EDZELL PARISH CHURCH MAGAZINE SPRING 2024



Wishing you a Happy Easter

THE TEAM

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Hello and welcome to the spring addition of the church magazine. As I sit at my computer compiling this edition the fire is on and the weather outside is damp and dull. However the daffodils are pushing through and the lapwings, curlews, oyster catchers and black headed gulls have made a return to the farm. Spring is in the air. This years new additions are much anticipated and drier days hoped for.

We hope and anticipate seeing new additions in church too, or old ones returned, as we are invited to 'bring a friend to church' on Palm Sunday. Then with Easter this year falling at the end of March when our clocks change to British Summer Time we'll have to get up extra early to make the Son-rise service and breakfastnot just arriving in time for leftovers or worse still the children's egg hunt!

When the Easter eggs are finished we can look forward to stocking up again on some lovely treats during a visit to the Guild Daffodil Tea on Saturday 13th April and then in May the Fellowship Group are inviting us to enjoy soup and a tray bake every Sunday for Christian Aid. Someone else who will be busy trying to tempt us with her cakes this



Spring is my niece Libby Alston (pictured). Libby is the current Edzell Gala Queen and also a young leader with the Edzell Rainbows and Brownies Packs. She is hoping to head off to Malawi in January for 8months working as a volunteer teacher and youth developer with the charity Project Trust. All that's standing between her and this life changing opportunity is the sum of £6850 (a lot of cakes!). Please do keep an eye out around the village for her fundraisers including her whist drive in the church hall on Friday 22nd March. If you would like to support her with a monetary donation then please follow the link to her GoFund.Me https://gofund.me/b6e518b6 or pop page something in an envelope addressed to Libby

and hand it in to the Tweedie.

I wish Libby fundraising success and you all a very happy Easter and a Spring of more sunshine than showers.

Judith Hay.

CROSS WORDS



Easter marks the pinnacle of the Christian calendar. It commemorates and celebrates the passion, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins and victoriously rose again for our reconciliation, restoration, redemption, and renewal. It is hence a poignant and powerful witness to the pivotal events upon which our eternal destiny rests.

The same apostle who boldly declared, 'We preach Christ crucified' therefore, also wrote,

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen

asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead (1Cor.15:17-21).

Our Christian faith, hope, and love are founded and will be truly and everlastingly fulfilled in and through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Lord and Saviour. We Christians do not worship a corpse, a mere memory, or ghostly figure from the ancient past, but a living and reigning Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. Jesus, whose very name means 'Saviour', is the Good News whose death and resurrection we remember and rejoice in not only every Sunday, which is the Lord's Day, but especially at Easter. If at Christmas time we often marvel in the wonderful truth that 'Love came down at Christmas', then Easter marks the supreme expression of God's love for us in Jesus' Cross and Crown. The love of Christ compels us to commemorate and celebrate what God has done for us in the person of his eternally begotten Son who took our nature to himself and willingly laid down his life and took it up again for our good and ultimate glory in and with him. We warmly invite you to join us at Edzell Parish Church this Easter Season which begins with Palm Sunday on 24 March. We have the privilege of welcoming Edzell Primary School on Maundy Thursday morning for their Easter Service, and on Good Friday evening at 7pm we will have a special Communion Service as we have done in recent years. Easter Sunday begins with our annual Son-rise Service at 8am starting in the church garden (weather permitting) which will be followed by breakfast in the church hall. Our main Easter Service will be at 11am as usual. We look forward to seeing you. And wish all a blessed Easter.

In Jesus Christ our Lord, Wayne.

Edzell Church Hall

Our bright and welcoming hall is a real asset to our Church and parish.

After worship on a Sunday morning an increasing number of the congregation move into the hall and enjoy the fellowship of a "cuppa and a blether"

On Wednesdays it positively buzzes with The Little Light Bearers after school club.

The Guild meets the second Tuesday of the month

The village Yoga class meet weekly.

The village Drama club rehearse there.

Fund raising Coffee Mornings and Afternoon teas are held throughout the year.

It is the venue of Fellowship events including

The Easter Morning Breakfast

The Harvest Supper

The Scottish Evening

The Hall can be hired, see the Church Web Site for details, at the reasonable charge of £15 for the first hour and £12 each for subsequent hours to cover costs of heating and lighting.

NOTES FROM THE KIRK SESSION

The life of the Kirk continues to be busy and services are increasingly well attended. Over 100 attended the first communion service of the year that took place in February. There was a big turnout too, for the Memorial service held the week before on Sunday 11th February. As noted elsewhere in the magazine, there is a packed and busy programme scheduled around Easter, with a contribution anticipated from the Little Light Bearer's at the service on Easter morning. Elders were saddened to learn that the choir master, Gill Reid, was stepping down, both from her role with the choir and from the organisation of the Prayer Group. Tributes were paid for the sterling work she has undertaken over many years. At least 40, as a choir member, although she will stay on under the guidance of her successor, the multi-talented William MacSween, who has recently moved to the village and joined the congregation.

Under Property, Rab Paterson noted that the church entrance had been replastered. He also advised that the external tree, erected for the first time over the festive season, had received numerous favourable comments.

Martin Dayman reported on the progress of the Project. Apart from the installation of a couple of new doors, it is hoped to decorate or redecorate various areas of the church. The Church of Scotland Central Fabric Fund is to be approached for assistance, in an attempt to keep our local reserves available for future emergencies. Funds have been boosted recently, by income from the sale of both Careston and Fern Churches, and although the disposal of the Maule Church has not been such a smooth process, completion of the deal should take place soon. There is little likelihood of further windfalls, however, and our Ministry & Mission contributions to 121 have risen sharply, so caution is advised on future expenditure.

From the groups, Gail Davies reported on arrangements for the 'Taste of Scotland' evening that took place on 9th February.

What a success! Sold out and great fellowship and entertainment was enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who contributed to the food supplied, as well as those providing the entertainment.

Lastly, Wayne has indicated that the church history group will soon restart monthly meetings on 16th April. Check the website for this summer's programme!

Andy Turnbull

A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

January is probably the busiest month for all Church treasurers, because we have to prepare the formal Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the year just ended on 31 December, and get these all in order with the back-up documents ready for their checking by the Independent Examiner. The Church of Scotland's time-table requires that everything is fully checked and signed off by 31 March, and this year I felt fairly pleased when I handed over the final draft Accounts, with all the numbers cross-referenced to the back-up schedules, invoices and bank statements, to our Independent Examiner on 14 February. The papers are still with him being checked as I write, but I am confident we will meet the CoS deadline - last year Debbie and I had to hand-deliver the signed Accounts to the Presbytery Treasurer on the afternoon of 31 March, which was a bit tight!

The Congregation will be able to examine the Accounts at the Annual Stated Meeting which will be held after a Sunday morning Service in the Summer, and ask any questions, but the Accounts will also be put up on the Edzell Church website well in advance for anyone to read and examine, and I am always happy to answer any queries.

The 2023 Accounts show the impact of Edzell's Union with Fern, Careston and Menmuir Church, which has strengthened our Reserve funds considerably for the future. Both our Income and our Costs increased over 2022, which was not a great surprise given the Union, and in a time of inflation, but thanks to the generosity of so many parishioners we can look forwards to 2024 with confidence. The Trustees' Report shows the very wide range of activities carried on in and by the Church, and the many volunteers who do so much for the Kirk and the Edzell community, young and old.

If you would like to set up, or increase, a regular donation to the Edzell Church, or have any queries over Gift Aid which can increase the value of your gift by 25 per cent, or if you would like to leave a legacy to the Church in your Will, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be very happy to help with any paperwork or queries you may have.

Thanks for reading so far - very best wishes,

Tim Ambrose, Treasurer

PRESBYTERY REPORT FEBRUARY 2024

It has been a busy time for Presbytery, we're now fully integrated into the Presbytery of Perth and it's working well, lots of changes but a renewed enthusiasm for our Church.

Our last meeting in February was a first for the Presbytery, there was an in-person meeting at St Mathews in Perth for those who could attend, some people joined via a zoom call and took part online, whilst others listened in to the livestreamed meeting through YouTube. I had to be in Edinburgh for a family commitment but was so impressed to be heading down the M90 listening to the meeting as it was happening.

One of the most thought-provoking talks was given by the Rev. Muriel Pearson, Minister of St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias Church of Scotland. Muriel spoke of the situation in the Middle East quite movingly, if you would like to hear what she said it can be viewed on Edzell Church website. If you have any problems accessing it, please let me know.

There has been a number of changes to churches locally, Brechin and Farnell Church have welcomed a new minister, the Rev Adriaan van Tonder and his family, wife Sanelle and their 2 little boys.

On Thursday 29th February there was a service of union for the Arbroath Churches at St Andrews Parish Church.

The churches in Forfar, East and Old and Inverarity joined in October last year, Lowson Memorial and St Margaret's are making changes too, towards team ministry and the creation of All Souls Church.

MAGNITUDE, the Christian youth festival is at Lendrick Muir 20-24th July 2024. After a successful pilot last year, the Church of Scotland is again running a village at the event. Magnitude is a five-day Christian youth festival for young people aged 11-18.

Presbytery are encouraging all congregations to take part in 'Invite a Friend to Church' on Palm Sunday, 24th March. We think in Edzell this is a friendly initiative which we would like to take part in and are hopeful that members of our congregation will think that if there is anyone they know who they would like to invite along they can do so not only to the service on Palm Sunday but for a cup of tea afterwards too. It can be a little intimidating walking into church on your own if you haven't been for some time but coming with someone you know makes all the difference and we are a friendly bunch after all!

Best wishes

Heather

FROM THE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Our first get together of 2024 was "A Wee Taste of Scotland" in February. An evening of entertainment and food, which was a sell out and allowed us to be able to donate £700 to the Brechin Flood Fund.



On Sunday 31st March we have the Easter Breakfast at 8.30am which follows the early morning service at 8 am.

That then takes us to Christian Aid week 12-18th May. We hope to have soup and a traybake each Sunday in May after the service and a Christian Aid lunch (soup and pudding followed by tea/coffee) for one Tuesday only on 14th May.

We do hope you will be able to join us.

THE LITTLE LIGHT BEARERS CLUB

Each Wednesday in school term time, when the school bell rings, around 20 children (Primary 3 to Primary 7) don high visibility vests and, carefully escorted, walk across to the Church Hall. In the hall they pull on their purple "Little Light Bearer" T-shirts and the fun begins!

Every session opens with The Lord's Prayer, which the children say together, a snack and drink, most weeks a short film of a Bible Story, a craft relating to the story and a (very) energetic game.

We, the adults, are informed by the Leader of the Day before the children arrive as to what is happening that day and craft preparations are carried out. The hour and a half the children are with us goes by in a busy, noisy flash! But this time with the children is bearing fruit.

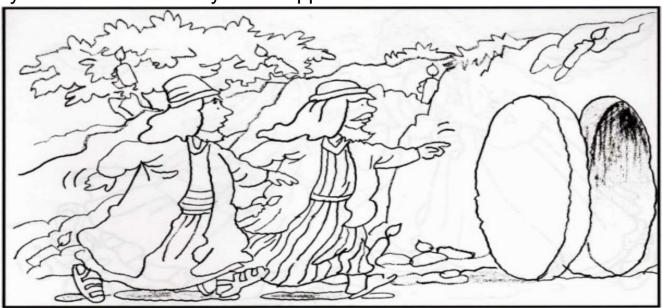
Their simple Nativity Play in Church on Christmas Eve brought the real message of Jesus' birth to Edzell and we are working on a special event for the 11am Easter Morning Service, followed by the famous Easter Egg Hunt.

In March, we have been looking at the events around Christ's entrance to Jerusalem and what followed leading up to that first Easter.

Picture this! Planned as an outdoor event but a victim of a very rainy

afternoon, the children poured into the sanctuary, wearing cloaks (various old curtains, scarves etc)and holding their hand- made palm branches. With a recording of "The Trumpet Voluntary" playing loudly they all had a turn of being the King and his donkey parading through "The Crowd" who cast their cloaks at the feet of the king, waving their branches while shouting "Hosanna!.....Hosanna!".

Thank you to everyone who helps with preparation and delivering on the day. Your efforts are very much appreciated.



Relax and colour this scene we are preparing to re-enact for you this Easter .

Scottish Afternoon

The P4-7 Children at Edzell PS will be organising a Scottish Afternoon and would like to invite along members of our local community. We would like to entertain you with some Scottish poetry, singing and dancing and maybe even get some of you to join in with our dancing.

January 31st, 2024, 1.30 to 3.00 p.m.

An Afternoon of Delightful Scottish Entertainment

An Invitation to a Scottish afternoon at the end of January was delivered to the congregation of Edzell Parish Church and on a dull grey day, a group of us arrived at the school.

We were greeted by some very welcoming young people and escorted into the main hall, to sit at prettily dressed tables.

We recognised other Edzell faces in the company, including a group of older friends, residents from The Glens Care Home.

The tables were waited on by the youngsters, we were presented with handmade menus, orders were taken and refreshments served in a well organised fashion. The planning of the afternoon was very evident. Every young person had a role to play and did so in a courteous manner.

The entertainment was wonderful, what talent we enjoyed.

Fantastic Fiddlers

Delightful Dancers

Super Singers

Rousing Reciters

As the afternoon neared its end some of us were (easily) persuaded to join the young dancers on the floor and skipped along to a "GayGordons" and "Dashing White Sergeant" before all holding hands and joining together to sing "Auld Lang Syne"

Altogether we felt very privileged to have been invited to such an enjoyable afternoon. Edzell Primary is a great wee school.

EDZELL CHURCH GUILD

We have held our Annual General Meeting and have welcomed new members onto the committee. Doris Alston continues as our Convenor, Alice McIntosh as Secretary, Ishbel Karam as Treasurer along with Una Abbot, and Helen Singer and new members Lynn McGowan and Alison Paterson. We look forward to putting together an interesting syllabus for 2024/2025. Our numbers have been good for this year but would love to see more people coming along. You don't have to be a member of the church, if you are interested come along and enjoy some company and a cup of tea or coffee. We are not an exclusively women's group, everybody is welcome male or female of whatever gender or orientation. We have had a busy few months with a wide variety of speakers. We were all at sea with Grace Mackie, learnt about the life of our Session Clerk, Andy Turnbull, who stepped in at the last minute, his time was greatly appreciated. We have also learnt about the Mercy Ships with Ishbel Karam and eye care from David McIntosh. Other topics included Red Squirrels, upcycling of furniture and not to forget our memorable Christmas Lunch with Rev Ian Gray when we sang our hearts out singing many favourite carols and Christmas songs.

As you can see we cover a wide range of topics, hopefully, reflecting the interests of the members and are always open to suggestions for new speakers or events.

So please give us a thought and come to our first meeting in September.

Alice McIntosh



The Guild Project that we are supporting this year is Blether with Beat. Beat is the UK's eating disorder charity.

Around 1.25 million people in the UK have an eating disorder, with millions more supporting someone they know. These serious mental illnesses can devastate and, too frequently,

take lives. Together we hope to help local communities in Scotland recognise the signs of eating disorders and understand how to support those struggling get the treatment they deserve.

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/the-guild/projects/projects/beat



GUILD DAFFODIL TEA SATURDAY 13th APRIL 2PM In the CHURCH HALL £4 tea and cake Produce stall and daffodils ALL WELCOME

GOLDEN SPRING

It's spring again, the snowdrops pass, The mowers drone to cut the grass; The colour scheme turns yellow gold Early sunshine softens cold. No longer ice on meadow rills Brings Wordsworth's dancing daffodils. Another yellow hiding there, An added joy, a moment rare, In scent and savour quite divine – The taste of Myrtle's cowslip wine! And all amongst the weeds springs up Pure gold, the common buttercup. And bright'ning too the meadows green There peeps the royal primrose, queen Of all of springtime's golden flowers Brought on by April's sweet spring showers. Then comes a scent you'd almost cut

Of Caribbean coconut,

That golden, golden flower of course,
Could only be the glorious gorse.
Perhaps the commonest of all
The dandelion's sunshine ball.
Late spring laburnum hangs its chain
Of golden jewels in the rain.
And what is that, seen from afar,
The farmer's dreaded landscape scar?
Unending fields of yellow, drape
Their vicious cloak of oilseed rape.
Surmounting all, the golden rod
Reveals to man the hand of God.
Jake Hensman

OUR SPRING PRAYER

Dear Lord and Father,

As we approach Spring and see the colours of the earliest flowers and hear the birdsong heralding Spring we are reminded that after winter , spring always comes. In the same way Lord we know as Christians that we must never lose hope. We know that you will never leave us that good will always triumph over evil.

As we listen to the news and read the papers , the world can feel like a fragile place, so many countries at war with others, innocent victims killed ,others who are starving.

As we continue to live our lives peacefully and safely, with access to food, water, health care and hygiene we can feel helpless. We pray for all those who are suffering because of war ,poverty ,famine. We ask that You will give them comfort in their distress, give them hope for the future. We ask You Lord to influence the hearts of all leaders in the world of today. We pray for PEACE throughout the world and ask You to protect all voluntary groups who are working in these war torn countries.

There are many in our own country who are suffering in part because of the effects of wars elsewhere which add to the cost of living crisis. We also have families who don't have a home, can't afford to heat themselves or eat properly. We think of them too and ask that You guide us in ways so that we can do what we can to help.

We give thanks for all those many organisations and volunteers who do so much to help others. We are so grateful to those who renew our faith in humanity and remind us of how much good there is in the world to stand against evil. Give us Your guidance and strength Lord so we can do what we are able to do to help others. Each time we see something good being done let us give thanks.

We are grateful for the life of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that His teachings give us so many ways in which we can continue to feel supported and comforted by You Lord and have hope for the future of Your world and for the future of the next generations.

Amen

A note from Gill.....

Time to stand back.

There are always times in our Christian journey when we have to stop and ask God what He wants us to do. Enthusiasm and pride can cause us to over extend ourselves sometimes and those are times when we have to learn to stand back and reflect first, whether you are young or old. I am now at the old stage and that isn't easy too, equally enthusiasm and pride can lead you astray, causing you to stay on longer than you should. There is a time when we have to realise that it is right to hand over to a younger person with new ideas.

On a personal level I have decided that now is the time to stand back on leading the prayer group and the choir. Regarding the choir it has been made easy for me in that I am handing over the reins to William Macsween a very able and experienced musician who has plenty of times from childhood been involved in church activities and music. I would also like to pay tribute to previous choir leaders, particularly Sylvia Mealls who left us with such a large repertoire of music to choose from. We will also look forward to anything new that William would like to introduce to us.

When it comes to handing over the prayer group it has not been so easy but with both singing and prayer it is not something you just stop. I shall of course continue singing in the choir and involved in prayer. The way forward I leave in God's hands.

With Love and God Bless Gill

BIBLE STUDY continues in the lounge on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. The group is currently looking at Paul's letter to the Romans. If you are interested in going along but would like some more information please speak to the minister.

Looking for something to aid your study and reflection at home then **A Word in Season** is posted on the Church Facebook page by the minister.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



On 1st March I had the pleasure of accompanying a group of ladies from the Edzell Church, to the World Day of Prayer (WDP) service in Brechin. Little did I know that such an event takes place every year on the first Friday in March throughout the world; bringing all denominations of Christianity together to pray and worship while following the same 'order of service'. It should be noted that every year a WDP Committee from a different country in the world will create the 'order of Worship/service'.

In Brechin, we gathered as a small intimate group within the modest Hall of

the Salvation Army, Southesk Terrace for the service to start at 2pm. The table was decorated beautifully with poppies, olives, tree branches, citrus fruits such as lemons and oranges and Palestinian colours because it was in fact ladies from a WDP committee of Palestine that had been tasked to prepare the service for 2024.

It was also brought to my attention that this service was created well in advance of the current wars, in fact up to two years in advance. This detail I found deeply moving given the current affairs of our world today and yet the Christian community all thinking and considering a country in need, from a Christian perspective without it being a reactive response.

Throughout the prayers, imagery and accounts of the lives of three women living in Palestine (reflective of two years ago); the service core message was that from Ephesians 4:2 Where Paul wrote the epistle to strengthen the community of faith in Christ, the grace of GOD and the Gospel.

"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:1-3 (NRSV) As we (from Edzell) all huddled together along with other members of the Brechin church community and Salvation Army we stood as one voice in that moment. As we sat around a table of colour reflective of the beautiful imagery on the service booklet, the real poignant impact started to penetrate and the depth of our understanding and significance of us all coming together as a church family to pray to the world and with the world; in Christ; was so extraordinary.

This alone was a small gathering of mainly women yet it felt so enormously important in these current times of hardship throughout the Earths conflicts. Not only were we conducting a service that millions of Christian's were also collectively conducting at the same time but it highlighted the damage that can be done when humans are not and will not bear with each other. The poppies on the table represented the lives lost through conflict and as we all stood around reflecting on the meaning of the poppy to each of us personally...

...the lasting message was just as the first and as ladies from Palestine had quoted on the service booklet.

"I Beg you ... Bear With One Another in Love"

To be living with one another amongst our differences and how we could strive for peace.

We must try to do as Jesus told us:

"Love thy Neighbour "

I will be keeping an eye out for next years World Day of Prayer service and if you wish to find out more regards the history and detail of WDP please visit: <u>http://www.worlddayofprayer.net</u>

Louise Gall

Old branches given a new life by our Little Light Bearers added to the display.



STAMP APPEAL

Collecting stamps for the Church of Scotland Stamp appeal continues. Proceeds generated from this are going to the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) and their initiative to establish tree nurseries which will grow tree seedlings based on the needs of their communities. These nurseries and the trees grown should in turn create employment opportunities, improve nutrition, generate an income and help mitigate the impact of the climate crisis. Used stamps can be dropped in the box inside the church door or through the Hall letterbox at any time.

WORLD VISION UPDATE

We continue to support Genida in Mozambique through World Vision. Their work with her community there means that with our support they are beginning to change not just Genida's life but that of her family and friends too. In the latest news Genida is well and continues to progress at school. If anyone is interested in corresponding with Genida then please speak to Judith.

BLYTHESWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL!

Christmas wrapping and gift buying may seem a long way off as we look ahead to longer, brighter days but please if you are buying new sandals this summer please remember to keep the shoebox! Don't want it cluttering up your house then hand it in at the Church door and we will store it. Equally if you would like to plan ahead and knit some hat, scarves, gloves etc. we are happy to store them too.

Many thanks Judith

Finally here are a few extracts from Edzell Lethnot & Glenesk Churches Easter '94 magazine. The youngsters shared their Easter Wish as the war in Bosnia filled our screens

My Easter wish is to make a Easter Sund countries that won't have a proper Easter because os war. We can collect necessarius and Easter eggs and bunnies and we could make Easter cards and make them happy. We can make them have a happy Easter 1 ouise

Christy closed the WDP service from the woman of east Jerusalem with these words.

But let us return our thoughts back to the women of Jerusalem, and hear their words as they inspire us to go forward and ACT positively. Turning our thoughts from the darkness of despair to the light of hope through our belief in the Risen Christ. Remembering that through Him we are certain in the knowledge that God is always with us, that we are never alone.

This reflection on going to Church......

The Church -	- Some go there	just for a walk,
	Some go there	to laugh and talk.
	Some go theme	L
	Some go there	a fault to cover.
	Some go there	for observation,
	Some go there	for speculation,
	Some go there	to wink and nod,
	And some even	go to worship God.

..and the weather!



For whatever the reason and whatever the weather we look forward to seeing you in Church this Easter.

SERVICE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 24th March - Palm Sunday

Bring a friend to Church - Service of Worship 11am

Thursday 28th March - Maundy Thursday Edzell School Easter Service

> Friday 29th March - Good Friday Service of Communion 7pm

Sunday 31st March - Easter Sunday

Son-rise Service, Church Garden 8am Followed by breakfast in the Hall @ 8.30am

Service of Worship at 11am (with Little Light Bearers and a children's Easter egg hunt)

<u>Communion Services</u> will be held at 11am on Sundays 19th May and 17th November.

A WARM WELCOME TO YOU ALL

Church Office

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