

Monthly Notices - April 2025

Our Minister - Rev Bethany Willers

To contact us please email: caldicotmc@gmail.com and your query will be directed to the relevant person. Or if you need to contact our minister, Rev. Bethany Willers, email revbwillers@gmail.com (preferred) or call 01291 625015.

Pastoral Letter

We are coming up on our celebration of Easter for this year. During Holy Week we will again participate in the Caldicot Churches Together tradition of rotating weeknight services throughout town. All services will be held at 7:00pm and have refreshments served following (except for the Thursday service.)

Monday 14 April: Bethany Baptist Church
Tuesday 15 April: Victory Church (Elim Pentecostal)
Wednesday 16 April: Caldicot Methodist Church
Thursday 17 April: St. Mary's Church in Wales
Friday 18 April: 9:30 Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's
10:45 Procession of the Cross from St. Mary's to Town Centre
11:00 Town Centre Service, held outside our church
Sunday 20 April: 8:30 Easter Breakfast
10:00 Worship with Holy Communion

I look forward to this week of services every year, and I hope you do, too. It is a meaningful time when we all gather together in worship, regardless of our denomination. Please pray for good weather for our outdoor service on Good Friday!

The Easter Offering circuit service this year will be held on Sunday 18 May at Crosskeys at 6:00. Everyone is welcome to attend. Envelopes for donations will be available starting on Palm Sunday.

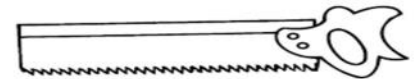
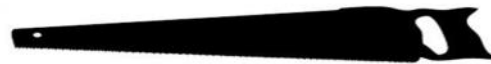
Blessings, Bethany

18TH APRIL - GOOD FRIDAY, **THE DAY THE SON OF GOD DIED FOR YOU**

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9am in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.



If you would like to donate any unwanted DIY tools to the TFSR cause, please see Margaret during Tuesday or Friday Coffee Mornings.



Coffee Morning

COFFEE MORNINGS

Every Tuesday & Friday 9.30am



CALDICOT METHODIST CHURCH

QUIZ AFTERNOON

RAFFLE & REFRESHMENTS

Teams of 6—£1 per head—Children Welcome

SATURDAY 26TH APRIL FROM 2pm TO 4pm.



We welcome all who worship with us

MORNING WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCH BUILDING

Every Sunday at 10.00am

Preachers for April

**6th Rev B Willers CAFÉ church 13th Palm Sunday,- Rev L. Healey
20th Easter Day, Rev B Willers – Holy Communion 27th Rev I Griffiths**

Zoom Service - Every Sunday at 10.00am

United with the service in the church

To join the service or for further details or to request the Zoom link be emailed to you please contact Jack Healey or Gareth Edwards (caldicotmc@gmail.com)

THE REAL EASTER

In CS Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the lion Aslan is put to death by the White Witch. The stone table on which He is killed cracks in two, but Aslan meets with Lucy and Susan alive again. He explains the Witch's failure:

'her knowledge goes back only to the dawn of time. But if she could have looked a little further back, she would have known that when a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack, and Death itself would start working backwards.'

This is a great picture of what Jesus' cross and His resurrection has achieved. As Paul writes, *'I want to know Christ, to know the power of His resurrection'* (Philippians 3:10). To understand the real Easter, we should experience the same power that raised Jesus from the dead!

New Hope: Like the girls in the story, Easter highlights the sadness and confusion that loss brings. Yet the resurrection of Jesus brings new hope, as it demonstrates the victory secured by the cross over sin, Satan and death. We can face life's difficulties knowing that Jesus walks beside us.

New Love: Our relationships are often characterised by a lack of forgiveness, hurt and betrayal. Yet Jesus' resurrection opens the possibility of new love, as His power enables us to accept others and forgive them. When Lucy met Aslan again, she cried: *'Oh, you're real, you're real!'* We too can find the real Easter through a life changing encounter with the living Christ.

New Life: When we are trying to make sense of life, like the girls in the story, Jesus offers us a living relationship with Himself. It's a friendship with God through Jesus that can begin today and continue for eternity.

20th April

EASTER, the most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7th April 30 AD or Friday 3rd April, 33 AD with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25th April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from *Eostre*, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like *Eos* and *Aurora*, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

NEXT MONTHLY NOTICES

If you have an item, please contact Roger Simms by Tuesday April 22nd