There are lots of different people who offer their support, knowledge and encouragement to help individuals achieve their recovery.

Due to the uncertainty which defines the health and care landscape in which Turning Point operates, sixty years on it is vital that they continue to achieve and deliver more high-quality support for people in need, preventing vulnerable groups from falling through the cracks in the system.

Many people's situations are increasingly precarious as a result of the cost-of-living crisis, placing huge pressure on households and particularly groups they support including people with a learning

disability, those struggling with mental health and substance use, people experiencing homelessness and young care leavers.

Local authorities in England continue to face a funding gap of £4 billion across this year and the recent settlement does not change the funding gap facing councils.

Yet, despite the challenges we face as a sector, in its sixtieth year, Turning Point continues to extend out work in new areas, to develop innovative new approaches, and adapt and improve our services and the lives of those we support.

Turning Point believes that everyone, given the right support, can reach their potential. This applies to the people they support, their partners and their employees.

"Care work is much more than just a job, it's a way of life, and it can be tough. Yet the feeling you get when you have positively impacted someone's life is so rewarding. It's an unspoken benefit, and, of course, means the world to the people we support."

60% of team members at Turning Point have lived experience of the issues facing the people we support for themselves or as a carer.

You can support Turning Point until 14th April by using one of the marked envelopes that you will find in church, or the card reader. You can also mark your own envelope and drop it off at the Vicarage. Cheques should be made out in favour of St Andrew's PCC.

A LILY FOR A LOVED ONE



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the lilies for our Easter celebration.

Pauline Hessey

And thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make the church look so beautiful!

Fr Darren

KEBLE COLLEGE CORPORATE COMMUNION AND DINNER



**Sunday 28th April
5.30pm**

**Sung Eucharist
followed by dinner**

Cost – donation if wished.

Please sign the sheet at the back of church
by 15th April.

You can make a donation on the evening,
to Fr Darren or using the Keble tab
on the card reader.

We are working on squares for blankets which are currently being donated to the Baby Unit at the John Radcliffe to raise funds.



We are looking for other local organisations we can donate to, or any individuals who might benefit from a blanket. We have several that are a good size for a lap blanket. Please let myself or Natacha know if you have any suggestions.

Non-knitters are also welcome to come along for a chat and to meet others in a relaxed atmosphere – we have plenty of toys to keep young ones amused.



Tea on Monday



& Knit and Natter

We are a friendly community group which meets in the church room for tea and cake every other Monday, apart from bank holidays. We meet between 3.00 and 4.30 pm and the upcoming dates are the 15th and 29th April.

We welcome all levels of knitters and crocheters, but all crafts and projects are welcome.

Tea on Monday is for everyone, please feel free to come along and see what goes on!

Helen & Natacha

April Flag News



April 23rd
St George's Day - St George

Tim Cadel

CHURCH GARDEN



'O, how this spring of love resembleth
the uncertain glory of an April day,
Which by now shows all the beauty of the sun,
and by and by a cloud takes all away!

*William Shakespeare
The Two Gentlemen of Verona*

April is probably the month when the weather is the most variable of the year. The clocks have 'sprung forward'. The garden centres are full of small bedding plants, as traditionally the Easter weekend is when gardeners are out and about, buying for the summer season. We are anxious to start sowing our packets of seed, and optimism and enthusiasm can out-shine good old-fashioned common sense. However, the nights can be cold and frosty. Heavy rain, hail and snow are all possible, as well as hot, dry and sunny days. Four years ago, when we went into the first Covid lockdown, April was a beautiful sunny month when many of us discovered the joys of taking our permitted 1 hour of daily exercise by walking around our neighbourhoods. I think it's important to stay optimistic, but also to take a few risks. Many vegetables can be started off now, April is a good month to plant potatoes, broad beans, spinach and chard. Herbs, like parsley, sage, mint and thyme will all grow well. Please do feel free to gather a few from the Churchyard for your Sunday dinner!

April is also when the colours in our gardens change from yellow to pink. March brings daffodils, forsythia, mahonia and primroses. Then come Magnolias, almond and cherry blossom and lilacs. After winter, all this colour feels like a joyful new beginning. Birds are twittering, and all sorts of insects are buzzing about collecting protein-rich

pollen and energy-rich nectar. Wild-life will be ending their winter hibernation; frogs, toads and hedgehogs will be looking for mates. April is the month when the grass starts to grow, and may need cutting. Recent work has shown that delaying mowing to June and doing one more cut in August is hugely beneficial to wild flowers and insects. Its also amazing how little purple orchids appear when mowing is delayed. Of course, many people like a neat lawn, but there are still some compromises which can support bio diversity. Perhaps simply mowing some paths in the lawn or mowing a border and leaving the middle to set seeds. This year, I am not mowing the grass outside my house, so that the daffodils and bluebells can fully die down. I hope to have honesty, foxgloves, ox-eye daisies, poppies and forget-me-nots in the summer, all grown from seed which I saved from last year's plants.

Our Churchyard garden always looks lovely in the spring. The renovated lilac brush is covered in fat flower buds, and there are a couple of pale pink flowers on the 'Heaven Scent' Magnolia. The south borders are growing well and are full of spring bulbs. The roses have been pruned and top dressed with manure, so let's hope for a good display in June.



Young Church have been busy planting. The broad beans are several inches tall and some are in flower. We planted potatoes and spinach seeds. The parsley and mint are growing well and some lilies are beginning to poke through the soil. We are planning to sow seeds of more tender plants later this month. It is wonderful to have this space that the children can call their own and learn to grow both food and ornamentals. Anything which detaches children from screens and devices has to be 'a good thing'!

Spring does bring plenty of garden jobs. It is a bit late to prune roses, but a good time to prune the early flowering spring shrubs. As a rule of thumb, plants can be pruned immediately after flowering and fruiting. Pruning aims to improve flowering, remove dead and diseased wood and keep a plant to the desired size. An over grown shrub will have much old and less productive wood and perhaps only has flowers at its top. Removal of up to a third of old stems at the base can encourage new basal growth. This is particularly important for rambler roses. I get very excited when I see the development of little reddish buds that will soon become new vigorous shoots. After pruning, do remember to give the plant a feed (preferably organic) and a thick layer of mulch to retain moisture.

Gardens can feel overwhelming at this time of the year, but I would suggest that we should all relax a bit more and enjoy our outside spaces and not worry if things are not perfect. A garden is never 'finished', so we should be happy with how things are. Nature, in all its forms, can be celebrated!

Happy gardening!

Jane Shepherd

jane.shepherd1955@gmail.com



**Please recycle your copy of the Norman Arch.
Maybe pass it on to someone else!**



U3A (University of the Third Age) Headington Branch meets on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month from 2-4pm in the main hall of Headington Community Centre in Gladstone Road.

2nd April – Why genes are not selfish – Colin Tudge

16th April – Meteorologist in the Falklands & Georgia – Michael Palmer

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor or Sub Editor. No responsibility can be taken for advertising statements published

Notes from the Organ Bench



*Now the green blade riseth
from the buried grain.*



It is a strange fact that, when asked, most people would identify Christmas as the busiest time of year for church musicians. However, in reality, it is almost certainly The Triduum and Easter that is the harder time. For, in the run up to Christmas, there is a euphoria and excitement that carries one forward. But in Holy Week, in the run up to Easter, not only does one have the emotional turmoil of the last supper and the betrayal on Maundy Thursday but one has to experience the desolation of Good Friday before one can experience the joy of kindling the new fire at the Easter Vigil leading to the Resurrection.

The music for each of the services, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil, is carefully chosen so that for the choir and congregation alike, each hymn, psalm and motet enhances the mood of the moment in the service.

Maundy Thursday begins with the great celebratory hymn 'Praise to the holiest in the height' and as we begin to sing this lustily, we can imagine the excitement of the disciples preparing to have supper together. But the mood changes swiftly:

*And in the garden secretly,
and on the cross on high,
should teach his brethren, and inspire
to suffer and to die.*

The rest of the music leads us through the events of the last supper with the hymns 'An upper room did our Lord prepare' for the Gradual and Ubi Caritas for the washing of the feet and the communion motet 'A new commandment I give unto you' reflecting our Lord's words to His disciples before the final hymn Pange lingua:

At the last great supper lying
circled by his chosen band,
duly with the law complying,
first he finished its command.
Then, immortal food supplying,
gave himself by his own hand.

This leads into the chilling words of psalm 22 as the church is stripped, the lights lowered and the watch commences. At this moment, Stainer's setting of Matthew 26:40-45 in The Crucifixion rings through my head:

'Could ye not watch with me one brief hour?
Could ye not pity my sorest need?
Ah! If ye sleep while the tempests lower,
surely, my friends, I am lone indeed.

So it is that we leave church only to return on Good Friday when, this year, the introit will be words from Lamentations 1:12 set to music by F A Gore Ouseley:

*Is it nothing to you,
all ye that pass by?*

What a challenge as we reflect upon our crucified Lord!

The hymns sung during the service, 'There is a green hill far away', 'When I survey the wondrous cross' and 'O sacred head sore wounded' are all so poignant in the context of the Good Friday liturgy that it is sometimes all too easy to overlook the perfect combinations of exquisite words and wonderful music and the way in which each contributes perfectly to the moment within the service. The two other motets sung during the service, *Crux Fidelis* (at the veneration of the Cross) and *Ave Verum* (at the communion) are further examples of the perfect combination of words and music for the moment.

The service ends with another challenge as we sing the spiritual 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord'.

So it is that we leave church on Good Friday with heavy hearts. Somehow it seems not to matter that we all know what happens next for, at that moment, what happens next is in the future and only when we see the new fire at the Easter Vigil do our spirits rise.

I hope that the music will help enhance your journey through Holy Week to Easter.

My best wishes to you all.

Richard Bennett
Director of Music

From the Vicar...

Dear Friends,

As we moved towards Easter at the end of Holy Week, the drama of the Triduum unfolded before our eyes, as the symbols of divine presence were, one by one, been removed from the Church: holy water stoups emptied, the sacrament removed from its place of reservation, candles and lamps extinguished. Then at the Easter Vigil, one by one, each of these symbols returned, renewed through the transforming power of Christ's resurrection.

At the centre of our Easter celebration stands the Paschal Candle – the pillar of fire which symbolizes Christ's glorious Passover from death to life. The five incense grains which pierce the wax root the resurrection in the often painful experience of our daily living; they prevent us from forgetting the dark events of Friday, and remind us of the fundamental Christian truth that the resurrection of Jesus Christ does not obliterate his Good Friday experience; it does not remove the intense passion of its pain, or its darkness or its God-forsakenness. Without the cross, Easter is no more than a theatrical sleight of hand, a meaningless charade. Without the resurrection, the crucifixion has no more significance than any other Roman execution. And so for us, the resurrection of Christ which brings joy to the whole of creation does not remove sin, suffering and death from our lives, but offers to transform them with the hope of forgiveness, healing and new life.

For those of us who gather Sunday by Sunday, we bear witness that the Paschal mystery which we celebrate today is an encounter with the Jesus who has risen from the tomb, a life-changing experience which, in the words of St Augustine, transforms us into an Easter people whose song is Alleluia.

Alleluia! Christ is risen - in Easter fire, in water blessed, in bread and in wine. But, praise God, that the greatest cause for rejoicing today is that Christ is risen in us his Easter people; and to that same Christ, crucified and risen, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed all worship, praise, honour and glory, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

A very happy Easter!

Fr Darren

Stitching the Cross

A series of four linked Lent embroidery retreats at Christ Church 2024

Then I saw mankind's Saviour
come quickly with courage, desiring to climb
and I didn't dare, without his decree,
to bend there or break,...

That was God Almighty! The hero ungirded,
strong, his heart steadfast, ascended the scaffold,
his courage seen plainly, to save souls his will.
Extract from The Dream of the Rood

On the third Wednesday of our retreat, Philippa White, Precentor at Christ Church, read the first 56 lines of *The Dream of the Rood* in Old English. She then translated it into English, talked about the text and read it in English again, ending with:

All creation wept,
Grieved the King's fall; Christ was on the Cross.

There followed a profound and deep silence which lasted and lasted and lasted. Eventually broken by Philippa. We were in the library of the Deanery Offices, a group of 12 brought together by our love of embroidery.

Four talks on each of the 4 crosses we stitched:
Sally Welch - the Tau Cross and the bedrock of Franciscan spirituality – living lightly and care for creation. Florentine stitch to imitate the grain of wood and I thought St Francis's unadorned brown tunic.

Zack Guiliano – the Fleurette with fleur de lys on each of the 4 points – Mary, the Mother of God - pondering, treasuring, witnessing and suffering with Christ. Cross stitch and the sword that pierced her soul.

Philippa White – the Dream of the Rood stitching an inhabited cross – Christ 'his warrior's embrace' of the Rood. Gobelin stitch, invented by the Victorians, the Rood and Christ enmeshed.

Peter Moger – St Cuthbert's Cross – a garnet jewelled brooch – a costly gift hidden inside his burial clothes; a cross damaged and repaired and Cuthbert, the reluctant Bishop of Lindisfarne when he'd rather have lived out a hermit's life. Double cross stitch.

Our last afternoon session was led by Heather Moger – into Godly Play, the story of the purple Lent cross becoming the Light of Christ, the Resurrection Cross.

Each day followed a pattern. We met for coffee at 10am then to the Chapel of Remembrance for morning Eucharist. After our morning talk, we gathered to stitch and I listened to the stories of members of the group.

We were taught by the renowned Suellen Pedley, not just stitches but the rich heritage of the history of art embroidery. Off to lunch in the Hall and back for tea and our second talk followed by stitching in silence. Seamlessly all organised by Sally Welch who looked after us with gentle humour and generosity. A special time away from my phone, laptop and walking back along Christ Church walk to Rose Lane and the bus home.



I re-read Rozsika Parker's 'The Subversive Stitch – Embroidery and the Making of the Feminine'. Visited again the artwork on display from the Feller Collection in the Ashmolean and that most exquisite needle lace, the Judgement of Solomon. Much excitement when I bought the Feller Collection volume 2 on eBay and collected it from someone living in Oxford. I remembered my life in embroidery and stitching before my teaching career.

Thank you, Edith Coulton, for handing me the flyer one Sunday in church. I am still dwelling on the fullness of the experience. It is indeed good to be here.

Julie Ifill



Easter Traditions

Easter has always been marked with great secular celebrations too. That's partly because Easter follows Lent – a period of religious observance and abstinence from worldly pleasures to remember Jesus' fasting in the desert.

Today, many people might give up chocolate, but before the Reformation Lent was rather more involved for English Christians. They were supposed to avoid eating meat, eggs or dairy, they couldn't play any sports, and they had to abstain from sex. So when Easter came around, there were many good reasons to celebrate.

The 14th-century Shropshire cleric John Mirk wrote of Easter as the time when fires were extinguished, hearths strewn with fresh rushes, flowers displayed and houses cleaned. Celebrations went on for many days after the Easter weekend.

Even after the Reformation reduced the number of holy days on which people weren't expected to work, the 17th-century poet Nicholas Breton still thought of it as 'the sun's dancing-day and the earth's holy-day' – a time for 'nothing but play and mirth'. Even by the mid-19th century, when holidays were few and far between for working people, Good Friday was still one of two national days off, the other being Christmas Day.



Lent 3 – take up your cross



Egg Hunts

The custom of the Easter egg hunt has only been a feature of English Easters since the late 19th century. It actually has its origins in Germany, where, according to one tradition, they were invented by Martin Luther to give congregations a lesson about the discovery of the empty tomb.

However, the first written reference to an egg hunt can be found in Georg Franck von Franckenau's 1682 essay, *De ovis paschalibus* ('About Easter eggs'). According to Georg, a hare brought the eggs for the children to find.

The Hanoverians brought Easter egg hunts to England, and Queen Victoria enjoyed egg hunts as a child. On Easter Sunday 1833 she wrote 'Mama did some pretty painted & ornamented eggs, & we looked for them'. Victoria continued this German tradition with Prince Albert, who hid the eggs in 'little moss baskets' for children to find.

Victoria made numerous references to these egg hunts in her journals, including in 1848, when the royal family was at Osborne on the Isle of Wight. Victoria wrote:



'During our breakfast & after, the Children hunted for Easter eggs, it being Maundy Thursday, & they were in the greatest delight.'

However, unlike the German Christmas tree, which Victoria and Albert did popularise in England, egg hunts remained a novelty here until the end of the century. Even in 1892, the poet AE Housman thought it worth noting that 'In Germany at Easter time they hide coloured eggs about the house and garden that the children may amuse themselves in discovering them.'

But a year later, Cumbrian newspaper The Wigton Advertiser noted that in the village of Aikton 'on Easter Monday afternoon...an Easter egg hunt was then enjoyed in the Rectory garden, where eggs were discovered of colours and in places that would have astonished the hens that laid them!' This is the earliest reference to an English Easter egg hunt found in the online British Newspaper Archives, but it seems unlikely that this small Lake District village was the first in the country to hold such a hunt.

Easter Lilies

Symbolic of purity and hope, Easter lilies are steeped in meaning in cultures around the world. The flowers are believed to have sprouted where Christ's blood and tears fell during crucifixion, as well as in the Garden of Gethsemane after his betrayal.

Fly Kites!!

This Good Friday tradition initially gained traction in Bermuda, where it's believed that a local schoolteacher used a kite to demonstrate Jesus's ascension into heaven for his students. Since then, Bermudians have flocked to Horseshoe Bay Beach for the annual Good Friday Kite Festival



(Community Emergency Foodbank)

Food parcels are distributed at our 3 CEF Cafés:
Barton Community Church, Barton Neighbourhood Centre, Underhill Circus Barton OX3 9LS - Mondays & Wednesdays 12noon - 2pm
St Francis' Church, Hollow Way OX3 7JP - Tuesdays & Fridays 12noon - 2pm
Baptist Church, Chapel Lane, Littlemore, OX4 4QB - Thursdays 10 -11.30am

A list of foodstuffs is on the noticeboard at the back of church and on the Sunday pew sheet.



Oxfordshire Family History Society

We offer free helpdesks to anyone wanting help with researching their family history, whether in Oxfordshire or beyond, across Oxfordshire.

*The nearest helpdesk to Headington is at the Oxfordshire History Centre,
Temple Road, Cowley, OX4 2HT.*

We are there on Tuesdays, 10am to 4pm.

There's no need to book a session - just come along. There's limited parking. It's a good idea to bring details of what you know already, and hopefully our advisors can help you make exciting discoveries about your ancestors.

*Anyone unable to get to the History Centre is welcome to email
help@ofhs.uk or ring 01865 358151.*



SPECIAL OCCASION CARDS & PRAYER CARDS

We have a collection of beautiful greeting cards with an inspirational verse designed by Just Cards Direct.

The greeting cards are in the Bookstall to the right of the main door as you enter church.

Just Cards Direct work in partnership with projects in Rwanda, South Africa and Kenya and give the majority of their profits to Christian charities.

We also have a stand with prayer cards at the back of church.

