

**APRIL 2021**

# Contact



## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

### Sunday

Family Worship  
10.30am

### Wednesday

Congregational Café  
11am – 1pm

Scoffs

12 noon  
(2nd Wednesday only)

### Thursday

Rainbows Baby & Toddler  
Group  
9.30am

### Friday

Badminton  
7.30pm

## MINISTER

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## SECRETARY

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## TREASURER

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Dear Friends,

I recently came across an article entitled 'Why Is Easter a Season of Joy?'

According to the encyclopedia of Biblical Christianity, joy is a state of mind and an orientation of the heart. It is a settled state of contentment, confidence and hope. It is something or someone that provides a source of happiness. The concept of joy appears 88 times in the Old Testament in 22 books and 57 times in the New Testament in 18 books.

One of the most important things in the Christian life is joy. True and eternal joy is a gift from God and it often takes us by surprise and appears when we are least expecting it. Christians should always find reasons to be joyful. There are many ways to define joy. Joy isn't just a smile or a laugh. Joy is something that is deep within and doesn't leave quickly. Since joy is given by God and something that He wants us to have, we need to be joyful. When we seek God through His Word and prayer, we will receive joy.

But why joy at Easter?

Easter has always been a season of joy and a celebration of the resurrection for the Christian community. It signifies the joy felt by the disciples when Jesus rose from the dead after being crucified. It fulfils the promise by Jesus that He will rise from the dead so that we may have eternal life.

Before His death, Jesus told His disciples that He was leaving briefly and they would be sorrowful, but then He would return and they would receive a joy that no one would ever be able to take from them. And when the first disciples realised that Jesus had risen from the dead, they were filled with great joy. This joy is why the announcement of the resurrection is called 'good news' and it is why the apostles preached and

wrote 'that our joy might be full.'

And now for centuries, it has been this announcement that Jesus is risen from the dead that still gives people an indescribable joy.

This unselfish act committed by Christ is the very reason why we all celebrate Easter and greet it with such joy. For Christians, this is where the real joy of Easter waits for us.

For many people, especially children, it is also a season of joy because of the customs that have developed as we see supermarkets and shops being stocked with Easter eggs and other sweet treats which are enough reason to make it a joyful occasion.

Easter is the greatest celebration of our faith. We are an Easter people, a people marked by joyfulness. Jesus is raised. He has conquered sin and death. His victory is our victory. His death means our redemption. His resurrection means our salvation. How could we not be filled with joy over such wonderful news?

Every Christian cannot help but be transformed by the events of Easter. For on that first Easter Sunday, everything changed: darkness to light, doubt to faith, selfishness to generosity, despair to hope, sin to grace, and death to eternal life.

Jesus gives his believers permanent joy and great faith through His death and resurrection. In John 16:22, Jesus promises the disciples 'No one will take your joy away from you.' That's the kind of joy we all want. That joy was the result of the disciples seeing the risen Lord, who transformed their understanding of the cross.

In all our long history, Easter has been a season of optimism, of hope revived after despair, and of profound joy. But let's not forget that the Easter message is a time to

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**Baptisms, weddings and funerals by arrangement with the Minister**

## OFFERTORIES

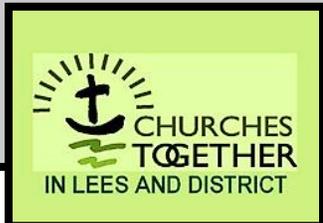
March Offertories - £1,122.00

Standing Orders - £637.00

**Total**            **£1,759.00**

### Other Income

Solar Panels - £460.91



### GOOD FRIDAY 2ND APRIL 2021

Once again, the united service in Lees will not be going ahead this year but there will be a service of reflection on the Churches Together Facebook page from 7pm.



We are pleased to announce that church will be open for socially distanced services from Easter Sunday, 4th April. We would love you to join with us at 10.30am.

Face coverings must be worn throughout the service and all Covid safety measures will be in place.

Services will continue to be live streamed on the church Facebook page for those who are unable to attend.



celebrate not only joy but also hope, freedom and the joy of new life that the resurrection represents.

While Easter happens on one Sunday of the year, we are called to be Easter people all of the time: at Lent and Easter, at Advent and Christmas and during ordinary times too. For Christians, every day is a day to be joyful.

*'This is the day the Lord has made so let us rejoice and be glad in it.'* Psalm 118:24.

This Easter may you know the joy and share the joy. Happy Easter to you all - Liz

### Maundy Thursday, time to wash feet

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first is one of the final acts that Jesus did before His death: the washing of His own disciples' feet (see John 13). Jesus washed His disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." His disciples were to love through service, not domination, of one another.

In Latin, the opening phrase of this sentence is 'mandatum novum do vobis'. The word 'mundy' is thus a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command). The ceremony of the 'washing of the feet' of members of the congregation came to be an important part of the liturgy of the medieval church, symbolising the humility of the clergy, in obedience to the example of Christ.

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and His close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying, 'this is my body' and 'this is my blood' as He, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world.

John's gospel makes it clear that the Last Supper took place the evening BEFORE the regular Passover meal, and that later Jesus died at the same time that the Passover lambs were killed.

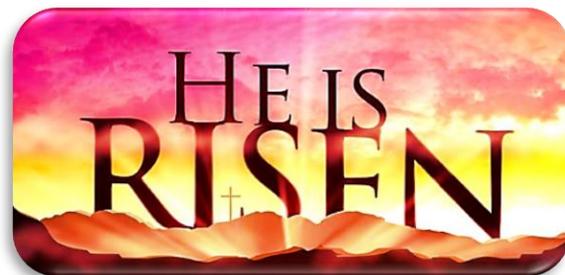
### Wordsworth in Lockdown

I wandered lonely as a cloud,  
Two metres from the madding crowd,  
When all at once my name was called  
To enter Waitrose hallowed hall.  
This was pensioners' special hour  
I'd gone to get a bag of flour,  
But I forgot - when through the door.  
What had I gone to Waitrose for?  
The Waitrose staff are extra kind  
I told them it had slipped my mind,  
They asked what else I had forgot.  
They clearly thought I'd lost the plot.  
I phoned my wife again to ask  
'Remind me of my special task'  
"I need some flour to bake a cake.  
An angel sponge for me to make!"  
"Yes, I recall" I had to lie,  
I dared not ask what flower to buy,  
But then I saw them at the tills  
A bunch of golden daffodils.

*Courtesy of Margaret & Donald Slater*

### Working in God's name to help others

Just a reminder that Mary Jones is still collecting unwanted bras and postage stamps for Against Breast Cancer and also any new, unused and in-date toiletries, hygiene basics, beauty and personal care or household cleaning items for the Hygiene Bank. Please get in touch if you can help.



Springhead Congregational Church  
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