

Easter Hope

from **John Hookway**

Different seasons have so many aspects to them. Winter – dark, cold yet everything is waiting for that joy of spring to burst forth, and it is the same in the Christian calendar – darkness to light at Christmas, death to resurrection at Easter. It's as we journey through Holy Week of Easter – Psalm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Saturday and then, Easter Sunday – that we journey through so many aspects of our lives and where God is seen alongside us in each and every season.

I invite you to join with us in any of our services as we journey. You'll find that place of amazing forgiveness where God just loves you for who you are and where Jesus Himself died to enable you to know life.



Easter Services

at Christ Church

PALM SUNDAY - 10th April
9.00am & 10.30am In-person Services with the 10.30am also online

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 14th April
8.00pm In-person reflective Service and pre-recorded Service online

GOOD FRIDAY - 15th April
10.30am In-person Service with children's activities & refreshments and pre-recorded service online

EASTER SUNDAY - 17th April
9.00am & 10.30am In-person Communion services with the 10.30am Service also online

When we sit with Jesus on Easter Saturday, it's often a place of confusion, but on Easter Sunday, it becomes clear the hope of eternal life and the hope of resurrection. My simple message to all of us this Easter is that Jesus Christ loves you, Jesus Christ died for you and Jesus Christ wants you to know that for yourself; and to have a new start. To have life with Him, and as He Himself said, "Life in all its fullness" (John 10:10). So, I invite you just to spend time in God's presence and allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you this Easter time. To open your ears afresh to Him, to hear his voice and to live.

Recently, we talked about the gift of celebration and Easter is an amazing time of celebration. Let's prepare for that celebration and the welcoming of Jesus into our lives.

Next term, we are also going to be thinking about how we live out our faith. We are going to be spending time in Life Groups looking at mission-shaped living and on Sundays, we will be looking at how we live a mission-shaped life. Simply, how do we live out our faith? How do

we live out our amazing calling to follow Jesus in the everyday so that others might know His hope and His life.

May the Lord Himself bless you and strengthen you, give you His hope and His peace this Easter time.

John

Confronting My Confusion about the Crucifixion

from **Jan Elliott**

The Bible uses a wide range of metaphors to convey complex ideas about the crucifixion of Jesus. Making these visual by creating a sculpture helped me to clarify my thinking about the subject, along with studying the bible, praying, listening to theological podcasts and reading books. I have used this metaphorical imagery and some early Christian symbols to convey what I have learned. Crafting the different parts gave me the opportunity to meditate on their meanings and the bible passages that inspired them. Inevitably, I found my understanding grew as I worked. No piece of art, poetry or music could ever express all that the crucifixion of Jesus means but these things can help us to move towards a richer, fuller understanding.

The meaning of the symbols on the front, starting at the foot of the cross

Broken manacles: freedom from slavery to sin and death

Crushed snake: defeat of the dark powers of evil

Ivy over an empty coffin: eternal life to come

Anchor: the hope that steadies us in this life

Twelve butterflies: the anticipated resurrection of all God's people

Seven date palm branches: complete victory over death

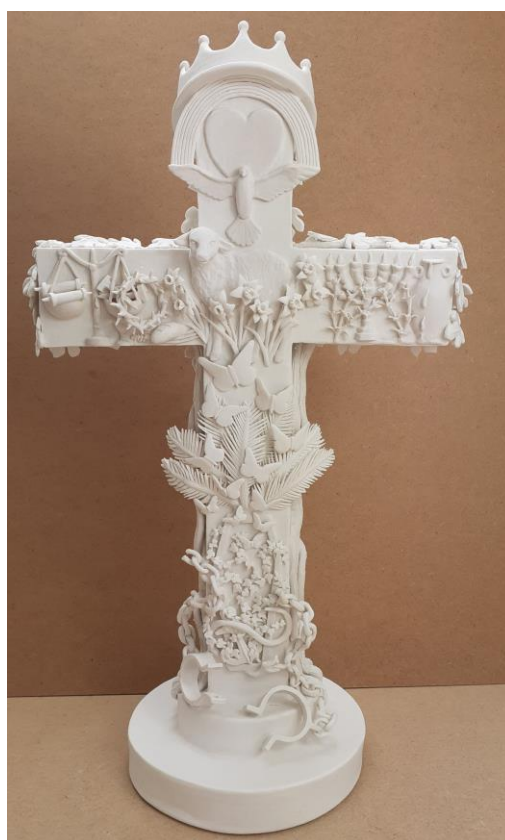
Weighing scales: God's righteous judgement and justice

Scrolls: the Law which reveals sin

Three nails and the crown of thorns: Jesus' humiliation, suffering and death

The bread and cup: the memorial of the sacrifice made on the cross

Three stalks of wheat: the bread of life



(The front of the sculpture)

The lamb: Jesus Christ enthroned on the cross

Eight daffodils: new creation launched by the crucifixion

Lampstand: the light of the world



Five hyssop branches: purification and sanctification by grace

Water jar: the water of life

Dove: the Holy Spirit at work in the world

Heart: the unfailing love of God expressed through Jesus' death

Rainbow: the glory of God revealed on the cross

Crown: reconciliation with God and restoration to the royal priesthood

On the back

Grapevine: the tree of life, the true vine

Nine bunches grapes: the abundant fruit of the Spirit

(The back of the sculpture)

Life Groups

Life Groups after Easter are doing the Mission Shaped Living course. If you are interested in joining a Life Group, please contact Richard via the church office.

Our Legacy Project

Blessing others as we have been blessed

The people of Christ Church have always embraced opportunities to use our resources to reach out to others. The recent redevelopment of the office and the Church building was purposed to underpin this vision for a generation to come.

Continuing on this theme, the PCC has recommitted to complete the original objectives of the redevelopment project, and to raise the last of the funds needed to enable the Church to be "debt free". Included as a key objective of the project is that 10% of all personal gifting for the redevelopment should be used to create lasting legacy projects which bless others.

The many relationships that Christ Church already enjoys will form the core of our focus to become recipients of our legacy funding – and projects that enable others to learn of God's word, to grow in faith and to have a long lasting kingdom impact are our mission.

A huge thank you to all those of you have given over £1million towards the project. We've already had £8,000 given to the last gap of £150,000 that we would like to raise in this Easter season. If you would like to join in with thanks for all that God is doing through us the link is: <https://www.christchurchware.co.uk/giving.html>.

If you would like more info on giving, please do talk to Sam Rich our treasurer and for more information on the legacy project, please do contact Steve Elliott (team leader) via the church office.

Ukraine

Thank you to those who have already offered their homes and other supports. We are therefore reaching out through various networks to try and connect would-be sponsors with Ukrainian families. It's hard to know how quick or not, this process will be, particularly as the war ebbs and flows alongside the needs of those whose greatest desire is simply to go home. So please bear with us and continue to pray that the Lord will help us to make the right connections.

If you are willing to offer any form of help – be it accommodation, physical resources, prayer or practical support – please pledge your support by clicking on this [link](#). If you have any questions, please talk to Martin Rich or email ukrainesupport@christchurchware.co.uk.