

EASTER EDITION 2026

OUTLOOK

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Parish Magazine of St Andrew's Church
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Our Vicar writes...

Welcome to our 'new' St Andrew's Outlook. It is quite amazing to think that our very first Church Magazine was produced back in 1923, as the 'Did you know?' article on page 7 outlines. We do hope you find the new layout helpful with an added focus on telling our story.

Easter needs little introduction we might think, but recent surveys show a huge decline in the understanding of these events, with only 55% of people associating Easter with Jesus Christ, whilst 76% associate it with chocolate eggs and the easter bunny. In this Easter edition of Outlook we hope to give you the facts and impact, then and now, of this most extraordinary event called Easter.

Our desire to share the good news of Jesus is central to the life of our church, so an introduction to our Annual May Festival seems most appropriate. More details will arrive through your doors soon, but our theme for 2026 is 'Drawn to Jesus?'

We have some wonderful events planned, with a few highlighted below with the ticket link, so you can make sure you don't miss out.

- **Saturday 2nd May, 7pm** - We are so excited to announce 'An Evening with Julian & Jiaxin Lloyd-Webber' – the internationally renowned Cellists at St Andrew's. Tickets £25 (under-18s £10).
- **Saturday 9th May, 9-11am** - Our Festival Breakfast at St Andrew's, with professional footballer Omar Beckles, formerly of Leyton Orient and now Gillingham, and Graham Daniels, Director of Christians in Sport, speaking about football, faith and life. Tickets £7.50 (under-18s free).
- **Saturday 9th May, 7pm** - Our Festival Concert 'New Awakenings' with the Cantus Firmus Choir, conductor Richard Hubbard, and guest artist Nastasha Petrovic - violin. Tickets £13 (under-18s £5).
- **Saturday 16th May, 7pm** - Our Festival Dinner at St Andrew's Church. Fine food, music and after dinner speaker Graham Daniels. Tickets £10.

For booking, see the church website or go to:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/may-festival-2026

Rev Alan



Rev. Alan Comfort
 Vicar, St Andrew's
 Rushmere

'Get your Lloyd-Webber tickets quickly to avoid disappointment!'



The truth and relevance of Easter



How relevant is Easter to us today? Some years after Jesus had been executed on a wooden cross on the order of the Roman governor, a follower of Jesus called Paul wrote a letter to the Christian community he had helped to establish in the Roman colony of Corinth in what is now Greece. Paul sought to explain to the church members that the events of Easter – the death of Jesus on what we now call Good Friday and his rising to life on Easter Sunday – were absolutely relevant to them.

The Corinthians appear to have asked why a public execution in another part of the Roman Empire should concern them. Paul responded:

‘For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God’

1 Corinthians 1:18 ESV

The cross might be seen as “folly” or irrelevant for some. However, the cross is

described as the means by which everyone can draw near to God if they accept in faith that in dying for us, Jesus paid the penalty for our wrong-doing. Whatever things we have done in our lives, Jesus' death on the cross removes our guilt completely.



The cross is not just about the death of a single man, it opens a way for us to have a relationship with God: it brings salvation.

The Easter message does not stop at the cross. On the third day Jesus' followers find that the tomb where his dead body had been laid was empty and they go on to encounter him in his risen state:

'And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain'

1 Corinthians 15:14 ESV

The resurrection – the coming to life again – of Jesus is the promise that we can share in God's kingdom; it offers certain hope that there is life beyond the grave for each one of us if we have placed our trust in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

Easter is a time for us to be assured that through Jesus' death we can receive forgiveness and a fresh start as we follow our risen Lord. As Paul wrote in a letter from Corinth:

'if you ... believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.'

Romans 10:9 ESV

Our faith is not in vain as Jesus has been raised from the dead.

David Gill
(part of St Andrew's Ministry Team)

Mission Breakfast

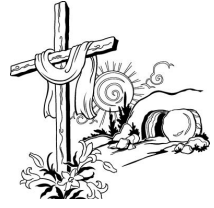
Come and enjoy breakfast, followed by a short talk about a charity we support. If you wish, stay for prayers.

- 28th March Ipswich Samaritans**
- 25th April Christian Aid**
- 23rd May Mission Breakfast**
- 27th June Family First**
- 25th July Children's Society**



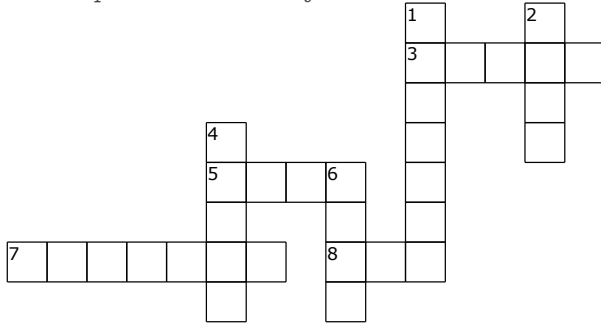
St Andrew's Church Hall
8.30 - 10am
... all welcome ...

An Easter Surprise



The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”

Matthew 28:5-6



ACROSS

- 3. “He is not here, he has _____.”
- 5. A place where someone, especially an important person, is buried.
- 7. The first or early part of a day.
- 8. A period of twenty-four hours.

DOWN

- 1. To kill someone by tying or nailing them to a cross.
- 2. A period of seven days.
- 4. A hard solid substance found in the ground which is often used for building.
- 6. The whole physical structure that forms a person.



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Did you know?

St Andrew's church magazine started in 1923 and cost 2d a month to subscribers. Early editions consisted of just one page and during the later war years had to be limited due to paper shortages.

After twenty-five years, the price increased to 3d a month and included an insert "Home Words", a booklet produced by the Church of England.

In January 1959, Revd. Fraser introduced the first edition of Outlook. The name was chosen to reflect the missionary work of the church and was the same title used by the CMS (Church Missionary Society) for their magazine. The new publication cost 6d (2.5p) a month to subscribers.

In more recent years it has been delivered to all homes in the parish, free of charge and has been in continuous existence, apart from a short period during COVID.

Mothering Sunday 15th March

8.00am Early Communion
9.15am Sunday Praise
10.30am Parade Service
with Uniformed
Organisations



Summer Fun Day

Saturday
11th July 2026
10.30am - 4pm
At St Andrew's
See website
for details
FUN FOR ALL



St Andrew's Gold Eco Church

Last year St Andrew's Church were proud to be presented with the A Rocha Gold Award, for demonstrating our commitment to caring for the environment.

To gain this award we had to show our care for our churchyard and to develop areas to encourage wildlife. We have a wildlife trail leaflet available in church and we would like to encourage visitors to come and collect a leaflet, together with a survey form and help us to record sightings of flowers, grasses, insects and bird life. If you could complete the audit and leave it for us to add to our records, we would be very grateful.

In our church hall garden, we have a herb box, planted, last year, with various herbs, including mint, rosemary and thyme, which should be ready for cutting soon. We like to encourage sourcing of



local vegetables and fruit, when grown in season, and one of the ways you can help to decrease your carbon footprint is by buying local produce. Growing Places in Claydon offers a vegetable box scheme, delivered to your home, and supports disadvantaged and disabled people by providing employment. Ordering and payment can be made online and it's a lovely surprise to see what your veg. box contains.

Ruth Silburn
(Churchwarden)

The Easter message – what difference does it make?

It was Aristotle who once said; “The purpose of knowledge is action, not knowledge.”

I want to start here because the great truths that underpin the Christian message are, I believe, historically credible, yet the question for many is, for what purpose? I had heard little about

““”

‘but I was someone who didn’t really understand why the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus should make any difference to me?’

Jesus as I was growing up, not that I would have claimed to be an unbeliever, but I was someone who didn’t really understand why the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus should make any difference to me? I could see that going to church was a good thing for some, but not for me.

Then I met someone who was a Christian, another football player, and his life seemed so different. He believed in Jesus, and what he believed changed

the way he talked, acted, played football, hoped for the future, and saw himself.

It made such a difference. I could see through him that knowing Jesus could help you to be the person you wished you could be. This was something I did need. I had lived a fairly sheltered life as part of a good family, but my ability to do the wrong thing was becoming a terrible habit throughout my teens. From taking something that wasn’t mine, to getting sent home from an England Youth tour in Norway, I had let down and hurt the people who cared about me most.

When I heard that Jesus died on that cross on Good Friday, to pay the price for my sin, I knew I needed Jesus’ forgiveness and help to change. Isn’t this what the Easter Story is all about?

When Jesus rose up from the grave He defeated the power of sin and death that we might overcome it too. That we might, through His strength in us, be able to do better as forgiven and changed people. It was for this purpose that Jesus came. Why not ask Him to help you also.

**Rev. Alan
(Vicar)**

Heavenly Father, forgive me for the times I have not noticed you, but thank you for never giving up on me. Today, I want to say sorry for my failings, and thank you Jesus for dying on the cross that I might be forgiven. Help me, by your presence in me, to be changed for your glory. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.



The Final Nail – the impact of Jesus

You won't know my name.
You will know my handiwork.
I was good at what I used to do.
Seemed a good opportunity
when the Romans came knocking.
Good money for forging nails, I thought.
The stream of crucifixions never seemed
to stop,
until that last day, that last nail.

Three to do today they said.
The first two made life difficult
Writhing around as they generally do.
You have to be precise, with one blow in
the right spot,
Otherwise it gets messy and the soldiers
moan.

I had heard about the third one,
One of ours, a miracle worker and teacher.
They said Pilate didn't want to crucify him.
When I came to him he was still,
submissive.

Almost as if he welcomed what I had to do.
Easy. That's it, job done for today.
Lift him up.
I watched as they taunted him,
cast lots for his clothes.
'Father forgive them,' he said,
'For they know not what they do.'
But then they gave me a notice which read:

'Jesus King of the Jews.'
'Here, nail this above his head,'
they said, 'Pilate's orders.'
As I did so I looked into his face.
I saw love deep and endless.
Even for me.
And I saw forgiveness.
In that moment my life changed for ever.

Chris Yule
(St Andrew's Ministry Team)



“”

'As I did so I looked into his face.
I saw love deep and endless.
Even for me.'

1st Sunday United Services

3rd May - St John's URC, Spring Rd

7th June - St Mary's, Church Ln, Martlesham

5th July - Salvation Army, Woodbridge Rd

2nd August - All Saints, Little Bealings

Service starts at **6.30pm**, followed by refreshments, fellowship and an opportunity to meet Christians from different denominations.



Music at Rushmere Spring Concerts 3-4 pm



- 1st March:** Ipswich Hospital Community Choir
- 8th March:** Farlingaye High School String Ensemble & St Margaret's Primary School Choir
- 15th March:** New Suffolk Brass
- 22nd March:** Octave (Vocal Group)
- 29th March:** St Peter's Band

*St Andrew's Church, Rushmere, free admission
See church website for details*

St Andrew's Mothers' Union

The Mothers' Union (MU) group at St Andrew's restarted 10 years ago and is now a thriving active group which meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 2.30 in the Church Hall.

We always start our meetings with a short service to keep us rooted firmly as part of the life of our church. Recently we had an amazing afternoon learning about life in the church in Kagera Tanzania and had the great joy of welcoming the Bishop of Kagera to our meeting.

In March we had a very different talk: 'A Royal Year' with Ken Stone, who was a very engaging speaker. We also have a 'Knit and Natter' group on the 1st Wednesday of every month and a 'chair-based' exercise group on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. All these activities welcome visitors so, feel free to come and visit us.

Any queries to tylertricia@gmail.com or 07951 817543.



**St Andrew's
Church Hall
Saturdays
10am - 12noon
18th April
15th August**

How can I respond?

The Easter message is one of resurrection and new life, of hope and light – themes that are reflected in the world around us at this time of year as we see signs of life springing up all around us in fields, hedgerows and gardens. As the hours of light lengthen day by day, we look forward in hope to lighter and warmer evenings, together with the many opportunities they bring for spending more time outside in creation.

As you enjoy this beautiful season of Spring, you might like to:

- Spend some time outside, watching how the environment around you is coming back to life.
- Give thanks for the wonder of God's creation.
- Plant a few bulbs or flower seeds in a pot; watch them as they emerge from the darkness of the soil, as they grow and eventually burst into life as they bloom.
- Light a candle and reflect on the light it brings; give thanks for life, light and hope.

Rev. Marion
(Associate Minister)



Say the following prayer:

Creator God,
we thank you for the beauty
and diversity of the earth;
in this season of resurrection
and new life,
we pray that you will bring
light and hope
into dark places and situations
and transform our lives, our
community and our world.
In Jesus' name.

Amen.



Crossword Answers:

MORNING
DAY

BODY
CRUCIFY

RISEN
TOMB

STONE
WEEK

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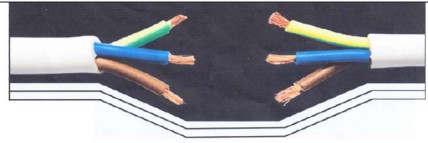
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