

# TOGETHER

*only physically apart*

[NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org.uk](http://NewarkandSouthwellMethodist.org.uk)

## *The rollercoaster of Holy Week*

Revd Nathan Falla



It can sometimes feel that life is like a rollercoaster, there are ups and downs, we can be plunged into tunnels when we cannot see the way ahead and we can be buffeted to the left and the right like a ball in a pinball machine. The experience for many of the past year emotionally has been like a rollercoaster; not quite knowing when the next twists and turns may be, when the journey will be smooth or when we will be plunged into darkness and despair.

As I come to Holy Week again this year I am more mindful than ever of the rollercoaster of emotions and events of Holy Week; from the euphoria and joy of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to the righteous anger and frustration of turning the tables in the Temple. From the love and devotion as perfume was lavished on to the feet of Jesus, to Jesus the servant who washed the feet of the disciples. From the Passover meal that is shared with disciples to the isolation of the cross. From the broken bread and poured wine, to the brokenness of Jesus on the cross. The agony, the torment, the crying out, the death. And then the despair, the hopelessness, the loneliness of Jesus laid in the sealed guarded tomb.

Truly a rollercoaster of emotions, and in the midst of Holy Week through allowing exploration of those emotions we can find ourselves. Where do you see yourself as you journey through Holy Week? What are you noticing, feeling, wondering? We must resist the temptation of going straight from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, because in the journey of Holy Week we see God who walks with us, who feels our pain, who is with us in the longing, the despair and the waiting.

In this week's *Together* are some worship resources that may help you to ponder and reflect on the journey, especially Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Try not to get to Easter Sunday too quickly, we know that Easter Sunday is coming but let us enter into the mystery and wonder of Jesus' passion, the story of God's love, God's Story, Our Story.



# Maundy Thursday

## YouTube | A Service of Tenebrae



Join people from across the circuit as they lead **A Service of Tenebrae** at 8pm. This is a service of readings and reflective music as we consider the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Find it on the 'Newark and Southwell Methodist Circuit' YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/NewarkSouthwellMethodistCircuit>) why not invite a friend to watch it with you and share the link with them on your social media or by email!

## Radio

**BBC Radio 3** | 7.30pm *Stabat Mater*

BBC National Orchestra of Wales perform one of Pergolesi's most celebrated works, *Stabat Mater*, live in concert.

Composed for the Confraternita dei Cavalieri di San Luigi de Palazzo whilst on his death bed at the Franciscan monastery in Pozzuoli, and tells of Mary's journey and feelings of seeing her son hung on a cross.

## Prayer of confession

Peter cried, "Not my feet but my hands and head also."

Lord Jesus I come to you  
aware of many things in my life  
that need cleansing:

Cleanse me from selfishness, always  
wanting more, always demanding people  
think of us first. Lord, wash my sins away.

Cleanse me of doubt, wondering if I  
sincerely believe and have faith in you.  
Lord, wash my sins away.

Cleanse me of betrayal, when I place other  
things and other people ahead of you.  
Lord, wash my sins away.

Cleanse us from unworthiness, the things  
which mean I deny your presence with me.  
Lord, wash my sins away.

Cleanse me from my sin,  
the sin that sent you to the cross  
where you bore the wounds of sin  
in the giving of your life.  
Lord, wash my sins away.

Cleanse me and make my heart and mind  
pure with your promise of forgiveness.  
Amen

*Holy Week is a journey which grows with increasing intensity and Maundy Thursday is when the church traditionally remembers three things: Jesus washing the feet of his disciples, the institution of Communion and the events in the Garden of Gethsemane. Below are some ways that you may take some time and reflect on Maundy Thursday with a passage from the Bible, something for you to do and something for you to reflect on.*

### Foot washing

Once the disciples had made all the preparations so that they could share the Passover together they gathered, foot washing was normally carried out when guests arrived and was carried out by the lowest of servants.

Read: John 13:1-7

Do: Take time to wash your hands

Reflect: As part of the foot washing Jesus and Peter have a dialogue that goes from Peter not wanting to let Jesus wash his feet to Peter saying "Not my feet but my hands and head also."

In the foot washing we have the reminder of Jesus' servanthood, we also have the symbolism of cleansing. Slowly read the prayer of confession as you examine your life before God.

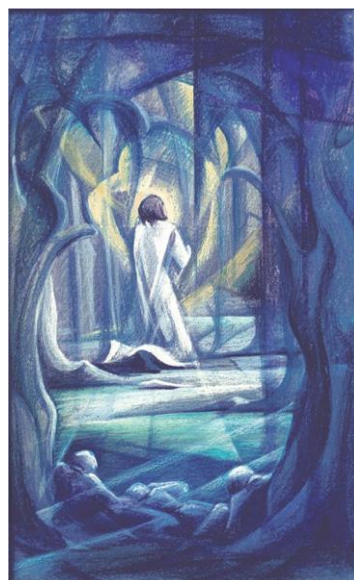
### Do this in remembrance of me

Read: Matthew 26:20-30

Do: Break a piece of bread in half,  
see the crumbs

Reflect: Think about what it means to eat bread in remembrance of Jesus. have you missed the opportunity to share Communion with others? What does Communion mean to you?

### Garden of Gethsemane

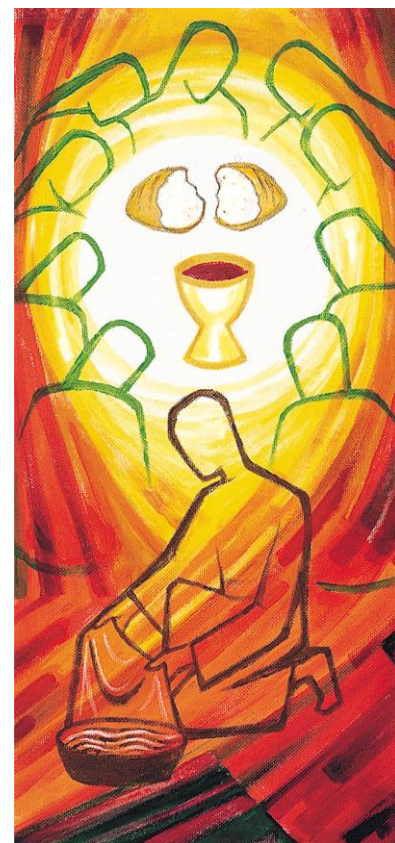


Read: Matthew 26:36-56

Do: Taste something bitter.

Reflect: In the Garden of Gethsemane we see Jesus wrestling with all that is to come, we see his anguish as he pleads with his Father for the cup of suffering to be taken away. We then have the amazing phrase (v.39) "yet not what I want but what you want." Think about how obedient and faithful you are. The disciples are told off for not being awake, how awake are you?

*Hold silence*





# Good Friday

*Good Friday is a day to remember, ponder and reflect on the story of Passion, here is a selection of readings and hymns (click on hymn title for YouTube link) that may help you to enter into the story.*

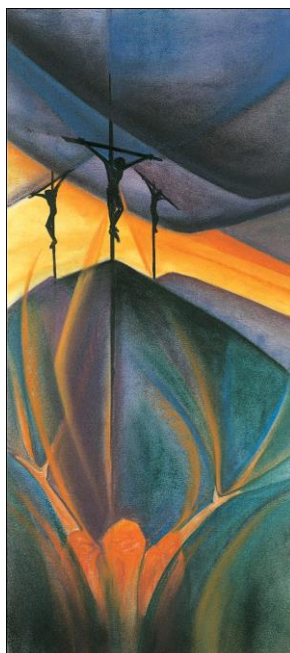
Lord God, as we take this journey once again,  
help us to see, to feel, to understand,  
to know your amazing love for the whole world  
and for me. Amen.

Hymn	<u><i>My song is love unknown</i></u> (StF 277, SOF 400, H&P 173)
The Betrayal	<i>Mark 14:10-21</i>
The Arrest	<i>Mark 14:43-50</i>
The Trial	<i>Mark 15:1-15</i>
The Mocking	<i>Mark 15:16-20</i>
Hymn	<u><i>To see the King of heaven fall</i></u> (StF 269, SOF 2597)
The Crucifixion	<i>Mark 15:21-24a</i> <i>Mark 15:24b-32</i>
Hymn	<u><i>Come and see, come and see</i></u> (StF 270, SOF 67)
The death of Jesus	<i>Mark 15:33-39</i>
Hymn	<u><i>Were you there when they crucified my Lord?</i></u> (verses 1-3 only) (StF 285, SOF 1589, H&P 181)

*Take time to prayerfully consider the story that you have read, the hymns that you have listened to or looked at. What does the cross mean to you? How will you respond?*

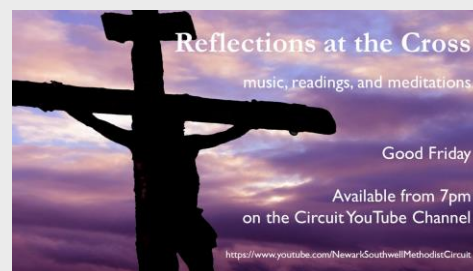
Hymn	<u><i>When I survey</i></u> (StF 287, SOF 596, H&P 180)
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Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son  
went not up to joy  
but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory  
before he was crucified;  
mercifully grant that we,  
walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it to be the way  
of life and peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



## On YouTube

From 10.30am join a repeat of the Tenebrae Service from Maundy Thursday (see page 2 for details).



On Good Friday evening available from 7pm, Revd Nathan leads **Reflections at the Cross** with readings, music and silence so we can reflect on the events of Good Friday.

## Good Friday | Radio programmes

### 7am BBC Nottingham

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, will lead a service featuring prayers, hymns and readings.

### 2-5pm BBC Radio 3 | Stainer's Crucifixion

Hear Barry Rose conducting Stainer's Crucifixion, recorded in Guildford Cathedral on 25 March 2018.

### 3-3.30pm BBC Radio 4

#### Good Friday Meditation

At the hour when Christians around the world contemplate Christ's death on the cross, Neil MacGregor and the Revd Lucy Winkett stand before one of Rembrandt's masterpieces 'Ecce Homo' in London's National Gallery.

### 7-9pm BBC Radio 2

#### At the foot of the Cross

Dan Walker hosts an evening of poetry and music on Good Friday

### 7.30pm BBC Radio 3

#### Music for Good Friday

Presented by Martin Handley, live from Watford Colosseum, the BBC Singers and BBC Concert Orchestra are joined by conductor Daniel Hyde, Director of Music at King's College Cambridge, for a special performance on Good Friday.

## Holy Saturday | Television

### 7pm BBC 2 | Easter from King's

Music and readings for Holy Week with the choristers of the Choir of King's College, Cambridge and the King's Singers, directed by Daniel Hyde.



## 1. YouTube Online Service

Join us from 10:30am Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April for our Circuit Easter Circuit. The service is led by various people around the circuit and the preacher is Revd Nathan Falla.

Find it on the 'Newark and Southwell Methodist Circuit' YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/NewarkSouthwellMethodistCircuit>) why not invite a friend to watch it with you and share the link with them on your social media or by email!

## 2. Circuit 'Zoom' Coffee Time

Join folk from across the circuit from 11:30am each Sunday morning - you provide the coffee - we'll provide the fellowship! Pop in for 5 minutes or half an hour - we'd love to see you!

If you'd like help to 'Zoom', please get in touch!

### Please join us afterwards

Come with a drink and a biscuit to share in conversation after the service.

[www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)  
Meeting ID: 885 3100 7185  
Password: Tog3ther

Phone: 0131 460 1196  
Meeting ID: 885 3100 7185  
Password: 48647472



## 3. Radio Services

### 6.35-7am BBC Radio 4 | Sunrise Service

An Easter morning celebration of Christ's resurrection, exploring the themes of transformation and restoring hope.

### 8.10-9am BBC Radio 4 | Easter Sunday Worship

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Easter Message with Easter Songs, hymns and anthems ringing in the joy of Easter, live from Canterbury Cathedral.

## 4. On TV

### 10-11am BBC One | Easter Day with the Archbishop of Canterbury

On this most longed-for day in the Christian year, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, shares his Easter message live from the stunning setting of Canterbury Cathedral.

The Rt Revd Dr Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, will read the Gospel and members of Canterbury Cathedral Choir will sing well-loved hymns for the season.

### 1.15pm BBC One | Songs of Praise

Katherine Jenkins celebrates Easter Sunday from Llandaff Cathedral

# Easter Sunday

## "I have seen the Lord"

Our Sunday Sermon | Reflections from John 20:1-18 | Revd Nathan Falla

If we had been there on that first Easter morning, would we have believed? If we had journeyed with Jesus for three years, would we have understood why he had to die? If we had been there with Jesus in the Upper Room, breaking bread and sharing wine, going with him to Gethsemane and then watching from a distance the events of Good Friday; the pain and suffering of the crucifixion, what would we have felt? The feeling of hopelessness? The thoughts of what am I going to do now? What were the past three years for?

We come this Easter with many emotions; we may feel isolated, scared, fearful, apprehensive, we may be missing being able to celebrate Easter as fully as we can. It may feel that Easter is on mute especially as we cannot gather to sing in church. But if it may feel that today our celebrations are muted, the message of Easter rings loud and clear! I would argue that the reality of Easter gets stronger especially at this time, as God breaks through and we can know his risen life and transforming power.

Throughout Lent we have been exploring *God's Story, Our Story* and you may remember that we began the series the Sunday before Lent by looking at this same reading. This reading that captures something of the amazement and the wonder of the Easter story, and the transformation that comes through the resurrection.

I have to admit that this is my favourite resurrection account; there is the mistaken identity, there is the power of a name and there is Mary Magdalene's declaration "*I have seen the Lord.*"

In all the resurrection accounts I am amazed that this miraculous news is put in such fragile hands. Culturally in New Testament times the evidence of women was considered inadmissible in a court of law, but women are the first witnesses and the disciples do believe them. Hannah Steele writes it beautifully in her conclusion "On that first Easter morning, God could have chosen to make the news of Jesus' miraculous resurrection known in any number of ways. He could have emblazoned a declaration across the sky so all could have seen it and not doubted its veracity. He could have had Jesus appear alive in the presence of the crowd who had bayed for his death. However, God chose the lips of ordinary women, whose hearts were broken with grief, now erupting with joy, to be the vessels through which he would pass on this life-changing news. God chose ordinary people, with personal stories of redemption and imperfect words, to tell the greatest news there has ever been." (p.160)

God continues to choose ordinary people to tell the story; the good news of love conquering hate, eternal life conquering death, and forgiveness conquering sin. So let us look at our reading a little bit closer.

### The power of a name

Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb early in the morning and discovers that

the stone has been rolled away. She runs to get Simon Peter and another disciple thinking that someone has taken the body of Jesus away.

Mary returns to the site and is clearly distressed; she is grieving the death of Jesus and is confused. Two angels appear where the body of Jesus was and they ask her why she is crying, and then another person asks “woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for.” Mary thinks that this person is the gardener, and then, the whole situation changes. Jesus says her name, and Mary replies Rabboni (meaning teacher). She knows that it is Jesus, that the unthinkable has happened, that Jesus is alive!

There is such power in a name, Mary’s life is changed beyond recognition, the reason for her grief and fear disappears in an instant and her life is transformed.

As we come this Easter, do we need to hear God, speaking our name? Stirring our hearts, and filling us with hope? Do we need to be reminded of the transforming power of God? God is concerned about us in all our heartache and brokenness, in our loneliness and isolation, in our pain and despair.

### **Have we seen the Lord?**

Understandably Mary wants to hold on to Jesus but Jesus sends her to the disciples and she then declares “I have seen the Lord!” Mary has seen with her eyes and touched with her hands Jesus, there is no doubt in her mind, she has seen the Lord.

Have we seen the Lord? Do we know that God is with us, do we know the joy of knowing Jesus, Jesus who is always with us, and who offers us new life and new hope each and every day.

May we know the presence of the risen Jesus in our joy, and in our suffering. God who comes to us.

*Into our longing  
as into the waiting of the disciples.  
Come, Risen Jesus.*

*Into our isolation  
as into the locked upper room  
Come, Risen Jesus.*

*Into our fear and doubts  
as into the questioning disciples.  
Come, Risen Jesus.*

*Into our despair, bringing hope,  
into our fears, bringing peace,  
into our sorrow, bringing joy,  
into death, bringing life,  
Come, Risen Jesus.*

## **An Easter Prayer**

Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection  
of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we being dead to sin  
and alive to you Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity. Amen.

## **An Easter Creed**

I believe in the God of Easter morning  
Who awakes us from our darkest dreams  
And leads us into the light of a new day,  
Who meets our pessimism  
With stunning hope  
Of angelic proclamation.

I believe in the God of Easter Day  
Who beats us to the obstacles in our lives  
And empties the dark tomb for us;  
Who appears in surprising ways  
When we least expect it;  
Walking with us  
On our detours.

I believe in the God of Easter evening  
Who breaks into our isolation,  
Bringing peace and crushing our fear.  
I believe in the risen Lord who meets us  
with wounds on his hands and feet;  
Who grants us his spirit,  
Sending us out  
To bring peace to the world. Amen.

Pastor Andreas Wagner

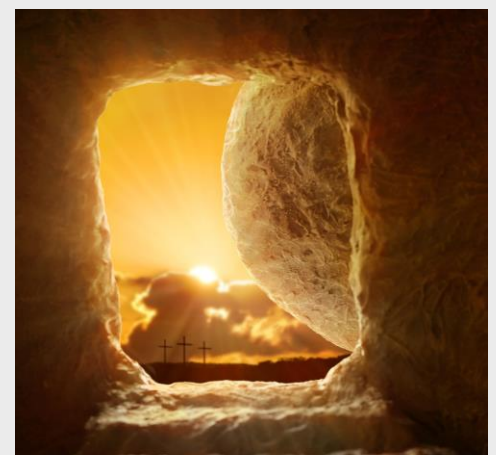
<http://modernliturgist.org/project/easter-creed/>

## **Dial a Sermon**

**01636 552255**

Listen to the circuit sermon  
each week.

Newark and Southwell  
Methodist Circuit  
helping you stay connected  
whilst we're apart.





## Hymns and worship songs for Easter

Songs chosen for inclusion in the YouTube service:

*He has risen* (StF 302, SOF 753)

*See what a morning* (StF 309, SOF 2020)

*All I once held dear* (StF 489, SOF 646)

*Thine be the glory* (StF 313, SOF 551, H&P 212)

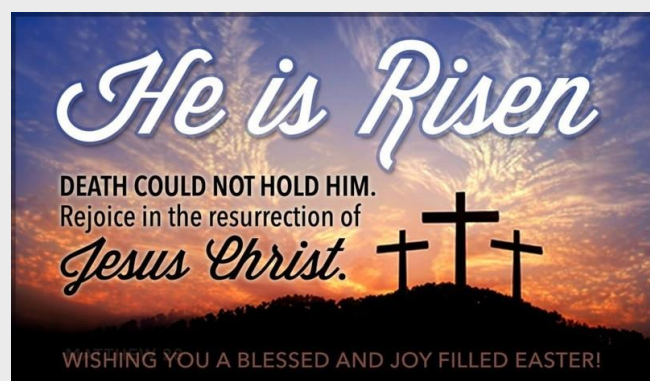
Please click on the song title to access YouTube clips of each song.

## Easter BIG Church Sing



Premiering on the Methodist Church YouTube Channel at 4pm on Easter Sunday is the Big Church Sing Easter Special.

Raise your voices along with incredible Christian artists like Graham Kendrick, Noel Robinson, Celtic Worship and the National Methodist Choir. All performing to support All We Can's work with people in some of the world's most vulnerable communities.



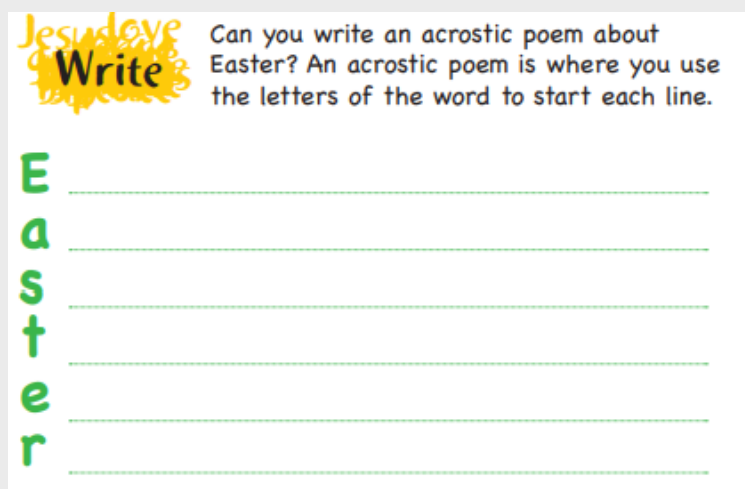
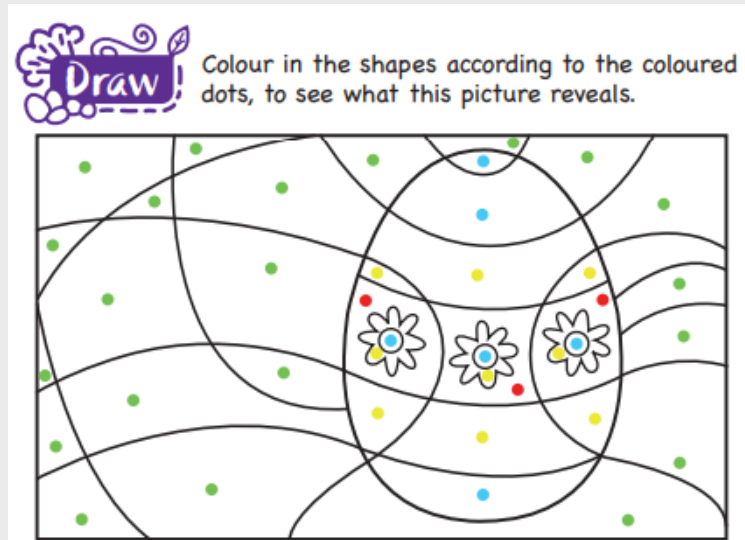
## Easter Blessings from the Ministers and Circuit Stewards

## FAMILY ACTIVITIES!

To supplement the Easter Day activity from last week:

“Decorate a banner that says “Alleluia – Christ is risen!” Put it in your window so that people can see it. Sing or listen to your favourite Easter song or hymn. Bake Resurrection Rolls (if you have the ingredients) to celebrate. And if you made a garden on Friday, remember to move the stone today.

Here are some activities:



Additional resources from © ROOTS for Churches Ltd

## Can you contribute to TOGETHER?

We're looking to produce this Newsletter as a Circuit and would like to widen the team as far as possible. Perhaps you could contribute a prayer, a short article, an encouraging piece. Maybe you would be willing to be part of the editorial team? Perhaps you'd like us to advertise something in your church.

If you would like to join the team or make a one-off contribution, please get in touch with Revd. Peter Hibberts by email ([peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk](mailto:peter.hibberts@methodist.org.uk)) or telephone (01636812166).

Contributions must be received by Monday of each week for Tuesday editorial and Wednesday distribution.