

St Peter's Church

Burwood Road, Hershams

Easter 2006

Easter Day

When I was a child my parents took me and my brother, Mark, on holiday to Minehead. We arrived a few days before Easter Sunday and, not being able to afford a hotel, were doing 'dinner, bed and breakfast'. We found the house, not too far from the beach, and I remember it being a bitterly cold day as we unloaded the car. On Good Friday it snowed, and our landlady took pity on us, suggesting we came back in the afternoon rather than staying out until it was time for dinner - you weren't expected to come back during the day.

I vaguely recall us risking a walk along the seafront in the morning, but we soon retreated to the high street where there were warm shops to shelter in. We went to church in the afternoon (another way of keeping warm), but it wasn't exactly cosy, seemingly dull and dark.

I don't remember anything much about the Saturday at all. I guess we got through it. I do recall a series of amazing puddings at dinner time, especially an enormous lemon meringue pie, but I was a boy of about 10, so you'd expect that, wouldn't you?

Though my parents didn't go to church very regularly at that time, on Sunday morning we went to church again, an old building in a small village called Luccombe. The inside was bathed in light. Its' windows were mostly clear glass and, since the sun had come out, it felt a million miles from the experience of the town centre church on Good Friday.

As we left, the vicar handed out small chocolate eggs, and I felt properly warm for the first time - standing in the churchyard surrounded by daffodils and gravestones.



I think this holiday was my first conscious memory of going to church, and forty years on it is still a most powerful reminder of Easter. When I see God's loving grace helping people to recover and to thrive again, I am reminded of the warm sunlight that thawed us all out that day.

Revd Nick Whitehead

KeyClub goes Ape!

St Peter's church has a thriving Sunday School for children aged 4 - 13. Those aged 10 -13 form the group known as KeyClub (AKA the KeyClubbers!). Each September we like to organise a special event when we usually have a few new members joining from the younger Keystones group. These events are a great way of getting to know one another, trying new things, finding new talents in ourselves and, of course, having fun.

Our most recent event was a trip to "Go Ape!" in Bracknell. For the uninitiated, this has nothing to do with furry animals! To quote the company, "Go Ape! is a high wire forest adventure course of rope bridges, Tarzan swings and zip slides up to almost 35 feet above the forest floor..." Fortunately the chosen day was dry and pleasant - ideal in fact for swinging through a forest. I confess I stayed on terra firma , as

official photographer, you understand (!) but here are a few quotes from the KeyClubbers:



"I enjoyed swinging into the net even though it was scary !"; "I really enjoyed Go Ape! It was an adventure and a challenge. Everyone who went had a good time"; "The whole thing was scary but fun."

It was great to see the team spirit (and no doubt Holy Spirit) at work as the less confident were encouraged by the more confident, to witness the determination to complete the challenges, and to share in the sense of achievement of all those who took part. The photographic evidence of this memorable afternoon can be viewed on the Church's website:

www.stpetershersham.com

"Growing Christians to worship God and serve his world"

Elmbridge Credit Union

What is a Credit Union? It's a bank where you can save small or large amounts of money. If you meet the conditions, you can also borrow. It's properly managed and has to operate by rules laid down by the Government.

Do you want your own bank account? Putting money, however little, into a savings account, helps you to take control of your finances. If you can save regularly, it soon adds up. You can use it to save for something special like birthday or Christmas, or for those necessary purchases that come around far too often, like replacing children's shoes or having the TV repaired. Money left around the house soon disappears. It's better off in a bank.

Do you want to own your own bank? The Credit Union is wholly-owned by its members. Each year the members vote in the people who run the Credit Union and decide on what policies the Credit Union will adopt. You, the members, decide. It is your voice that is heard so you can make a difference.

Do you want free banking? You get it, but it doesn't mean that the Credit Union will short change you! Banking is free because the cost of running the bank is kept low. Many of the people helping to run the Credit Union are local volunteers. There are no paid staff. There are no fancy High Street branches! There is no posh Head Office and there are no free lunches!

Do you want your bank to be located near to you? The Elmbridge Credit Union has several collection points and there is now one near you. The Hershams point is in the Day Centre and is open every Monday from 09:30 to 10:30. Come along for a chat and see how easy it is to begin to put your financial affairs in order. Alternatively, call 01932 867232 or 01932 231754 for further information.

Easter Services



Maundy Thursday 13th April	Holy Communion	8.00pm
Good Friday 14th April	All Age Worship with Procession of Witness	10.00am
	Good Friday Meditation	2.00pm
Easter Eve 15th April	Easter Vigil	8.00pm
Easter Sunday 16th April	Communion in the churchyard	7.00am
	Holy Communion	8.00am
	Easter Day All Age Communion	10.00am
	Evening Prayer	6.30pm

*Lord, I want to be there with you
and for you
But I want to hide as well.
Your intensity draws me and
frightens me.
Your challenge calls me and daunts
me.
I look on your face and see life in all
its fullness:
Holiness and horror too.
You look on my face and see ...
The self I sought to hide.
Help me to be more truly the me
That you mean me to be:*

*Spring bursts today,
For Christ is risen and all the earth's
at play.
Sing, creatures, sing,
Angels and men and birds, and
everything.*

Christina Rossetti

The Parish Office is open on weekday mornings from 9.30am - 11.30am
to receive general enquiries including baptisms, weddings and funerals.

The Parish Office, 1 Burwood Road, Hershams, Walton On Thames, Surrey KT12 4AA
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For Church Hall Bookings only: 01932 227152

St. Peter's is a Church of England parish in the Guildford Diocese