

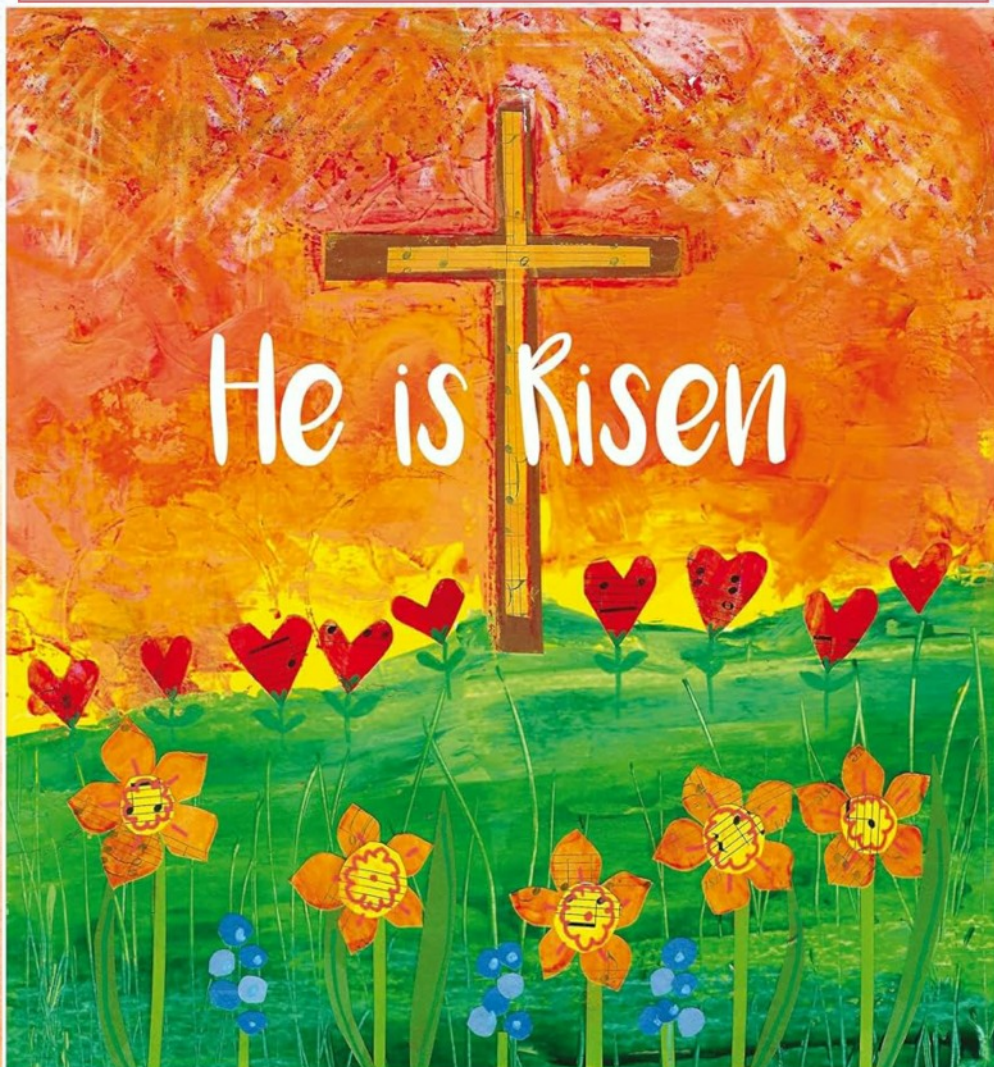
Vol.65 No 4 April 2025

Online Edition

# ST PETER'S CHURCH. BRACKLEY



“LOVING GOD,  
LOVING EACH OTHER,  
LOVING BRACKLEY”



*Revd. Rich Duncan writes .....*



If Christ is risen... then there is hope.  
If Christ is risen... this world is not meaningless.  
If Christ is risen... light is stronger than darkness.  
If Christ is risen... love is stronger than death.  
If Christ is risen... the grave is not the end.  
If Christ is risen... then we can rise too.  
If Christ is risen... this world will be made new.  
If Christ is risen... the cross worked.  
If Christ is risen... I can be forgiven.  
If Christ is risen... I can know Him today.  
If Christ is risen... I am never alone.  
If Christ is risen... He will return.  
If Christ is risen... I will meet Him one day.  
If Christ is risen... everything He said is true.  
If Christ is risen... He is on the throne.  
If Christ is risen... I can know peace within.  
If Christ is risen... I can endure today.  
If Christ is risen... He deserves my all.

If Christ is not risen... then none of this is true. Our faith is useless (1 Cor. 15:14).

But Jesus Christ IS risen.

He is risen indeed.

Hallelujah!

Come and celebrate with us at one of our Holy Week services.

Happy Easter!

# INSPIRE

## EVENING FOR PARENTS



3rd April



7.30pm



Church hall

Instilling faith in our children

RSVP to Rich or Helen

### WANTED



Do you walk your dog around the Waynflete and Banbury Road area? Or maybe you would be willing to change your usual route to go that way to deliver church magazines once a month, maybe you don't have a dog but would like to get a bit more exercise.

Also, is there anybody who would be willing to deliver magazines on an occasional basis as and when needed, to cover for holidays or sickness etc.

Please contact Marilyn On 01280 702634  
e-mail [marilynisrael2017@gmail.com](mailto:marilynisrael2017@gmail.com).



If you can help in this way.

# Easter at St Peter's



Sunday 13 April, 10am  
Palm Sunday Service

Tuesday 15 April, 7.30pm  
Healing Service with Communion & prayer for the sick

Thursday 17 April, 7.30pm  
Maundy Thursday Communion Service with optional  
foot washing

Friday 18 April  
10am: Good Friday Reflection with activities for children  
11am: Walk of Witness from the Methodist Church to  
Burgess Square

Sunday 20 April, 10am  
All-age Easter Communion followed by Easter egg hunt



**"He is not here  
he has risen  
just as he said"**

# *BOOK EXCHANGE COFFEE MORNING*

**St Peter's Church**

**10<sup>th</sup> April 10am**



**Bring Books**



**Exchange Books**



**All types of books**

## Reflecting Faith: Baptisms and Easter

What time of year were you baptised? For the first few centuries of the Early Church, baptisms were only held at Easter, with the preparation being taught in the few weeks beforehand.

Leo I, Bishop of Rome from 440 to 461 AD, was a strong advocate of holding baptisms solely at Easter.



He wrote: "... for in the baptismal office death ensues through the slaying of sin, and threefold immersion imitates the lying in the tomb three days, and the raising out of the water is like Him that rose again from the tomb."

But, as the years went by and more adults began seeking baptism for their children, the practise changed. The Church was keen to not put any obstacles in the way, and so baptisms became a sacrament to be freely given at any time of the year.

This was especially important because for many years it was mistakenly thought that unbaptised babies should not be buried in a churchyard, and, even more importantly, would not get into heaven.

Thankfully the Church moved away from those wrong positions long ago. Now most of us were baptised when we were very young, often in our first few months of life, at any time of the year.

One thing is certain: baptising a child is not so that God will love them more. It is instead to say that the parents believe in God, and therefore intend to raise the child as part of the family of God.



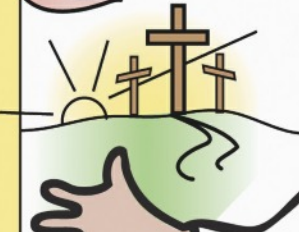
## Mouse Makes

On the cross Jesus opened wide his arms for us.  
Jesus put an end to death by dying for us,  
and showed us the resurrection to  
come by His raising to new life!



## Jesus is risen!

The angel said:  
"Jesus ...is not here, for He  
has risen, just as He said."  
*Matthew 28:6*



## Jesus is here

Jesus said:  
"Where two or three  
come together  
in my name I am  
there with them."  
*Matthew 18:20*



**READ** the story of  
the resurrection in:  
**Matthew 28:1-10**  
**Mark 16:1-19**  
**Luke 24:1-49**  
**John 20:1-29**  
and **21:1-14**

## Jesus will come again!

Jesus said:  
"I will come back  
and take you to  
myself so that you  
will be where I am."  
*John 14:3*



R E D E E M E R  
E A S T E R P I  
S A V I O U R S  
U L T I M J A E  
R I E D E L I N  
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E E W B S P E P  
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PEACE • NEW LIFE • JOY • GOOD NEWS



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CHRIST • SON OF GOD  
HOSANNA • PRAISE  
GO TELL • EASTER



## William Law, spiritual writer extraordinary

William Law is the saint for anyone forced to choose between losing their job or losing their integrity.

It had all begun so straightforwardly. Born in King's Cliffe, Northamptonshire in 1686, William had studied at Emmanuel College Cambridge, been ordained a deacon, and been made a Fellow of the college in 1711.

But soon politics interfered. At his ordination, William had made his Oath of Allegiance to the House of Stuart. But with the accession of the first Hanoverian monarch, King George I in 1714, William found he was now expected to make his Oath of Allegiance to King George I. This he felt he could not do, with any integrity. But without the Oath, William lost his Fellowship, and was unable to be priested.

It would have been a bitter blow to anyone wanting a career in the Church, but William did not change his mind. He wanted more than a career in the Church, he wanted to live a holy life before God, and to keep his conscience clear. And so he spent many years as a simple curate (he was not priested until 1728), living by tutoring, but also writing extensively.

And it was through his writings that William Law went on to make a lasting impact on the spirituality of the nation. One of his numerous books, *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*, is recognised as having had more influence on the English people than any other English post-Reformation spiritual work, except Pilgrim's Progress.

William Law's writing greatly influenced the leaders of the evangelical movement of his day, including John and Charles Wesley, and George Whitefield. Law was also praised by Enlightenment thinkers such as the writer Dr Samuel Johnson and the historian Edward Gibbon.

And 20 years after his death in 1761, William Wilberforce, the politician, philanthropist, and leader of the movement to stop the slave trade, also paid tribute to the effect Law's writing had had on him.

Law's spiritual writings remain in print even today – nearly 300 years later.





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