

Dear Friends,

You will, probably, be reading this in May when Spring should have sprung properly with the regular seasonal procession of flowers from bulbs to blossom. The certainty of the seasons was promised by God the Creator to Noah after the Flood. "As long as the earth endures, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." Gen. 8: 22. God's promises are certain.

What a contrast to the total uncertainty, suffering and destruction in the Middle East, when no one, as I write in April, has any idea what the outcome of this war will be by May. Will the world order be up ended? Will the world be facing the disaster of a major economic recession? Will Trump's assertions prove to be hollow? How welcome at such a moment of uncertainty is the arrival, more or less, on cue, of Spring, complemented by the Festival of Easter.

Christians at Easter, which dawned in brilliant sunshine this year, celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which authenticates His claim to be divine and His promises to repentant believers of sins forgiven and the start of a new life with Him. He ended His first sermon "the Kingdom of Heaven is near at hand." Mark 2: 15. Thus, He inaugurated the new creation, which will be completed throughout the world at His Second Coming. Meanwhile, on the personal level, "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come." 2 Cor. 5: 17. As for the world, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way..." Psalm 46: 1-2. We need to hang on to His promises, for they are guaranteed by God—we're not just whistling into the wind.

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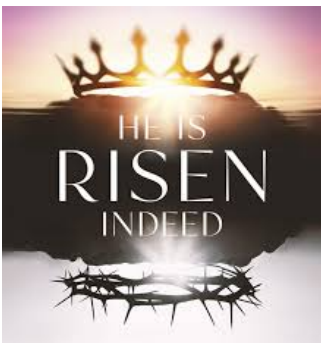
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### He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Mark 6:9-15

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene... She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

After these things he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Afterwards he appeared to the Eleven themselves as they were reclining at table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.'



The Gospel of Mark offers us a glimpse into those first trembling days of Easter faith. We are given not one appearance, but several: the risen Lord standing before Mary Magdalene, walking alongside two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and then coming among the Eleven as they gather around a table. These are not isolated moments, but part of a much wider list of encounters. The early Church was built not on a single testimony, but on a cascade of encounters with the risen Christ.

And yet, what is striking is how difficult it was, even for those first disciples, to believe. When Mary spoke, they doubted. When the two from Emmaus shared their story, they hesitated. Even seeing the joy of those meeting the risen Christ, it seems, can be hard to trust. It was only when Christ stood among them that their disbelief gave way to faith. We too, can believe that the good news is true... even when it feels almost too good to be believed. Sometimes, sadly, good news can be harder to believe than bad news. We too, in 2026, are called to go and share the good news that Christ is risen!

Adapted it from a piece written by Father Patrick von der Vorst

### From riches to religion

*Patrick van der Vorst was a tech multi-millionaire, and had been the head auctioneer at the world famous Sotheby's auction house in London selling tens of millions of pounds worth of art including the contents of Elton John's house. Then he went through what he called "a seismic change" in his life.*

*Turning his back on money, fame and success to pursue something he feels is deeper and more meaningful. "I gave up the home I live in, the bed I sleep in, the food I eat. I had to give up my dog. I had to go back to studying again!"*

*Originally from Belgium where he practised law, he then moved to the UK and pursued life as an entrepreneur. It was during his time dealing with art, that he felt drawn to Christian art and he started thinking about life's bigger questions. Eventually he shocked his friends and colleagues when he announced that he would be giving up business and devoting his life to the priesthood. And so Patrick left for the simplicity of the seminary in Rome.*



## GIVING HOPE TO WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN NEPAL

Greetings to you all from Nepal. A lot has been happening over the last few months, and much hope has been given to many, thank you for all your prayers and support.

### Post Election Result

**"The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will." Proverbs 21:1**

September's Gen Z protests and anti-corruption demonstrations led to the collapse of the previous government. An interim government has governed Nepal for the past few months, and an election took place at the beginning of March. The election was peaceful with no riots. It marks once of the biggest shifts in Nepal since the end of the Monarchy. The result was a landslide victory for the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), with its leader and ex-Kathmandu mayor Balendra Shah set to be appointed as the new Prime Minister. Many new and younger people have been elected to parliament, with a significant change to the established order as traditional parties lost out.

- **Prayers:** For a successful handover to the new government and wisdom for the incoming Prime Minister, other new Ministers, and civil servants.
- For newly elected House of Representative Members as some laws and policies might be reviewed and amended, and new laws might come into effect as per the new mandate of the election and people's aspirations. For Big change in Nepal for an improved economy the youth to get jobs and freedom of religion to remain.

**Pastor David writes:** This year, we wish to continue the legacy of my father and in Chitwan Madi, we plan to build a new church. Along with that we would like to build one room for tailoring training. The estimated cost is £7,500. We kindly request your prayers, and please feel free to share this need with your friends.

### Meet the new women training in Dhapsi.

We had a very successful leadership training with 15 people joining us. The majority from the Kathmandu valley and three from other areas. When they left, you could see hope in their eyes. Possibilities of being blessed and being a blessing rose up in their hearts. Most of them were interested in starting a sustainable business while serving God. Today so many people leave Nepal to go and find jobs, taking out loans, and go to the middle east and other surrounding nations, leaving their wives, husbands, families and children. For years, we have been teaching the leaders/pastors basic biblical training, but this year, we were led by the Holy Spirit to start to train leaders/pastors how to be self-sufficient by investing in small business projects until their local church is wealthy enough to support the local pastor in the long run. We believe God is telling us to guide the leaders. Please pray for God's guidance in this area to help us develop and put together a business plan.

**If you would like to support any of these ministries, please contact [givehopenepal@gmail.com](mailto:givehopenepal@gmail.com) 07989504705**  
**The correspondence can be read in full on the church noticeboard.**

Forthcoming talks organised by the  
**Friends of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.**

**Friday May 8th** in the McKenna room, Christ church at 2.30pm - Rev Fergus Butler-Gallic will be talking on 'the Story of Christianity as the History of our Modern World'. followed by tea and cake. Tickets are £14

**Monday 13th May** at St Anne's College from 11am to 2pm there is a talk on the history of one of Oxford's most unusual colleges with a buffet lunch. Tickets are £30

**Saturday 20th June** in the McKenna Room, Christ Church at 3.15pm - Prof Emma Smith is talking on 'Did Shakespeare come to Oxford? Town, gown and drama in the early modern period' followed by tea and cake. Tickets are £14

If anyone is interested we have details on the church noticeboard.



## GOOD FRIDAY: THAT DAY OF DAYS

Tune: *Abide With Me*

*An attempt at a response to that lovely, moving Service last Friday. And to the traditional smallness of attendances at Good Friday services.*

*Perhaps appropriate for the latter part of Lent, stressing the sheer importance of 'That Day of Days'.*

Good Friday saw such love for us at work:  
Pain so extreme, yet Jesus didn't shirk.  
Awestruck and stunned, let's raise our songs of praise  
For our Dear Saviour and that Day of Days.

Good Friday saw Lord Jesus on His own,  
Nailed to a cross, embracing death alone,  
Staunchly redeeming mankind's darkest ways.  
Ours was the cause He nursed that Day of Days!

Good Friday's Cross for all the world defined  
How far our Lord would go to save mankind.  
Oh what pure love - it always will amaze -  
Shown to our sinful world that Day of Days!

Good Friday hails fulfilment of God's Word:  
Christ's Resurrection, that so soon occurred.  
How cruel the Cross! Yet what a part it plays  
In hopes of Afterlife, that Day of Days.

Good Friday comes each year, a great time when  
We have the chance to thank our Lord again.  
Let's fill our church with prayer and songs of praise,  
Let's open up our hearts that Day of Days!  
[*'this' instead of 'that', if sung on Good Friday*].



A well known member of the community in Buckingham and of the Church Family at Stowe, **Dr. Chris Brown**, sadly, died On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026. After National Service in the Royal Horse Artillery, he graduated from St Thomas' Medical School in 1958. He came to Buckingham with his wife, Margaret, as a trainee GP in 1962, becoming

Senior Partner in 1975 at North End Surgery and School doctor at Stowe in 1976 till retirement in 1994.

He and his family lived in Gawcott, near Stowe and, finally, in Buckingham. He was a brisk, cheery, effective and well respected local GP in Buckingham.

He helped in saving and extending Buckingham Hospital, was important in its League of Friends, and was heavily involved in building the North End site for what is now the Swan Practice. He had worked tirelessly to enhance the local health provision, for which we are all greatly in his debt.

## DADFORD WI

In March we enjoyed a return visit by Peter Cave who took us on a very interesting tour of the Royal Exchange in London. The Royal Exchange in London is a historic, Grade I-listed building located in the City of London that serves as a luxury shopping and dining destination. Founded in 1566 by Sir Thomas Gresham and opened by Queen Elizabeth I in 1571, it was historically the city's first purpose-built trading centre and a key hub for British commerce.

What a treat in April to be entertained by Linda Watkins, local musician, taking us on her musical journey with amusing anecdotes and performing some of her lovely original material, using several different guitars.

Join us on 14<sup>th</sup> May for a members social afternoon and on the 11th June for a meeting entitled 'Hand Talking'.

Look forward to seeing you all soon. Loreen

## DADFORD BIBLE STUDY



Everyone is welcome to this informal and friendly group as we get together to look at the Bible and what it means for us today.

**We meet for approximately one hour at Dadford Village Hall at 10.00am Friday.....**

**8 May, 12 June, 10 July.**

Any questions please ring Rev Cathy Pearce on 01280 821976

I'm available in the Parish Wednesdays and Thursdays, and at Sunday services .

Thank you  
Cathy

*Jesus said "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" John 10:10*



*Please note that Buckingham food bank needs donations of breakfast cereal ;(it is well supplied, at this moment, with tins etc)*

**FOOD BANK AID**

## **What's been happening at St. James and St. John Church of England Primary Schools in Akeley and Chackmore**

We welcomed all our families back after the Easter holidays with excitement and enthusiasm, with many events and opportunities planned for the half term ahead, including the Year 1 trip to the Old Gaol in Buckingham, the Year 4 trip to Gawcott Solar Farm, a Year 5 Science festival, PE sessions with Northampton Saints Rugby club and the traditional class photo (we hope the weather stays sunny!).

As we ended the Spring term we were delighted to announce the outcome of our recent SIAMS inspection. We have been awarded Judgement 1, the highest possible outcome, recognising that the school is "living up to its foundation as a Church school and enabling pupils and adults to flourish". We are incredibly proud of this achievement and grateful to our staff, governors, pupils and families for their continued support. More information and the report can be found on the school's website.

Looking back before the holidays, the second half of the Spring Term proved to be another busy half term. We started back at the very end of February with a morning of Fencing sessions at Chackmore and Archery sessions at Akeley for the younger children. The children loved trying something new- there may well be some secret Robin Hood's and Muskateer's around the local area!

At the start of March we celebrated World Book Day, along with the National Year of Reading. With a variety of reading inspired activities, a mystery book swap, a competition for most interesting place to be caught reading, the amazing book-related costumes and a fabulous visit from Oxford based author, Teresa Heapy, we hope the children really enjoyed celebrating and deepening their love of reading and creative writing!

Mothering Sunday is an important event at school. As well as the thoughtful cards and wooden hearts that the children decorated, we also celebrated our 'Wonderful Women' through poems, songs and special words at the very special assemblies that the pupils held for all the 'Mothers' at both sites. We have also been enjoying various class trips and visitors to the school. Our Year 4s had a fabulous day at Holdenby House as evacuees. The Year 2s have been enjoying Forest School sessions at our Akeley site. Children in Year 1 and 2 took part in a local schools sports festival and children in Year 5 and 6 took part in a netball competition; both groups really enjoyed the chance to play some non-competitive sport.

Just before we finished for the Easter holidays, we celebrated the Easter story and the meaning behind a lot of our Easter traditions, with our whole school Easter Eggstravaganza, which included an Easter Bake competition and bake sale to end the half term. The children were very appreciative of the chocolate eggs provided by the PTFA, as a token of Easter wishes and to celebrate this festival.

Date 2026	Warden/Sidespeople	Prayers	Refreshments
May 3rd	Laurence Gibson/Lyn & Ray East	Liturgy	Nancy Pullin
May 10th	Andrew Rudolf/Loreen Williams	Family Service	Tamara Kimpton
May 17th	Tamara and John Kimpton	Tony Meredith	Elsbeth Mullineux
May 24th	Nancy Pullin/Kay Murray	Gill Smith	Kay Murray
May 31st	Gill Smith/Chris Close-Smith	Kay Murray	Lyn East
June 7th	Laurence Gibson/Lyn & Ray East	Liturgy	Nancy Shepherd
June 14th	Andrew Rudolf/Loreen Williams	Family Service	Gill Smith
June 21st	Tamara and John Kimpton	Andrew Rudolf	Nancy Pullin
June 28th	Nancy Pullin/Patricia Forbes	Tamara Kimpton	Tamara Kimpton

Date 2026	Flowers	Cleaning	Prayer-board
May 3rd	Kay Murray		Gill Smith
May 10th	Heather Meredith		Kay Murray
May 17th	Hilary Hawkins	Alice, Josh and Family	Lyn East
May 24th	Loreen Williams? Wedding on the 29th May		Tamara Kimpton
May 31st	? Flowers from the wedding		Kay Murray
June 7th	Lyn East	Lyn and Ray East	Gill Smith
June 14th	Lyn East		John Kimpton
June 21st	Heather Meredith		Lyn East
June 28th	Hilary Hawkins	Nancy Pullin & Hazlewoods	Tamara Kimpton

Date 2026	Time	Service	Lead/Preach	Chalice
May 3rd	9.45	1662 Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	John Kimpton
May 10th	9.45	Rogation Family Service	Dave Pearce	
	18.00	Evensong at Dadford	Andrew Rudolf	
May 17th	9.45	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling	Lyn East
May 24th	9.45	Mission - Morning Prayer	L. John Kimpton : P. J Metcalfe	
May 31st	9.45	Morning Prayer	L. Andrew Rudolf : P. Tom Harrison	
June 7th	9.45	1662 Communion	Rev Cathy Pearce	Andrew Rudolf
June 14th	9.45	Family Service	Rev Cathy Pearce	
	18.00	Evensong at Dadford	Andrew Rudolf	
June 21st	9.45	Common Worship Communion	Rev Hans Taling	John Kimpton
June 28th	9.45	Morning Prayer	L. Andrew Rudolf : P. Paul Mileham	