

1st April 2018

Easter Day

Family Celebration with Communion

Easter Sunday

‘‘You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen!’

Mark 16: 6

Welcome to today's service!

Christ has Risen! He has Risen indeed, Hallelujah!

The last time Easter fell on the 1st April - April Fool's Day - was 1956... the next is 2029, then 2040 and then not until 2108!

This coincidence made me start to think about Easter from another angle.

In our sceptical age many people look at Christians and dismiss us as ‘‘foolish’’ for believing in Jesus.

This week we have enjoyed the privilege of showing all the children in our town primary schools around the Journey to Easter - it has provoked amazing questions and some incredible answers. Jesus was nobody's fool - whilst he may have been mocked on the cross with jeers of ‘‘If you are the Son of God, ... come down from the cross and save yourself’’ - he knew exactly what he was doing that day. As one of the children (aged 6) told me ‘‘he was doing exactly what God had told him to do’’.

Let's celebrate this morning in the confidence of a God who loves and has a plan for each one of us - Happy Easter!



James Kennedy (Vicar)



Today we're all together, but during our usual 10.45 service, to serve our families, we run a supervised crèche (for under 3s), Ignite (for 3-5 year olds) OneWay (for children aged 6-11), and Ablaze (for youth aged 11-16). Everyone is welcome!

Services This Sunday— 1 April 2018

**Easter Day: 6.15am Assemble & depart from Parish Rooms for
6.30am Sunrise Prayer on the hill above Chipping Norton**

St Mary's 8am Holy Communion (BCP) Leading: Rev James Kennedy
Reading: Acts 10:34-43 (Martin Jarratt)

St James' Chapel Over Norton 9.15am: Holy Communion (BCP)
Leading: Rev Roger Simpson

St Mary's 10.45am All Age Family Communion
Leading: Rev James Kennedy Talk: Emma Kennedy
Reading: Mark 16:1-8 (Jasper Schofield-Linnell) Prayers: (Bill Rees)

*****NOTICES*****



Alpha... BIG LAUNCH with 'Ace' from 1990's TV show 'Gladiators'! —7.30pm, Tues 24th April, Parish Rooms

Do you ever ask those big questions: Why am I here?; What is the purpose of life?; Where am I heading?; What has Christianity got to offer? Why not come along and join us for Alpha after Easter? Alpha offers a wonderful opportunity, following a shared meal, for you to ask them (however awkward or daft you think they might be) in a relaxed, informal setting that makes no demands on the individual. At our launch on 24 April, we have a special guest, Warren Furman – “Ace” of the 1990s tv show, Gladiators, which should be a lot of fun. We'd love to see you there. It would also be a great evening to bring a friend along: why don't you simply pray and ask God to prompt you with a name or a face, and then ask him for the courage to invite them along & let God do the rest! For more info, pick up a flyer or e-mail Judith Marshall (alpha@stmaryscnorton.com)



Marriage Course (Starting Monday 4th June)

We'll be running another Marriage Course at St Mary's on Monday evenings in the Summer Term—please see the larger note towards the end of the service sheet for more details (or e-mail marriagecourse@stmaryscnorton.com)

1st Priority Prayer—St Mary's (7.30pm, Wed 4 April)

Every first Wednesday of the month we meet together for a wonderful time of worship and prayer. If you've not joined us before, we'd love to see you there. Coming together regularly like this as a church family to pray is something that God tells us to do, which is why we ask all of our Small Groups to come along together rather than meeting in their usual pattern. The more of us that meet together, the more exciting it becomes because we see things happen in answer to our prayers. So don't miss out—come along and be part of the engine room of the church!

Services Next Sunday— 8 April 2018

2nd Sunday of Easter
St Mary's 8am Holy Communion (BCP) Leading: Rev Victor Story
Reading: Acts 4:32-35 (Andy Thomson)

St James' Chapel Over Norton (No service on 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

St Mary's 10.45am Morning Worship (with Creche, Ignite, 'Oneway' & Ablaze)
Leading: Rev John Coyne Preaching: Rev Ursula Simpson
Reading: Matthew 5: 13-20 (Jamie Bell) Prayers: David Bishop
12.45pm Church Lunch in the Parish Rooms

Contacting St Mary's

Website: www.stmaryscnorton.com

Clergy Team

Team Rector of Chipping Norton Benefice:
Rev Dr James Kennedy
✉ vicar@stmaryscnorton.com
Tel: 01608 642688
N.B. James takes his rest day on a Friday

Curate
Rev Martha Simpson
Currently on Maternity leave.

Team Vicar of Kingham & Churchill:
Rev David Salter
✉ david.salter@stmaryscnorton.com
Tel: 01608 658852
N.B. David takes his rest day on a Friday

Team Ministers:
Rev Ursula Simpson
✉ ursula.simpson@stmaryscnorton.com
Tel: 01608 674541

Rev Jackie Jones
✉ jackie.jones@stmaryscnorton.com
Tel: 01608 658616

Church Wardens

Linda Carpenter
Graham Povey
✉ churchwarden@stmaryscnorton.com
Tel: 01608 641727 (Linda)

Financial Giving

If you would like to give to support the mission and ministry of St Mary's, may we encourage you to join our planned giving scheme. If you are a UK taxpayer you may be able to add Gift Aid which increases your giving by 25%. Please pick up a leaflet to explore ways to give or you can give online at <https://my.give.net/donations>

St Mary's is a caring fellowship.

Being a member of a **Small Group** is the best way to make sure you are both cared for, and able to care for others. For more information about joining a group please email smallgroups@stmaryscnorton.com. Otherwise, if you or anyone you know is sad or unwell, in hospital or in need of any other support, please let the Church Office know. We have a team of pastoral visitors who would love to help.

Youth, Children & Families

Jonny Lowe (Youth worker)
✉ youth@stmaryscnorton.com
Tel: 01608 645668
N.B. Jonny takes his rest day on a Saturday.

Becca Sterry (Children and Families worker)
✉ children@stmaryscnorton.com
Tel: 01608 645668
N.B. Becca works part-time.

Catherine Spring (School and Community Support worker)
✉ Catherine.spring@stmaryscnorton.com
Tel: 01608 645668
N.B. Catherine works part-time.

Office

Church Administrator
Emma Bayley
✉ office@stmaryscnorton.com
Tel: 01608 646202

Administrative Manager (& Finance)
Emily O'Shea
✉ finance@stmaryscnorton.com
Tel: 01608 645668

St Mary's Parish Rooms, Church Street,
Chipping Norton OX7 5NT
(Office hours 09.00-11.30 weekday mornings)

Registered charity no.: 1132070

CHURCH DIARY

THIS WEEK: 2—7 APRIL 2018I

Mon 2 Apr **BANK HOLIDAY**

Wed 4 Apr **1st Priority Prayer** (7.30pm in the church)

Thurs 5 Apr **Midweek Communion + coffee** (10am in Parish Rooms)

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (12.30pm, Sunday 22nd April in the Parish Rooms—immediately after the 10.45 service)

Come and join us for a glass of Prosecco in the Parish Rooms to celebrate the last year at our Annual Meeting and to elect our new PCC and Churchwarden. James will also be sharing some exciting new aspects of the vision that God is giving us as a church for the coming year, so do come along!

CALENDAR OF FURTHER EVENTS

Fri 13 Apr **Women's World Day of Prayer** (new date)

10am & 7pm Services at CN Methodist Church

All Day Youth Hike (Depart 9.30am and ends at Parish Rooms)

11 mile hike open to girls and boys Year 7 upwards. Picnic lunch provided.

Sat 14th Apr **Decorating Outreach Project** (8am-5pm)

Sun 22 Apr **APCM Meeting** (12.30pm in Parish Rooms)

Tues 24 Apr **Alpha starts** (7.00-9.30pm in Parish Rooms.

Set up from **5.30pm**)

Wed 25 Apr **Colin Buchanan Live** (5pm at St David's, Moreton-in-Marsh)

Mon 4 June **Marriage Course begins** (7.45pm in the Parish Rooms)

For further information, please contact the Church Office



The Marriage Course is a series of seven sessions, designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a stronger marriage.

Who is it for?

It is designed for couples who are married or cohabiting and seeking to strengthen their relationship and offers practical ideas and the tools to help you keep your relationship strong - whether you need urgent help, or just wanting to

build something better. May be you want to spend time investing in your marriage or you have a friend or relative who is struggling in their relationship - this might be a way of reaching out and offering them practical support.

What can you expect?

At The Marriage Course you are seated at your own table for two, served a delicious meal before a practical talk and time for private discussion between you and your partner. Background music ensures that you can chat in complete privacy and you never have to share anything about your relationship with anyone other than your partner. The Marriage Course is based on Christian principles, but everyone is welcome and the course is designed for all couples with or without a Christian faith or church background.

When?

Monday Evening 7.45-9.45pm in The Parish Rooms, starting on **Monday 4th June, 2018** for 7 weeks

If you would like to book on or have more details please email: marriagecourse@stmaryscnorton.com