

Benefice of Heyford with Stowe-Nine-Churches
and Flore with Brockhall

Our Mission Statement

SERVICES SCHEDULE AND NEWSLETTER APRIL 2025



Rector: Revd Stephen Burrow 01327 344436

Sunday 6th April – Lent 5 - Purple

10:00am	Holy Communion	Church Stowe
11:00am	United First Sunday Service	Flore Church
6:00pm	Evening Prayer	Heyford Church

Sunday 13th April – Palm Sunday - Red

10:00am	United/Benefice Service with Holy Communion	Flore Church
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Services in Holy Week

Monday 14 th	7:30pm - Holy Communion	Upper Stowe
Tuesday 15 th	7:30pm - Night Prayer	Brockhall
Wednesday 16 th	7:30pm - Night Prayer	Church Stowe
Thursday 17 th	7:30pm - Maundy Thursday Supper (see over)	Flore Church
Friday 18 th	2:30pm - Good Friday Walk of Witness	Heyford Church
	4:00pm - United Service for Good Friday	Heyford Baptist Church
	7:00pm - United Service for Good Friday	Flore Chapel
Saturday 19 th	7:30pm - Holy Saturday – A Service of Waiting and Hoping	Heyford Church

Sunday 20th April – Easter Sunday - White

9:00am	Holy Communion for Easter	Church Stowe
10:00am	Holy Communion for Easter (by Extn)	Heyford Church
10:00am	United Service of Holy Communion for Easter	Flore Church
11:15am	Holy Communion for Easter	Brockhall

Sunday 27th April – Easter 1 - White

10:00am	Holy Communion (by Extn)	Flore Church
10:00am	Morning Worship	Flore Chapel
10:00am	Family Service	Upper Stowe
4:00pm	Café Church	Heyford Church

Midweek Services

Thursdays

10.00am	Holy Communion (not 17 th or 24 th)	Flore Church
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There is no private prayer at Flore Church during April due to other events taking place in the church

Fridays

9.00am	Morning Prayer via Zoom	All Welcome
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Contact the Rector by email: s_p_burrow@yahoo.co.uk to get an invitation that will enable you to connect.

A Letter from the Rector

The Baker Ross Easter catalogue arrived recently. This is the catalogue I use when looking for craft activities for Messy Church. The Easter edition begins with several pages of Easter bunnies, lambs, chicks and eggs (if you're wondering, the eggs come first!). Then there are a couple of pages with more religious-themed activities, before – you've guessed it! – more bunnies, lambs, eggs and chicks. We particularly associate Easter with lambs because we celebrate it around the time of year when lambs are being born. Like eggs and chicks, the lambs are a symbol of new life. Such symbols help us to understand that the Good News of Easter is that Jesus came back from the dead, and he invites us to share in his new life.

I know from listening to friends in Upper Stowe that lambing time is hard work, involving long hours, heightened emotions, and sometimes the loss of newborn lambs, despite the best efforts of the shepherds. A reminder that the Easter lamb is an image of vulnerability, suffering, and sacrifice as well as the joy and promise of new life. A reminder too of the need for hope, and the insistence that things can change for the better. Every day, we're reminded of the many challenges we face in the world today – war, unrest, injustice, poverty, climate change, natural disaster, the list goes on. So many problems with complex and difficult solutions. We need voices of hope and change to upset the way things are and draw us towards the new life of peace, love and justice that God wills for all his creation.

Perhaps the bunnies, lambs and chicks make Easter feel fluffy and cute and safe, but we should not forget that the Gospel writers are describing dramatic and upsetting events. The crucifixion leaves Jesus' followers in disarray. The leader they have deserted and denied has been brutally killed, and they haven't been able to bury his body properly. Now, after the despair of Good Friday and the anguish of Holy Saturday, it seems as though Jesus' body has been taken. Then suddenly, there are angels and Jesus himself, looking like the gardener. Can he be alive? It is all so confusing and hard to understand, as the Gospels relate.

So, in travelling through the Easter Story, we move from the suffering and death of Good Friday, through the emptiness of Saturday, to the bursting out of new life on Easter Sunday. Mary and the women kept watch, as shepherds watch over their newborn lambs, and witnessed these amazing events. The news she then brought to Peter and the disciples transformed their worlds.

Where do we find the transforming Spirit of God in our world today? Like Mary, we need to watch and wait, alert to the signs of God at work in our communities and beyond. Easter is a time to celebrate new, resurrection life, and to look out for signs of it in our everyday lives.

With prayers and blessings for the Easter Season,

Rev'd Stephen

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Praying for our Villages

The Streets we shall be praying for during April are: Bugbrooke Rd and Wakefield Way in Heyford, Bliss Lane and the Nursery, Meadow Farm Close and Brington Rd, the businesses and outlying farms in Flore, Main Street and the School Rooms in Church Stowe and Manor Farm, The Old Coach House and Manor Cottage in Brockhall

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If you'd like to join us for the **Maundy Thursday Supper**, please book your place with Mrs. Sue Raven on 01327 340183 or sueraven26@gmail.com by Saturday 12th April at the latest. A donation of food or money for the foodbank will be gratefully received at this event. Thank you.