

DIARY DETAILS

Sunday 16th April (Easter Day)

7:00am Sunrise Communion at St Botolph's
9:45am Communion Service at St Botolph's
11:00am Communion Service at St Peter's
no Joint Evening Service tonight

Tuesday 18th April

no FFM Community Group this week
no JRM* Community Group this week*

Wednesday 19th April

10:30am Communion Service at St Peter's

Thursday 20th April

no CFM Community Group this week*

Sunday 23rd April (The Second Sunday of Easter)

11:00am St George's Day Civic Service at St Peter's
6:30pm Joint Evening Service at Castle

CONTACT DETAILS

The Town Centre Parish Office

01206 572529 & towncentrep parishoffice@gmail.com

Associate Minister: **Aella Gage** (07796 475130)

Churchwarden: **Dan Watts** (01206 561522)

Churchwarden: **Wendy Whitfield** (01206 842632)

PCC Secretary: **Julie Gallacher** (07894 064095)

PCC Treasurer: **Richard Lawn** (01206 540510)

Safeguarding Rep: **Jessie Ho** (07938 160601)

Vicar: **Mark Wallace** (01206 572641 or 07772 615378)

Vicar's PA: **Bernice Watts** (01206 572529)

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CHURCH NOTICES

Cake Sale for our sponsored children. The children in SPK & Creche will be selling homemade cakes after the service today, with the money raised being sent to our sponsored children and their families as an Easter gift from our church family.

Joint Evening Service. Please note there is no Joint Evening Service at Castle tonight, but it resumes as normal next Sunday (23rd April).

St George's Day Civic Service. Next Sunday (23rd April), we welcome the Mayor and the Civic Party for a Civic Service for St George's Day. Refreshments will be served afterwards, both in church and in the Mayor's Parlour in the Town Hall (to which everyone is invited).

The Tuesday Lunchtime Community Group. The next meeting will be on Tuesday 25th April at 12noon, starting with a light lunch.

Global Mission Sunday. Our focus on Sunday 30th April will be on mission across the world. We welcome Alex and Marguerite McCann, working with OMF in Cambodia, who will be sharing something of their ministry - and speaking in more detail over the Church Lunch in the Hall after the service. Do join us!

Global Mission Lunch. The next Church Lunch will be on Sunday 30th April, as part of our Global Mission Sunday, with Alex and Marguerite McCann (see above) speaking.

Christian Aid Week (14th-20th May). If anyone would like to collect for Christian Aid on Saturday 20th May in the town centre or outside the Co-op Store in Stanway, please speak to Wendy Whitfield so that your names can be passed on to the organiser.

THANK YOU... to all who donated to the Stall Sale last weekend, and especially to Geraldine Joslin and Ken Cooke for all their hard work. £525 was raised for the church's Fabric Fund!

Any notices for inclusion should be emailed or posted to the Vicar's PA (see over for contact details) by 9:15am on Thursday. Thank you.



A very warm welcome to St Peter's Church!

Our service this morning is led by Rev Mark Wallace. Please stay on for refreshments after the service, which will be brought to you in the pews. If you have any questions, please ask a member of the Welcoming Team or contact any of the people in the "Contact details" section at the back of this leaflet.

If you have younger children with you today, then please feel free to bring them to SPK (St Peter's Kids, for all those up to and including Year 6) in the Church Hall during the first hymn. If it's your first visit, we'll ask you to complete a short Registration Form, but you are then welcome to leave your children in their groups and return to join us in the service. The children will rejoin us later in the service in time for Communion together.

Thank you for joining us today.

Easter Communion

Sunday 16th April 2017

OPENING RESPONSES

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN: See, what a morning

See, what a morning, gloriously bright,
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light,
as the angels announce, "Christ is risen!"
See God's salvation plan,
wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
fulfilled in Christ, the Man,
for He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

[SPK & Creche leave for their groups]

See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"
as in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
it's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years,
speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
will sound till He appears,
for He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty.
Honour and blessing, glory and praise,
to the King crowned with pow'r and authority!
And we are raised with Him,
Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered;
and we shall reign with Him,
for He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, © 2003, Kingsway Thankyou Music

PRAYERS OF PREPARATION & PENITENCE

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord of all life and power; who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour; glory and might, now and in all eternity.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Acts 10 v 34-43

page 919 of the pew Bibles
read by Clare Reid

At the end of the reading...

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN: From heaven you came

From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served, but to serve,
and give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

continued over

There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

Come, see his hands and his feet:
the scars that speak of sacrifice;
hands that flung stars into space,
to cruel nails surrendered.

This is our God, the Servant King...

So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

This is our God, the Servant King...

Graham Kendrick, © 1983, Kingsway Music

THE SECOND READING: Matthew 27 v 62 - 28 v 15

page 835 of the pew Bibles
read by Dan Watts

At the end of the reading...

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SERMON

preacher: Rev Aella Gage

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

THE PRAYERS

led by Lizzie Wallace

These responses may be used during the prayers...

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our
Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE NOTICES

THE PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then they were glad
when they saw the Lord.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.
and also with you. Alleluia.

HYMN: In Christ alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! who took on flesh,
fulness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied -
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
then, bursting forth in glorious Day,
up from the grave he rose again!
And, as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
for I am his and he is mine -
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns, or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend, © 2001, Thankyou Music

THE COMMUNION

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For he is our great high priest, who has loosed us from our sins and has made us to be a royal priesthood to you, our God and Father.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father, who, in your tender mercy, gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who, on the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Christ is the bread of life:

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father, in remembrance of the precious death and passion, the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension of your dear Son Jesus Christ, we offer you through him this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death, and through faith in his blood, we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion. Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this the duty and service that we owe. Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences, and fill us all who share in this holy communion with your grace and heavenly blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

When ushered, please come forwards to receive bread at the front and wine to the sides (or, if preferred, for a prayer of blessing).

Please come up to the front via the centre aisle, and return to your pew via the side aisles.

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life. through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

HYMN: Thine be the glory

Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory,
thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory,
thou o'er death has won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us
risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom.
Let the Church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth;
death has lost its sting.

Thine be the glory...

No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of Life!
Life is naught without thee:
aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors,
through thy deathless love.
Bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above.

Thine be the glory...

Edmond Budry (1854-1932)

THE CONCLUSION

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.
