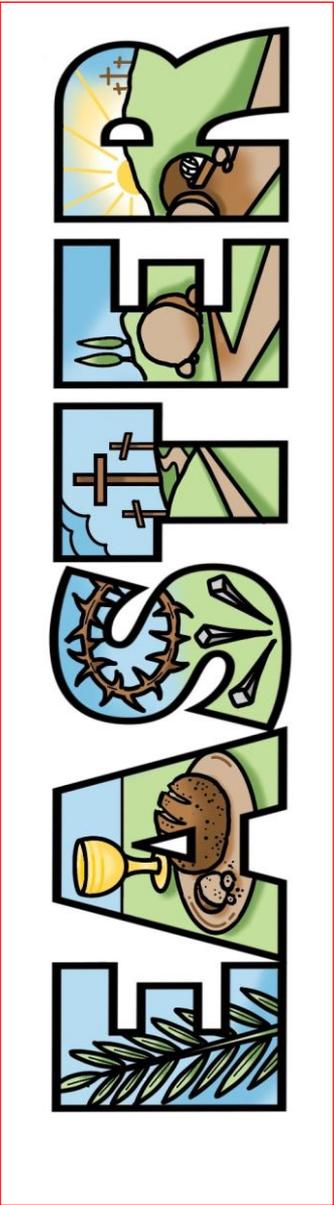


*The Parish Church of Saint Paul's  
Charlestown*



*Easter Day 2020 when the country was in 'lockdown' and there were no Easter Services in Churches.  
Photo by courtesy of Chris Garner*



**WHAT IS EASTER?**

The Cross	<b>we shall take it</b>
The bread	<b>we shall break it</b>
The pain	<b>we shall bear it</b>
The joy	<b>we shall share it</b>
The Gospel	<b>we shall live it</b>
The love	<b>we shall give it</b>
The light	<b>we shall cherish it</b>
The darkness	<b>God shall perish it</b>

## Easter Message from Father Malcolm

I am starting to write these thoughts on the Feast of St. Piran. We are not yet half way through Lent and yet Easter is just a month away. Of course, it is still not going to be as we would like; although we are not in complete lockdown as last year we are still restricted in what we can do in our services. Singing, for instance, remains restricted.

However, in our services we will still accompany Our Lord from Palm Sunday through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday into the Easter Day when we in the Western Church celebrate Christ's victory over death. The Eastern Church though sees the resurrection in at least three ways: the trampling of hell, the corporate leading out of hell, and the corporate uplifting of humanity with Christ. This perspective of Christ as the forerunner of all of us is explored in John Dominic Crossan's book "Resurrecting Easter".

St. Paul puts this very well in his first letter to the Corinthians. "Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who sleep. For as by man came death, by man has also come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Cor. 15: 20-22).

I know I keep going back to it but the Collect for the first Sunday of Christmastide states that the Universal Christ comes to share our humanity in the person of Jesus so we can share in the life of his divinity. This is what the Eastern Church calls divinization. It is not that we become God. It is our goal to become as much as like Christ as possible in this world. We try to die to sin and be raised to new life with him. We see this in the second letter of Peter: "His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the



knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thus, he has given us through these things, his precious and very great promises, so that through them you

may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants in the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:3/4).

Does this mean we do not sin again, of course not; it is a lifelong pursuit which can only be accomplished by God's Grace. What a wonderful vocation!

Alleluia, Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Pask Lowen. (Happy Easter).

**Fr. Malcolm**

## Daphne, Vice Chair of the PCC writes.....

It is challenging being vice-chair of any organisation especially when there is no chairperson, but that is my reality. However, St. Paul's is truly fortunate in having a strong and dedicated PCC. It is a team that if it were a school senior leadership team would be described by Ofsted as "outstanding".

The PCC meets regularly, mainly by Zoom, to ensure the smooth running of the church and to plan the process for appointing our next Parish Priest. We are aware that the transition may be lengthy but securing the best possible outcome for the Parish is our aim and our mission.

In 2011 when Fr John Greatbatch left us so suddenly I made a pledge to you that the future of St Paul's would be secure in so far as was in my power. I renew that pledge now. However, alone my achievement would be limited. I need your support and prayers.

Although PCC members are working strenuously to maintain our traditions, life here might look different in the future. In securing the future sustainability of all churches, embracing change is a prerequisite.

At this Eastertide, we look forward with hope and optimism to the challenges of the future. By all pulling together we can achieve what may seem impossible:



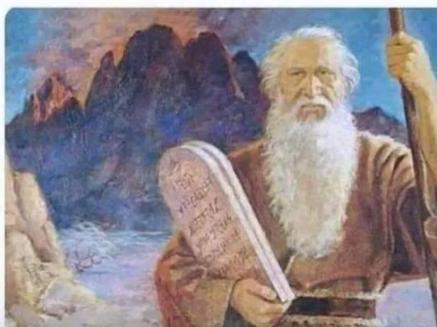
Photo credit to: Kewhallpapers

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles: they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40.31)

With love and best wishes for a happy and blessed Easter.

## Daphne

So technically Moses is the first man to download files from the cloud using a tablet.



**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting** of Saint Paul's – **YOUR CHURCH** will be held on Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> April [subject to COVID restrictions] following the Parish Mass. At this time of 'transition' [interregnum] there is a great need for us all to pull together and assist with the many jobs both great and small which keep the church afloat. Over the next weeks we will be asking for volunteers for tasks both great and small. Please prayerfully consider what you can offer, however great or small - many hands will make light work.

## Julia, our Churchwarden writes.....



A big 'Thank You' to all the wonderful volunteers..... from cleaning to fabric and maintenance to readers to intercessors to Paul and the choir to the bellringers to PCC members to the Friends Committee.....and many more, who serve St Paul's. Special thanks to our brilliant, retired clergy who provide much needed spiritual care.....and, above all, to Elizabeth, whose unstinting support and friendship have greatly assisted my role as Churchwarden.

**Julia Keep**

## Friends of Saint Paul's.

Sadly, but understandably, there have not been any 'Friends' events for twelve months and because of the continued uncertainty this year's Flower Festival has been cancelled. This is not only because of COVID 19 but additionally because of the uncertainty of the supply and cost of flowers because of BREXIT [The majority of flowers come from Holland].

On the positive side we are hoping to have an afternoon concert in November and possibly a small celebration of **Christmas** possibly on the theme of 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'.

We are now looking at how we can help St Paul's to raise the additional funds which are needed to complete the re-roofing project by events and grants.

It will be such a joy for us all to be able to meet together again.

With all good wishes for a joyous and Blessed Easter.

**Elizabeth**

Chair of the Friends of St Paul's.

## Food Bank

Thank you for all your generous donations throughout 'lockdown'. In addition to the usual list, we are inviting gifts of Easter Eggs for distribution at Easter. If you would like to contribute the last day for these is Palm Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> March.



-oOo-

## Notices found in church newsletters – that didn't quite come out right!

- \* This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Brown, our church warden, to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.
- \* Ladies are requested not to have children in the church kitchen.
- \* For those who have children and don't know it, we have a crèche in the crypt.
- \* Bring and share church supper: Prayer and medication will follow.
- \* Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help.
- \* The organist invites anyone who enjoys sinning to volunteer for the choir.
- \* At the church meeting last week the rector spoke briefly and delighted the audience.
- \* Remember in prayer the many who are sick both of our church and the community.
- \* Smile at someone who you find hard to love. Say 'hell' to someone who doesn't much care about you.

-oOo-

## Easter Garden and Easter Flowers

As we did two years ago we shall again be having our 'Easter Garden' beneath the Altar. We are inviting people to contribute small plants, particularly herbs, in addition to small potted plants i.e. primrose, ivy, miniature daffodils, or similar to make it look like a real garden.



Hopefully, if the plants well-watered, they will last for the six weeks until Pentecost. We will then arrange for them to be planted in suitable places in the churchyard. It may be that if you are a keen gardener you will be able to bring along a plant that you have nurtured yourself. Alternatively, or maybe in addition you may like to make a donation towards Lilies or other flowers to decorate the church. Dorianne will also be delighted to receive your donations and to hear

from anyone who would like to help with arranging flowers both for Easter and/or throughout the year.

## Holy Week and Easter Day.

**Palm Sunday**

**28<sup>th</sup> March**

**9.30 am**

**The Liturgy for Palm Sunday**

**Father Peter Blackwell Smyth**

Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified.

Palm Sunday is known as such because we receive palms and commemorate Christ's arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, or possibly palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect.



Palm branches are widely recognized symbol of peace and victory, hence their preferred use on Palm Sunday.

The use of a donkey instead of a horse is highly symbolic, it represents the humble arrival of someone in peace, as opposed to arriving on a steed in war.

A week later, Christ would rise from the dead on the first Easter.

The colours of the vestments on Palm Sunday are red symbolizing the redemption in blood that Christ paid for the world.

**Maundy Thursday**

**1<sup>st</sup> April**

**6.00 pm**

**The Liturgy for Maundy Thursday**

**Father Malcolm Bowers**

Usually on Maundy Thursday the King or Queen distributes the Royal Maundy, to selected senior citizens – one man and one woman for each year of the monarch's age. The monarch



presents each man and woman with a red and white purse during the service. The red purse traditionally contains an allowance for clothing and provisions and the white purse holds Maundy coins to match the monarch's age.

Many churches hold services in the evening during which the Holy Oils which have been blessed by the Bishop earlier in the day are received and the service reflects on the story of the Last Supper, which is told in

the bible. This day also commemorates the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet and some congregation members may have their feet washed in memory of this event. This is usually followed by a 'watch' until midnight.

Sadly, this year, owing to current restrictions there will not be a Royal Maundy, Washing of the Feet, or a 'Watch' however we shall gather for a Eucharist.



**Good Friday**

**2<sup>nd</sup> April**

**2.00 pm**

**The Liturgy for Good Friday**

**Father**

**Malcom Bowers**

After the last supper, on Maundy Thursday, Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, put on trial, sentenced to death. He was then tied and nailed by the wrists and feet to a large wooden cross and left to die. This is why the cross is used as a

symbol of the Christian faith.

Good Friday is a day of mourning. During Good Friday services we meditate on Jesus's suffering and death on the cross, and what this



on the cross means for our faith.

**Easter Day**

**9.30 am**

**4<sup>th</sup> April**

**Easter Festival Service**

**Father Peter Blackwell Smyth  
and Father Malcolm Bowers**

**From the 'Book of Common Prayer'**

*And note, that every parishioner shall communicate at the least three times in the year, of which Easter to be one.*



Now the queen of seasons, bright  
with the day of splendour,  
with the royal feast of feasts,  
comes its joy to render;  
comes to glad Jerusalem,  
who with true affection  
welcomes in unwearied strains  
Jesu's resurrection'

# Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is Risen He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!!

A special thank you to Father Malcolm and Father Peter for being with us for Holy Week and Easter.

## A Letter from Danny

Dear Friends

After the dark winter days, evenings are getting lighter. This means my walks can be later in the day. We've had some cold sunny days this week, I met up with my friend Buster for a long walk and noticed that the primroses are out, there are catkins hanging from the trees and green shoots are appearing everywhere. Some of my friends - the children - are back at school.

Sometimes we meet them on walks. They always say "Hello" to me. For the last few weeks, people have been saying that I look like a TEDDY BEAR! This is because I had not been able to visit my groomer for a long time. Groomers and hairdressers, as you know have not been allowed to work during the LOCKDOWN and Master, Missus and I all badly needed to have a haircut. I am a special case (of course) because of my easily tangled fur so this week I've been able to have a trim and a bath. Now I know how the sheep feel after they've been shorn. Missus took pity on me because of the cold and got out my lined red jacket to wear on walks until my fur grows again.

The bulbs Missus planted in the Autumn are appearing. Daffodils are out and muscari and tulips just peeping through. On sunny days

we sit out in the sunshine at Coffee time well wrapped up and talk about having a barbecue in the Summer with all the family - and dogs!



We looked after Peach for an afternoon this week. She is a family dog, a clumber spaniel, peach coloured. It was great to see her. She's just a few months

old but is already a good sport and I spent the afternoon showing her my garden and chasing balls before a long walk.

I'm in disgrace! I've been digging again! How was I to know that crushed bones are used to fertilize the plants? After Missus pruned the roses, Master mixed bone meal with new compost and dug it in around the rose bed. He covered it over with more compost forgetting that my powerful nose would soon sniff it out and when no-one was looking, I had a fine time digging for bones. The result was - NO BONES and holes in the rose bed. I think that's cheating- they should at least have buried one bone for me to find!

HAPPY EASTER EVERY-ONE!

## Danny

## And finally, 'A True Story'

A curate friend had to preach his first-ever Easter sermon, and was very nervous about it. However, he prepared hard, and when Easter day came, he strode into