

SBC News

Apr / May 2023

He Is Risen!

Swallownest
Baptist
Church

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As we approach the end of Lent and look towards Holy Week, we are faced with the reminder of what Jesus endured. Yet some believe that Easter is more about chocolate eggs, treasure hunts and a grand Sunday lunch than some man dying on a piece of wood!

As you know, Easter is a time of year that holds special significance for followers of Jesus Christ. It is a time to reflect on the ultimate sacrifice made by our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, and the amazing victory he achieved through his resurrection. As we celebrate Easter, let us be reminded of the powerful message of hope and love that it represents and not how many chocolate eggs we receive.

The story of Easter begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Crowds of people cheered and waved palm branches as he rode into the city on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9. This event marked the beginning of what would be a very challenging week for Jesus, culminating in his crucifixion on Good Friday.

Jesus' death on the cross was a brutal and painful experience. He endured unimaginable suffering for the sake of our salvation, taking upon himself the punishment that we deserved. In that moment it may have seemed like all hope was lost. But as we know, this was not the end of the story.

On the third day after his death, Jesus rose from the dead, defeating death once and for all. This miraculous event is the cornerstone of our faith as Christians, and it provides us with the hope and assurance of eternal life. As the Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, *"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep... For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."*

The message of Easter is one of love and redemption. It is a reminder of the incredible lengths that God went to in order to save us from our sins. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to live out this message in our daily lives. We are called to love others as Christ loved us, to serve others

selflessly, and to share the good news of the gospel with those around us. We can do this in confidence knowing that this story is true.

Easter is also a time for us to reflect on our own lives and the areas where we need to grow closer to God. As we seek to deepen our relationship with God during this season, may we be inspired by the example of Jesus and the incredible sacrifice he made on our behalf.

Be in no doubt that Easter is a time of year that holds special significance for followers of Jesus Christ. It is a time to reflect on the ultimate sacrifice made by Jesus Christ, and the amazing

victory he achieved through his resurrection. Let us be reminded of the powerful message of hope and love that Easter represents and let us seek to live out this message in our daily lives. May this Easter season be a time of renewal and transformation for each one of us, as we draw closer to God and strive to be more like Jesus in all that we say and do.

God bless



David Skeet is our Church Team Leader



G	O	O	D	F	R	I	D	A	Y	G	E
T	A	E	R	S	J	E	S	U	S	E	C
S	V	L	L	B	M	O	T	D	F	T	E
T	E	I	I	T	E	B	Y	S	E	H	V
O	A	H	J	V	O	F	D	J	A	S	A
N	O	I	T	C	E	R	R	U	S	E	R
E	S	D	N	L	R	N	F	O	U	M	G
R	I	S	E	N	U	O	R	G	T	A	R
E	D	G	L	O	R	C	W	J	S	N	E
S	N	E	H	R	O	M	A	N	S	E	Y
A	J	Y	A	D	D	R	I	H	T	G	J

How many Easter related words can you find in the grid?



Maundy Thursday, 6th April

Service of Reflection @ 6:00pm

Join us as we share a meal and communion together.

Good Friday, 7th April

Reflective service @ 10:30am

Join us in church, as we reflect on the final part of Jesus' journey at the cross. Come sit and reflect in the presence of God at the great cost of Jesus' sacrifice.

Walk of Witness @ 11:00am

Join with Aston Churches Together, as we walk from the church, following the cross, to Swallownest crossroads for a short outdoor service of reflection.

Easter Sunday, 9th April

Sunrise service @ 8:00am Ulley Country Park

Join us for a short outdoor early morning service, at the waters of Ulley reservoir. Come and celebrate the greatest day in history, Jesus' resurrection, as we pray, sing, and hear a message.

Easter morning breakfast @ 9:00am

Join us for fellowship over a cooked breakfast at church before the service.

Easter morning service @ 10:30am

Join us as we continue in our time of worship together at our special Easter Sunday celebration service.

Outdoor service @ 12:00pm

Join us on Easter Sunday as we gather round the cross, as part of Aston Churches Together, at Swallownest crossroads for a short outdoor service.

Let Us Pray



As we continue to seek God in prayer and be guided by Him for opportunities to share His love with people in our localities, let us also remember and pray for organisations that work in other parts of the world helping people. Mercy ships is another organisation that as a church we give to. As described on their website, "Mercy Ships is a faith-based international organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital, free healthcare to people in desperate need.

Founded in 1978, Mercy Ships has worked in more than 55 countries, providing services valued at more than £1.3 billion. By improving healthcare delivery in every country it visits, Mercy Ships is working to eradicate the diseases of poverty and effectively do itself out of a job. Mercy Ships follows the model of Jesus by "bringing hope and healing to the forgotten poor", helping people of all faiths and none.

As well as completing thousands of urgent operations onboard its floating hospitals, the *Africa Mercy* and the *Global Mercy*, Mercy Ships volunteers also work closely with host nations to improve the way healthcare is delivered across the country, by training and mentoring local medical staff, and renovating hospitals and clinics."

Let's pray that:

- God will provide skilled doctors and workers to serve Him in this way.
- That God's love will be shown, and the Gospel message told through providing free healthcare to those people who really need it.
- That relationships are built with the national government and ministry of health, so that the needs of each country are met, and they continue to provide health care to the people of their country into the future.

If you would like to find out more about this charity, please visit their website: mercyships.org.uk



Hello everyone,

I have visited quite a few different churches over the last few months and met some inspirational people doing the same role as I'm doing now. I became aware of something called a Mini Messy Church and thought it would be an amazing opportunity for us as a church to recreate. This is not a watered-down version of a normal Messy Church and neither is it just for mini people!! It is an opportunity for us to engage with outreach in our community and hopefully, for a couple of hours a month, bring the love of Jesus to others through crafts and activities.

The principles are the same as a 'normal' Messy Church but to have it mid-week and after school has finished, yet not quite as big as the ones I put together for a Sunday. Plus, slightly less time means that we still do the same things but a mini-version. There will still be snacks and a talk/film and a biblical theme. I would welcome volunteers and have been heartened already by the response I've had. If all you can offer is prayer, then I would be extremely grateful, as prayer is one of the most important things we can do when starting a new initiative.

So, please get involved if you're interested, even if it's for only one of the months this year. They will run on the first Tuesday of every month the first one being on Tues 4th April starting at 3:30pm. Let's grow our church together.

God bless,

Jan Dean
Children & Families Worker



Our **Sunday services** take place each week at 10:30am in our church building. We also continue to livestream the services via our YouTube Channel. The first and third Sunday of each month includes communion.

Junior Church is for school-age children and meets every Sunday. The children and young people stay in the main building at the start of the service for the time of sung worship, and then go out to our School Room building for their age-specific groups, where they engage with songs, bible teaching, crafts and other fun. The School Room is attached to the right-hand side of the main church.

Apr		May	
2 nd	Messy Church	7 th	David Skeet (Communion)
9 th	David Skeet (Communion)	14 th	Jo Williams
16 th	David Skeet	21 st	David Skeet (Communion)
23 rd	Rob Joyce (Communion)	28 th	Nike Adebajo - Guest from YBA
30 th	David Skeet		



Mini Messy Church takes place in church on the first Tuesday of each month at 3:30pm.

- 4th April
- 2nd May

If you wish to speak to the leadership team, or if you have any items of news or prayer requests that you would like the church to know about, then please contact:

07536 992946



The **Prayer Meeting** takes place in church on the first Saturday of each month at 9:30am.

- 1st April
- 6th May



A time of **Prayer & Meditation** takes place fortnightly on a Monday, via Zoom only, at 9:30am.

- 3rd and 17th April
- 1st, 15th and 29th May



The **Men's Breakfast** takes place in the church school room on the second Saturday of each month at 8:30am

- 8th April
- 13th May



The **Ladies Meeting** takes place in church fortnightly on a Monday at 1:30pm.

- 24th April (no meeting on 10th April)
- 8th and 22nd May



Prospects meets once a month on a Sunday in the church school room at 3pm.

- 16th April
- 21st May