

## REGULAR ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY	Services	10.30am and some evenings
MONDAY	Craft Club (alternate weeks, see Diary for dates)	2.00pm to 4.00pm
WEDNESDAY	Community coffee shop	9.00am to 5.00pm
THURSDAY	Thursday Group (1st Thursday in month)	2.45pm to 4.00pm
SATURDAY	Community coffee shop	10.30am to 11.30am

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Easter edition of our *Newsletter*. Easter is the high point of the Christian year, and yet many today find it difficult to believe that Jesus was actually raised from the dead. Some years ago Frank Morrison wrote 'Who moved the Stone?' Beginning as a sceptic, he set out to prove that the resurrection just could not have happened. It was nothing to do with the evidence. He was just not prepared to entertain the idea. Like so many in our sceptical age, he was locked into an understanding of the world, which precludes the possibility of a supernatural divine intervention of this sort. He believed it was impossible for such things to happen, so therefore they didn't. But, having really looked at the evidence, he became a convinced Christian.

If you see a great natural feature, like a crater or vast canyon, you immediately think 'something must have happened here!'

Easter begins in mystery, but ends with great courage. We see the timid disciples; a handful of frightened men hiding in the Upper Room, fearful for their lives because they had supported a man who had been crucified for high treason. They had heard rumours of an empty tomb, but it took

time before they fully realised what had happened.

And yet, within a few weeks they had been transformed. Cowards had become heroes. Infused with hope and courage, they had become dynamic preachers, boldly proclaiming the resurrection to the very people who had killed their leader. Unlettered men became giants who changed the world. 'Something must have happened here!' What caused that transformation?

And why in subsequent years were so many prepared to die as martyrs? People do not die for their inventions, only their convictions. They staked everything on the conviction that Jesus was not just a dead memory, but rather a living presence that had made new men of them.

That conviction gets right to the heart of New Testament teaching. Indeed there is no form of early Christianity known to us that does not affirm at its heart, that after his shameful death, God raised Jesus to life again.

Prof. Tom Wright reminds us that this was not just a single detached article of faith. "It was woven into the very structure of Christian life and thought. Christians believed that their very existence was due to the resurrection. Because of

it, they redesigned their whole world view and basic theology around this new fixed point. They lived as though the new age had already arrived.”

But we do not just celebrate Easter as historical fact. It is rather a contemporary challenge. All Christians are called to be ‘Easter People’- a community of resurrection faith. This conviction is right at the heart of all that we seek to be and do here in the church.

Because he lives, we are called to discover a ‘living faith’ that motivates ‘faithful living’. May that be your experience this Easter, as together we celebrate the most important festival of the Christian year.

Wishing you every blessing.

Your friend and minister

*Peter C. Graves.*

### DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	Service at Bramley Court	2.45pm
Thu 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Thursday Group. Speaker: Revd Dr Peter Graves	2.45pm
	Lent House Group at 35 Millington Rd. <i>The Eucharistic sacrifice</i>	10.45am
	Maundy Thursday. Holy Communion, led by Revd Dr Peter Graves	7.00pm
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	United Good Friday. Service at St Andrew’s, Histon.	10.00am
	Preacher Revd Dr Peter Graves This will be followed by a walk of witness to the library for one hymn and a prayer, and then coffee and hot-cross-buns in our hall (offers of buns to Christine, please)	
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	Easter Day Communion.	
	Preacher Revd Dr Peter Graves and celebrant Revd Jean Simmonds	10.30am
Sun 12 <sup>th</sup>	Preacher: Revd Dr Brian Beck	10.30am
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	Craft Group	2.00pm
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	Prayer day	10.30am – 4.30pm
	Service at Etheldred House	11.00am
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	Preacher: Revd Julian Pursehouse, followed by lunch at 12.30pm (see notice)	10.30am
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	Preacher: Revd Dr Peter Graves	10.30am
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>	Craft Group	2.00pm
Tue 28 <sup>th</sup>	General Church meeting (see notice)	7.30pm
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	May Yard Sale (see notice)	9.30am

### CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 MAY 2015

Christian Aid Week runs from 10-16 May this year. Most churches in Histon and Impington help with the house to house collection.

If you can spare an hour or so to help cover the roads we have been allocated please let me know.

I am always short of collectors!

*Christine Pooley*

## QUIZ EVENING

Thank you to everyone who supported the Quiz Evening by their presence and those who made donations. A special thank you to Mary, Rosemary and our daughter Kathryn who worked non-stop in the kitchen, to Ann for helping with the refreshments, and to those who offered their help when and if it was needed.

We hope that the questions were not too taxing and that in spite of exercising those "little grey cells", everyone enjoyed the evening!

We are delighted to say that £446 was raised from this event which, of course, goes to the Church Development Fund.

Again, thank you for your support for our Church.

*Joy and Robin*

A big THANK YOU to Joy and Robin for organising such a successful evening.

## DISTRICT CHAIRMAN'S VISIT

Revd Julian Pursehouse, Chairman of our District will lead our morning worship on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am.

We are organising a buffet lunch to be served at 12.30pm that day, and tickets price £7.50 are now available from the stewards.

To assist catering please buy your ticket by 12<sup>th</sup> April.

Offers of homemade desserts would be appreciated, please add your name to the list on the table near the vestry, if you are able to help in this way.

## GENERAL CHURCH MEETING AND GIFT EVENING

The General Church Meeting and Gift Evening will take place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 pm.

Nominations for the stewards, who are appointed at this meeting, may be given to the minister by 5<sup>th</sup> April. You must make sure that the person is willing to stand, and get someone else to second your nomination.

Following the meeting, refreshments will be served; please bring a plate of food to share.

We hope you will be able to come; this meeting is open to the whole church, and is a chance to give your views on what is going on in our premises.

## YARD SALE SATURDAY 16TH MAY

We are holding our annual yard sale on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May from 9.30am.

Items to sell, bric-a-brac, books, toys etc. can be left in the church during the week before the sale.

Help will be needed with sorting on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> late afternoon/early evening, and serving on a stall Saturday morning,

We will also be selling a slice of cake, scones etc. with coffee.

If you can help please add your name to the list on the table near the vestry. All proceeds to our development fund.

## PRAYER DAY

The Cambridge Methodist Circuit are organising a Prayer Week from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April. As part of this initiative our Church will be open on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30am to 4.30pm for quiet reflection. We have been asked to focus on the future, on hope, and on praying for new life. There will be simple floral displays, readings and prayers to guide your thoughts, please feel free to call in at any time throughout the day. The Community Coffee Shop will be open as usual.

## DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The church council met briefly on 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

The secretary explained that since the illness and death of our current architect the development committee had collected estimates from three new architects and had interviewed one of these, QMP, who have offices in the village.

They were very impressed by them and proposed that they should be appointed immediately.

After brief discussion the meeting agreed unanimously.