

## In for Easter – hallelujah!

**April 2021**

The Sunday we re-opened Church after the first lockdown last July, people were outside waiting to get in. The echoes from another early morning only struck me later. That fateful day, 2000 years before, the women had set off to anoint the corpse of Jesus still grieving from Good Friday. Their discovery that the tomb was open and Christ was alive took words like joy and elation to a whole other level. Surely we can all sense something of that gladness as restrictions ease for us just in time for Easter. Wearing in so many ways, thank God that our three months of staying at home, and the NHS's three months of non-stop vaccinations, have paid off.

In the run up to Christmas, every set of news headlines seemed more foreboding than the one before. Sure enough, the second peaks of infection and death were far worse than the first and the scale of the loss was shocking. In the run up to Easter however, with all the data moving in the right direction, the mood music has been entirely different. Naturally, we want to remain super careful, but I cannot think of an Easter when there has been a stronger sense of hope in the air. For Christians, this has to be our year to point past the sheer relief we all feel to the most wonderful and enduring source of hope the world has ever seen: the Resurrection!

We know you will want to be with us in person for worship, but for those who still can't do that, please join us online each week. Our continued thanks to everyone livestreaming our services so faithfully. Meanwhile, it's great to remobilise our home delivery team to distribute this letter along with seasonal surprises for our seniors and children. We're still a way off resuming our weekday programme, but don't forget that praise and prayer in the presence of the risen Jesus was how things first began for the Church. You and I are proof that the foundations laid in that empty grave were permanent. If it was a good enough start for them, what better restart for us?

Blessings all, Simon & Staff Team



### April Worship: Sundays and Wednesdays

All services are in Church unless specified

#### Sunday 4 April: Easter Day

8.30 Holy Communion  
9.30 & 10.30 Café Church in  
the Parish Centre  
11.30 Holy Communion

#### Sunday 11 April: Easter 2

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Good News at Ten  
11.30 Morning Prayer  
6.30 Online United Service

#### Sunday 18 April: Easter 3

8.30 Holy Communion  
9.30 & 10.30 Café Church in  
the Parish Centre  
11.30 Morning Prayer

#### Sunday 25 April: Easter 4

8.30 Holy Communion  
10.00 Good News at Ten  
Communion  
11.30 Morning Prayer

*Book for Café Church on WhatsApp or phone the Parish Office*

**Wednesdays 14, 21 & 28 April at 10.30am**  
Holy Communion & Prayers for the Sick

*Sadly, restrictions on outdoor gatherings mean this year's Easter Sunrise Service is cancelled.*

## Church at the Heart of Ballyholme this Easter

After the success of “Christmas at Holme” the Community Facebook page has been rebranded as “Love Ballyholme”. Rev Jan and the Ballyholme Connect team are running an Easter Scavenger Hunt, from Good Friday to Easter Monday (2-5 April). Enjoy a leisurely stroll around Ballyholme and Crème Eggs will be given to all participants outside our Church on Easter Monday between 2 and 4pm. For further details and to download your scavenger hunt form, clue sheet and colouring-in competition, please check out Love Ballyholme fb. As we are still waiting for the green light to resume face-to-face children and youth programmes, it is great to be back with Café Church every other week. On Sun 18 April our guest speaker will be Julie Currie, the Diocesan Children’s Worker.

### ‘Plans’ for the rest of the year...

The next good news should be on Muddy Church and Emerge. Paula and Andrew can’t wait but hope you will continue to Zoom with them in the meantime. Plans for summer ’21 remain on hold but we have tentatively booked some dates for August: Jumpin w/b 16th, Xcess w/b 23rd. Needless to say Ian is bursting for us all to rip off our masks and belt out some of our favourite hymns and songs but again, watch this space. Much as Karen and Kelly would love to be opening wide the doors of the Parish Centre for Monday Coffee and Scones, Wednesday Club and Friday Lunches, all we can do for our seniors just now is continue with calls and doorstep visits. Likewise, Reverend Jan has a raft of new community projects in the pipeline and *Spring into Life* has been rescheduled for November. In the meantime: prayers and patience please!

### Easter Vestry: Sunday 25 April 12.30 in Church

If you are hoping to join our in-person, socially-distanced 2021 Easter General Vestry meeting please add your name to the sign-up sheet in Church. If it only seems five minutes since the last one, that’s because Libby Beech and Larry Cheshire only began their Churchwardens’ year in October. Shortly afterwards however, Church was closed in November and then again in January. Keen to serve a complete term of office, Libby and Larry will remain in post for the full twelve months of this coming Vestry session. Given the current exceptional circumstances and in the interests of keeping things simple, our existing Select Vestry members also felt minded to remain on-board – unless of course there is anyone waiting in the wings with a burning desire to serve this year. If that is you, Nomination forms are available in Church.

### Remember: Hands, Face, Space

We reopen on a first-come, first-served basis, fully in line with public health obligations and with our risk assessments updated. Our Health and Safety Committee have again reviewed procedures with the Staff Team and key volunteers to include ventilation after services. Here is your personal checklist for coming and going, and it is crucial that you complete a track and trace card on every visit.

Remember please:

- **keep your distance**
- **wear a mask**
- **use the hand sanitiser**
- **be early and stay ‘bubbled-up’**
- **don’t bunch up, inside or outside**
- **wash your hands at home afterwards**



[www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk](http://www.ballyholmeparish.co.uk)

go to YouTube and search Ballyholme Parish Church and visit our Facebook page  
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