



ST MARY MAGDALENE,
GREAT HAMPDEN

FAMILY EUCHARIST
FOR
EASTER



5TH APRIL 2026
11.15AM

Welcome to St Mary Magdalene, Great Hampden for our Family celebration of Easter this morning. Today we celebrate the chief feast of the church's year: the victorious rising from the tomb of Jesus. This great event, the resurrection, demonstrates that God's love for us is stronger than death. In Christ the whole of creation finds its fulfilment, and we turn to God, no longer ashamed and afraid, but welcomed as his children and heirs, with his Son, of his kingdom

Our service this morning is designed to welcome us into God's love and allow him to be present to us. We go out enabled to live a full life in the knowledge that we are cared for and loved by God and one another. This church has stood here for many centuries, and the local community still gathers here to worship God and to demonstrate faith at work in our daily lives. This building provides a sacred space for prayer and meeting between God and his people. We welcome all who seek God and invite you to join our efforts to be a strong facilitator of good in our community. We seek to build the Kingdom of God in our souls, our lives and our community here in Great Hampden and beyond.

There is a toilet with disabled and baby changing facilities in the churchyard, on the path behind the church.



During the service a collection is taken to support the life of this church. If you don't already give regularly you can support us by contributing to the collection, or by using the contactless donation box opposite the door as you enter or leave

the church. To give regularly please take a **Parish Giving Scheme** leaflet from the rack, or sign up to the Parish Giving Scheme by scanning here to get started:



Private prayer of preparation

God Almighty, we praise your holy name in this joyful Eastertide. We thank you, Lord, because through your death and resurrection we have won the victory and your redeeming grace and love. Loving Father God, fill us with new life so that we may love one another and do what you want us to do in sharing your love with those who don't know you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Mothers Union

Opening Responses

Please stand

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Christ yesterday and today,

All: the beginning and the end,

Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages;

All: to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. Amen.

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever.

We light the Easter Candle.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

We carry the Easter Candle into church.

Processional Hymn

(NEH 110)

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Lyra Davidica 1708

Greeting and Welcome

The light of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The notices are given.



These boxes help everyone join in.

Today we are really happy because Jesus is risen. We say 'Alleluia' which means Praise God to show our joy

The Confession

The President says

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God. Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence. Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers.

Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.

Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power forgive you and heal you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

All: Amen



The Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Collect

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit

Jeremiah 31.1-6

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people.

Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit.

For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: 'Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.'

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

We listen to
bible stories



Gradual Hymn

Please stand
(MP 30)

**Alleluia, alleluia,
give thanks to the risen Lord;
alleluia, alleluia,
give praise to his name.**

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
He is the King of creation.

Refrain

Spread the good news o'er all the
earth,

Jesus has died and has risen.

Refrain

We have been crucified with Christ;
now we shall live for ever.

Refrain

God has proclaimed the just reward,
life for us all, alleluia.

Refrain

Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour:

**Alleluia, alleluia,
give thanks to the risen Lord;
alleluia, alleluia,
give praise to his name.**

Donald Fishel (b. 1950)

Acts 10:34-43

Peter said:

Now I am certain that God treats all people alike. God is pleased with everyone who worships him and does right, no matter what nation they come from. This is the same message that God gave to the people of Israel, when he sent Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, to offer peace to them.

You surely know what happened everywhere in Judea. It all began in Galilee after John had told everyone to be baptized. God gave the Holy Spirit and power to Jesus from Nazareth. He was with Jesus, as he went around doing good and healing everyone who was under the power of the devil. We all saw what Jesus did both in Israel and in the city of Jerusalem. Jesus was put to death on a cross. But three days later, God raised him to life and let him be seen. Not everyone saw him. He was seen only by us, who ate and drank with him after he was raised from death. We were the ones God chose to tell others about him.

God told us to announce clearly to the people that Jesus is the one he has chosen to judge the living and the dead. Every one of the prophets has said that all who have faith in Jesus will have their sins forgiven in his name.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading

Please stand

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

John 20.1-18

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

This bible story comes from the time when Jesus lived on earth



Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there and the cloth which had been around Jesus' head. It was not lying with

the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed. (They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.) Then the disciples went back home.

Mary stood crying outside the tomb. While she was still crying, she bent over and looked in the tomb and saw two angels there dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet. “Woman, why are you crying?” they asked her.

She answered, “They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!”

Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there; but she did not know that it was Jesus. “Woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who is it that you are looking for?”

She thought he was the gardener, so she said to him, “If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.”

Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

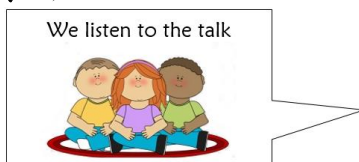
She turned toward him and said in Hebrew, “Rabboni!” (This means “Teacher.”)

“Do not hold on to me,” Jesus told her, “because I have not yet gone back up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am returning to him who is my Father and their Father, my God and their God.”

So Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and related to them what he had told her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.



The Sermon

The Reverend Kayleigh Lucas

Please sit

The Affirmation of Faith

Please stand

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

We say together what
the church believes

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The Intercessions

Please sit or kneel

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection, we pray to the Father.

All: Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter, we pray to the Father.

All: Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, we pray to the Father.

All: Hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter, we pray to the Father.

All: Hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world, we pray to the Father.

All: Hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them, we pray for *[names of the sick from the prayer list]*, we pray to the Father.

All: Hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day, we pray for *[names of the recently departed]* and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time *[names from prayer list]*, we pray to the Father.

All: Hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, we pray to the Father.

All: Hear our prayer.



Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand

Alleluia. Christ has been raised from the dead.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.



The Preparation of the Table

Those that wish can make a contactless donation using the contactless donation box opposite the door. You can also give from your phone by scanning the QR code:



Offertory Hymn

(Tune: Praise My Soul, REH 552)



Early, while the world was sleeping,
to the garden Mary came;
lost in lonely grief, still weeping
till in love you spoke her name.
Alleluia, alleluia
Nothing now can be the same.

See, the sunlight, slowly dawning
overwhelms the shades of night,
welcoming this glorious morning,
rising with the Light of Light.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Death and darkness put to flight.

Trusted as the first apostle,
Mary swiftly made her way;
bearing this, the Easter gospel
to a world in disarray.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Good news for the earth today.

Risen Jesus, come and greet us:
Speak our name, we are your own;
In your generous love you meet us:
in our lives that love is shown.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Resurrection life made known.

Ally Barrett

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest; make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

All: Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please stand

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ,
our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

10 Organ Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly_ Lord God of_

18 hosts, God of_ hosts. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na

27 in_ the high - est. Blessed is he, bless - ed is_ he who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na_ in_ the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.
 Lead us not into temptation
 but deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours
 now and for ever. Amen.

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

The Agnus Dei

8 Organ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the_ world, have

mer - cy_ on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the_ world, have mer - cy_ on

15 us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, grant us peace.



We all go to the altar receive communion or a blessing

The Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

All: Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Everyone in church is now asked to come forward to receive either communion or a blessing.

Private devotion before Communion

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us. So let us celebrate the feast, not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness: but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Christ once raised from the dead dies no more. Death has no more dominion over him. In dying he died to sin once for all: in living he lives to God. See yourselves therefore as dead to sin and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Christ has been raised from the dead: the first fruits of those who sleep. For as by man came death, by man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

After Communion

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

All: God of truth, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life: strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Final Hymn

Please stand
(REH 159)

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.

**Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.**

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

Refrain

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
Refrain.

Words: Edmond Budry (1854-1932)
trans. Richard Hoyle (1875-1939)

The Blessing

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

All: Amen.

God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

All: Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

All: Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

The Dismissal

Let us go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

All: Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Please remain standing and in your places
until the procession has left the church.

...don't forget
THE EASTER EGG HUNT!



HE IS NOT HERE,
FOR HE IS

Risen

HAPPY EASTER

Thank you for all those who helped make this a memorable Holy Week and Easter in both churches. Thank you to the SEARCH catering team for the reception on Holy Saturday. Thanks, too, to all the readers, servers and others who supported our worship. We had some amazing music in Prestwood and Great Hampden, and some stunning Easter Flowers. Thank you and Happy Easter.

GREAT HAMPDEN AND HOLY TRINITY NOTICES

Appointment of Rector to the Benefice of Prestwood, Great Kingshill and Great Hampden

Following interviews held on Monday, 16th March 2026, we are pleased to announce that the Bishop of Buckingham, the Right Rev'd Dave Bull, has offered Rev'd Michelle Fotherby the position of Rector of the Benefice. Michelle has accepted the offer. Michelle currently serves as Assistant Curate at St Mary's Amersham with All Saints', Coleshill. At present, we are unable to say when Michelle will be moving to the Benefice. However, we will keep you updated as plans develop and details are finalised.

Michelle has shared a message with us which is available to read on our website Notices. Please keep Michelle and her two boys in your prayers as they prepare to move to our churches.

Lent Appeal 2026 – Update

We are currently at 94% of our target of £3,500. This year's Lent Appeal will close on 12th April. Thank you to all of you who have donated so far.

This Lent, we aim to raise awareness and support two focused, achievable targets at a local and international level. As of last week we are currently at 20% of our target.

Bucks Mind and Siyabulela Pre-school, South Africa

More information on both charities and how to donate can be found in our Lent Appeal booklet and at <https://www.htprestwood.org.uk/lentappeal2026>.

Farewell to the Reverend Nigel Spoor

As you are aware, Nigel is retiring from our Benefice. His last service in both churches will be on Sunday 19th April. You are all invited to a social evening at Holy Trinity, Prestwood on **Friday 17th April from 7.00 to 9.00 pm**, so we can say goodbye to Nigel and Irene. Nigel has requested that we do not have a collection, but we shall have a card for you all to sign. There will be a sign-up sheet nearer the time, to help us with catering.

Streets in Prayer

- 5th Missenden Road, Great Kingshill, The Homestead, Cherry Tree Farm
- 6th Stag Ln, Robin Close, Lowlands Crescent, The Common, Common Rd
- 7th Fair Fields, Fernside, Heath End Road, Hill Side
- 8th Birchwood Chase, Hatches Lane, New Road
- 9th Homelands Gardens, Pipers Lane, Limmers Mead, Timpson Court
- 10th Honor End Lane, Honorwood Close, Hangings Lane, Kiln Lodge
- 11th Greenlands Lane, Hotley Bottom Lane, Over Hampden, Potters Close
- 12th Kiln Road, Beech Lane, Mandeville Road

The Weekly Herald

Sunday 5th April – Easter Sunday

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF PRESTWOOD & GREAT HAMPDEN

Prayer for the week

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 in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

Worship and Events at Prestwood and Great Hampden

8.00am BCP Holy Communion (HTP)

9.30am Family Festival Eucharist (HTP)

11.15am Family Festival Communion (GH)

Monday 6 8.00am There is no Morning Prayer today

Easter Monday

Tuesday 7 8.00am There is no Morning Prayer today

10.00am The Wool Gatherers (Annexe)

Wednesday 8 8.00am There is no Morning Prayer today

Thursday 9 8.00am There is no Morning Prayer today

Friday 10 8.00am There is no Morning Prayer today

Saturday 11

Sunday 12 8.00am BCP Holy Communion (HTP)

9.30am Parish Eucharist (HTP)

11.15am Morning Prayer and The Holy Baptism of Seraphina Rose Kennedy (GH)

Readings for next Sunday

1 Peter 1.3-9

Acts 2.14a, 22-32

John 20.19-end

Rector-Designate The Reverend Michelle Fotherby
More details to follow

Associate Priest The Reverend Nigel Spoor MA
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HTP Office Parish Administrator
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