



## Resurrecting Faith—Easter 2022

We've been walking with the disciples and Jesus through Matthew's gospel, these past months. Now we are near the end. And we are walking into Jerusalem, to the cross and beyond. The disciples didn't grasp the end-point but, thankfully, we have been told more

The resurrection of Jesus changes everything. I know we are not at Easter yet, but we are journeying towards it. And Easter means letting the resurrection of Jesus frame reality. It matters that we continually remind ourselves of the difference it makes. That is how we can we live well in the present.

### **Easter Means Recognising who is King**

There will be a great deal of Jubilee celebrations in the coming months and rightly so. But as the Queen has consistently stressed, there is a higher monarch than any earthly ruler. And Easter is the

high point of our remembrance of that fact.

Jesus had walked all the way from Galilee to Jerusalem. But he rode into Jerusalem. He did this not because he was tired, but because he was signalling who he was. Whilst it is rightly pointed out that riding on a donkey was a sign of humility, key Old Testament kings like David and Solomon entered Jerusalem that way. And other kings were welcomed with cloaks and palms strewn on the road.

Palm Sunday was Jesus signalling he came as King. He came gently, but he came as King. He came to grief on Good Friday, but his resurrection declared his coming in power.

### **Easter Means we can Let Go of COVID Bitterness**

A great deal has gone wrong. A great deal of life has happened, but in a 'low-fat' fashion. The last few years feel like a succession of crises of one sort or another. And this has often corroded our souls.



We easily become snarky, ever able to see the sawdust in the other person's eye.

At the heart of the Christian faith is the cross of Christ, God reaching out to us in Jesus. Here is amazing grace. And, boy, do we need it. As we approach Good Friday, this is a moment to ask God for his grace – that we might transmit that grace - grace to forgive others, grace to ask for forgiveness from others.

The church leader Rick Warren speaks of a brilliant prayer, called 'EGR'. EGR stands for 'Extra Grace Required, Lord!' It is a prayer I find myself endlessly saying.

Looking back over COVID, I know St Barnabas has had to make all kinds of decisions.

You may agree with some and not others. I certainly have got things wrong at times. And as you look back, is there someone you or I need to apologise to? Easter is a good time to do that.

### **Easter Day means Living in Hope**

Good Friday is not where things end. Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Day so we live in hope, not fear. From COVID to Ukraine to economic woes, recent years have felt a succession of shocks. But Christians do not need to be flattened by these sad events.

There are good things happening in our church. Thank God we were able to hold our 'Taste & See' mission weekend with 'Ace' a few weeks ago. Thank God for the deepening connections we have with local schools and



students. Thank God for growth in our work with children both on Sundays and midweek. Thank God for the way we are expanding our activities by offering again communion to those who are housebound. Thank God for the Community Grocery – it is not yet ready, but we are close now.

All of the above was not happening, or only happening to a much smaller degree, twelve months ago.

### **Reconnecting with God this Easter**

I warmly encourage you to reconnect with the God of resurrection this Easter - whether you come to church or church comes to you.

The resurrection of Jesus is the heart of the Christian faith. We have had so many troubles in recent years that we need continually reminding of that fact. And, if we trust in a God who raises the dead, our lives and our work will never be in vain.

*David Goodhew*

# Community Grocery

Congratulations to Phil Hale, who has been appointed assistant manager of the Community Grocery, working alongside the manager, Stephen Mussard. The plan is to open the Grocery on 4th May and we hope to have the portacabin in place in the church car-park in the next few weeks.



## 8am Communion

May 1st sees the restarting of 8 am HC *on first Sunday of the month* – using the service of the BCP. All are welcome to this quiet, reflective act of worship.

## Giving for Mission Sunday: 10th April

Thank you to everyone who gives financially to St Barnabas. Please use 'Giving for Mission Sunday' on 10th April to reassess your giving, using the materials that you should have received (and which are available on the church website too).

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Annual Parochial Church meeting takes place on Monday 25th April at 7pm in church. This is an important meeting as we look back at the past year and forward to the future, so please come along. We will elect two churchwardens for one year, and three new members of the PCC to serve for 3 years.

# PCC in March and April



In March the PCC discussed the process of appointing a new worship leader to succeed Seb Rab. Plans to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee were outlined. There were the usual reports on buildings, safeguarding and children's work.

The Middlesbrough Deanery Synod met in February. The PCC heard about the continuing work on a deanery plan.

In April the PCC received a financial update from the treasurer and discussed appropriate financial controls and the trustees' responsibilities as regards the church finances.

Plans for a church weekend in July were discussed.

The retiring members of the PCC were thanked for their contribution over the past 3 years.

## EASTER CRAFTS AND PUPPETS

Join us at 10:00am on Friday 15th for our Family Easter celebration.

Crafts, cakes, and games, and then hear from our special guest puppets as they tell us the Easter Story

An event suitable for children and their families.  
For more details see [st-barnabas.net/easter](http://st-barnabas.net/easter)

St Barnabas Church, Linthorpe, Middlesbrough





## **Holy Week and Easter Services at St Barnabas**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April**

7pm Night Prayer

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

7pm Night Prayer

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

7pm Night Prayer

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

7pm A Service of Reflective Communion with anointing  
and the laying on of hands for Maundy Thursday

**Good Friday, 15th April**

10am. - 12 noon Easter Crafts and Activities  
children, please bring an adult

2pm An Hour by the Cross, a service of quiet reflection.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

7pm Night Prayer

**Easter Sunday, 17th April**

9.30am Holy Communion

11.15am Holy Communion

6.30pm Easter Praise

Find out more on our website

[www.st-barnabas.net](http://www.st-barnabas.net)



## Diary

Monday 25th April	Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 7pm
Friday 29th April	Lydia group meets, 2pm in the Reid Room
Week beginning 1st May	Life groups meet
Monday 9th May	PCC meets, 7.15pm in the Reid Room
Week beginning 15th May	Life groups meet

## From the Registers

### Funeral at St Barnabas

21st March	Elizabeth Anne Wills	aged 77
3rd April	Cornelia Taylor	aged 73

### Funeral at the Crematorium

28th March	Geoffrey Mendum	aged 78
28th March	Kira Mpofu	aged 55
1st April	Mavis Wood	aged 87

