

What Does Easter Mean to You?

If it's about dressing up as the Easter Bunny and hunting for chocolate eggs and having a big happy family party, then we're not going to have a very Happy Easter this year. The Coronavirus has put a damper on this kind of fun!



If, like me, you enjoy going to church and singing the rousing Easter hymns with other people and receiving Holy Communion together... then again, like me, you're going to be disappointed. Every day, when I hear the latest updates from the national and world news about the pandemic with its effects on human health and prosperity, I'm reminded of this saying: "Cheer up", they told me, "it could be worse". So I did. And it was. So what is the Good News of Easter?

Well, on Good Friday Jesus was seized, tortured, crucified, dead and buried. And His friends were shattered, panic-stricken. But on that first Easter Day, the Risen Christ came through the locked doors of the house where they were huddled in fearful isolation, and said, "Peace be with you!" and He showed them His hands and His side. When they saw the wounds of nails and spear - the signs both of the depth of His love and the height of His victory - those first disciples were filled with joy that nothing could destroy. Ever since then, those who ask Jesus to be with them wherever they are and whatever they're going through, have found that He really does give us the kind of love and peace that can't be found elsewhere.



Easter Blessings,
Revd Dr Mary Barr

Need some help with your technology?

If you have a smart phone or computer and need some help to access Facebook, Messenger or Skype to keep you in touch during the current crisis why not call either: Sue Karran 07918640349 or Peter Karran 07810 658990 or Jane Reynolds 07970572248 who will attempt to talk you through the process! .

If you are looking for a Christian Religious service on TV or on the Internet Jane recommends:

On TV, on Freeview channel 65, there is TBN, the Christian TV network. They have a wide range of shows, talks, services, from evangelical to Catholic. On the Radio, there is the weekly service on Radio 4 on Sunday at 8.10AM. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000gm8f>. You can always listen on Catch Up online. Then there is Holy Trinity Brompton online service at <https://htb.online.church/>, They are doing the service online at multiple times on a Sunday, eg. 11AM. 6:30PM, 8PM... There are loads of sermons on YouTube as well. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/> and google Nicky Gumble for example

News Update from The Village Hall

Burton Lazars Village Hall

In line with the latest Government directive Burton Lazars Village Hall will close for all activities from Saturday 22nd March 2020 until further notice. For regular User Group members, any enquiries should be firstly directed to your Group leader, and only then to the Village Hall Bookings Secretary, whose number can be found on the list on the external notice board. We are sorry for the inconvenience caused, but in the circumstances we have no other option. We all hope that this emergency will be over as quickly as possible, and we look forward to seeing you all again in the near future. Keep safe, Ian Pengelly

St James Blazers - Special Edition



Our Team Vicar Writes.....

In view of Government restrictions on non-essential public gatherings worship in churches is suspended until further notice. But although such 'services' cannot take place, the church is still here to 'serve' our local communities. The Bishop of Leicester has encouraged everyone to "lookout for each other and look up to God in prayer," and church members working with residents of Burton Lazars to 'look out for each other' have set up a **Coronavirus Support group**. Details of this together with telephone numbers you can call for help can be found inside this leaflet.

Although the Church building may be temporality closed for services, people will certainly be praying at home. If you'd like resources to help you to pray, these can be accessed online or leaflets can be made available to you - just ask me if you'd like further details, or if you would like us to pray about something that particularly concerns you in these troubled times. If you have any questions or need help in the coming days I can be contacted on

01664 564293 or email
vicarmary@meltonparish.org.uk
Revd Dr Mary Barr

St James Coronavirus Support Group

You or a neighbour may like to know that we have now created a list of willing volunteers who are ready to take a call from anyone in or around the village who may need a little help or support at this time. The idea is that if you or a neighbour needs someone to help them by picking up some food items or perhaps medicine we are there. The following people are happy to take your call. They are not in any particular order so feel free to try any number/s:

Julia Joseph-Hind	07949519808
Janet King	01664372372
Jenny Pengelly	01664668095
Maggie Saunders	01664 500057
Lynne Osborne	01664564516
Cathy Lightfoot	01664 410981
Yvonne Rowe	01664482701
Sue Karran	07918 640349

In order to protect them and you, the person delivering your item(s) will knock or ring your doorbell and put the package down on your doorstep and wait to make sure that you pick it up.

Regarding payment for goods purchased, the receipt will be in the bag/package, but your 'shopper' will phone you before delivery to tell you the cost so you will be able to prepare the cash or a cheque for the right amount and place it in an envelope ready.. In addition to the above list of volunteers you can call we have another growing list of 'shoppers' not in the self-isolating group willing to shop and deliver your goods as best

Other Sources of Help

Residents of Burton Lazars know that it is a good place to live with a welcoming, caring community and very active Village Hall and Church. No surprise then that even when our social activity has been curbed the community spirit still comes through. Many people have expressed their willingness to help and support others when and wherever they can—through the St James Group initiative or in many other ways.

You may already have received flier through your door from Rachel, Kara, Darcy and Jude offering their help and giving information about local businesses offering food boxes and takeaway meals. They are happy for you to contact them if you would like more details or help on 01664372248 or 07808099907.

St James Support Group have also contacted local businesses. We understand now that **March House Farm Tele: 01664563919** are currently introducing NO CONTACT SHOPPING and say they will have a fully stocked online shop that allows you to you to pick, click, pay in full and either collect or choose delivery (if you meet the criteria) They do ask to only choose local delivery if you are isolated, vulnerable or unable to collect. The collection points will be clearly marked in the car park. They will still have our phone line for orders for anyone that doesn't have access to the internet.

Gates Garden Centre Tel: 01664454309 are also changing to online shopping and when ready it will mean that when you phone them they will walk you round the shop virtually so you can select your goods and then arrange to collect them or have them delivered and finally **Paul's Tofu Tel: 01664560572** also offer a delivery service which includes their own bread, vegetable boxes and much more.

You might want to give one of them a go!

Catch up on events before the Coronavirus Special Coffee Morning in the Village Hall

Boost for Albania Earthquake Project

St James Church took over the Burton Village Coffee Morning on Saturday, March 7th, to raise funds for the Albania Earthquake Project. There were bacon rolls, homemade cakes, marmalade, jam, plants bric a brac and a variety of Easter Crafts on sale with the usual tea and coffee. Thanks to such wonderful help and support we raised £450 and have since added to that total with generous gifts and further sales of Easter gifts.

A huge thank you to everyone who made things and came along to help & support us

Unfortunately two more events which had been planned to help raise money for the Albania Earthquake Appeal - ie A Homemade Soup Lunch on Friday, 27th March and a Plant Based Buffet Taster Evening on Friday April 3rd have had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Hopefully we will be able to reschedule these events in the not too distant future.

Bloomin' great work!

Many thanks to everyone who came along on the first Wednesday in March to help tidy the Churchyard and Garden of Remembrance at St James' Church. After a couple of hours of hard work, we stopped to enjoy a lovely lunch of homemade parsnip soup, cheese, pate and crusty bread plus a chance to relax and chat. Many thanks to Lynne and Allan Osborne for organising this and providing the lovely lunch. Unfortunately the next session planned for Weds April 1st will have to be postponed, but we hope to see you soon!

