

Journey to King's Cross

As the train marked Christmas just pulls out of the station with an ever increasing chugging noise, I can hear the rumbling sound of the Easter Xpress, about to roll into place. Is it just me or is time advancing faster? Is this journey called life just hurdling towards ... well that's a question in itself .. Where / what is your life hurdling towards?

Our Easter season is based around the theme of making a journey .. **The journey to King's Cross**. We probably all know a thing or two about long journeys, be they for commuting, holidays or visiting loved ones. That one phrase you dread as a parent ... (altogether now: *"ARE WE THERE YET !!"*). And often we do the same with life itself. Racing from sunrise to sunset, from breakfast to cocoa before bedtime. Our prayer is that we slowly make our way, to arrive at Easter in peace (or even .. In one piece). All prepared, ready to celebrate that 'other great Christian festival' (*yet often not celebrated anywhere near as big as its more famous cousin .. Christmas*).

We do not want to add to the craziness of this season, however we would like us all to be ready when that great day arrives and birth something amazing, befitting such a glorious event. This year, let's celebrate Easter for all it's worth (and that's a lot!).

Share as a family, include others - make it your own.

May you be blessed as you make your way to .. **The King's Cross, tickets please, .. all aboard .. choo, choo ..**

***"O Lord, make this Lenten season
Different from the other ones.
Let me find You again."***

Henri Nouwen





Messy church is a way of being church, for families and others. It is Christ-centred, for all ages, and based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. Designed for all people - no matter how “messy” they feel their lives are.

This is not an event where you can leave your children, you are asked to stay with them and are encouraged to get as involved (read messy) as they are.

SATURDAY 23rd MARCH, 1pm - 3pm

Maundy Thursday - INTERACTIVE REFLECTION - 28th March - 2.30pm



Maundy Thursday-the day we remember that Last Supper. When Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with His disciples before being betrayed and arrested. During the meal, He took and blessed bread and wine and shared it with them, calling the bread and wine His body and blood.



This Maundy Thursday we will re-enact that time together, share in communion and the washing of feet (read hands).

A great reminder of love and how we ought to serve one another, just like Jesus - all welcome.



PALM SUNDAY / MAUNDAY THURSDAY / GOOD FRIDAY / EASTER



In Loving Memory of

Yeshua

Friday 29th March

10.00am

25 / 12 / AD 1 - 03 / 04 / AD 33

Victoria Baptist Church

(funeral attire please - no flowers)

*In perfect love He dies;
for me He dies, for me!
O all-atoning Sacrifice,
You died to make me free!*

A funeral service for Jesus (Good Friday) allow us to (try and) explain:

We are so spoiled by knowing the ending. This can however cause us to forget about the reality of the emotions the characters in those accounts had to endure. Very much so, the same for Jesus' friends and family.

Over the last 6 months or so, I have been (even more) amazed by the stories in our bibles as I tried to 'enter into them'. So in this service, we will try and put ourselves into the shoes of Jesus' family and closest friends as they mourned His death. They did not have a funeral for Jesus, but they saw His body and knew that He died.

Having a service that is funeral-like on Good Friday, can hammer home to us, in a very deep, gut wrenching way that Jesus really died. (forgot the "it's Friday .. but Sunday is coming liturgy" .. for in that very moment, that wasn't foremost on their minds !!) This service doesn't talk about the forthcoming resurrection, since we are putting ourselves into the shoes of the disciples and Jesus' family; just after He died they were in a time of shock, of wondering and not fully understanding.

I recently asked our young people how they might feel if they entered into this 'story'. One of them said she would be thoroughly confused if standing at the foot of the cross, witnessing the sight of that amazing person, hanging there.

So no songs about "up from the grave He Arose", there'll be no "Oh, Happy Day" – let us remember what He truly had to go through before we get to Sunday.



EASTER SUNDAY - 31st March

SUNRISE SERVICE - *early risers .. this one's for you.*

The sun is set to rise (whether or not it'll actually be visible at all is totally different matter), but it will rise at 6.30am. Around our town there will be several sunrise services from All Saints' one on the beach to Willingdon churches together at Butts Brow. Full details not available when 'going to press' - so check local websites. (p.s. clocks also spring forward, so it might feel extra early !!)

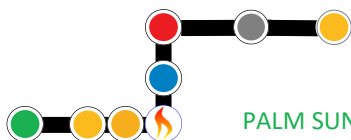
*Our **Easter Live@10** will be a **baptismal and celebration service.***

Today we can cry out *"up from the grave He Arose"*, today indeed is our resurrection day - *"Oh, Happy Day"*. Today we declare, for the world to know: HE IS RISEN, HALLELUJAH. And *because He lives, we can face tomorrow.*

Our children and young people will be catered for with age appropriate classes.

As stated earlier .. we do not want to add to the craziness of this season, however we would like us all to be ready when that great day arrives and birth something amazing, befitting such a glorious event. this year, let's celebrate Easter for all it's worth (and that's a lot!).

Do not abandon yourself to despair.
We are the Easter people and Hallelujah is our song.



PALM SUNDAY / MAUNDAY THURSDAY / GOOD FRIDAY / EASTER