



Hello All.

Well, Spring is here in earnest now! And hopefully you will have had chance to read this before the Easter weekend: the most important event in the Christian calendar when we focus on that pivotal moment in world history, the death and resurrection of Jesus. Our celebrations this year will be similar to recent years but I am pleased to say that we have managed, once again, to hold an Easter Sunday Service in each of the 7 parishes this year (but due to people moving on (not me) this might be the last time for a while): all are welcome to this important celebration and it is a great way of showing support for your Local Parish church. (Easter Sunday attendance is always counted by the powers that be!)

Before that though we will have a Benefice Maundy Thursday service which is seeing a change of tradition this year, from a High Church with smells and bells to an Agape Meal reflecting the events of the Last Supper. We have our usual Good Friday walk of Witness, this year between Sigglesthorne and Riston starting at 9:15 at Sigglesthorne.

The Easter Bonfire is back this year at Rise! Traditional Cathedral Easter celebrations start before dawn when people gather in the dark and hear the Stories of the old Testament, then as the Sun rises they gather around a bonfire which is (symbolically) lit by the rays of the rising Sun. The Easter (Paschal) Candle is lit from this fire and taken into the cathedral where Communion is celebrated and traditionally baptisms take place. This remembers those first witnesses to the resurrection, the women, who went at dawn on that first Easter Morning to anoint Jesus' body, but found instead an empty tomb and encountered the risen Jesus.

This year, we will gather around the fire outside All Saint's at 8.30 am, (Bacon butties served from 8:15!) we will hear some of readings from the Bible, before lighting our Paschal Candles and then process the lit Candle into church to start our service at 8:45am. I hope to see some of you there! If this is too early for you perhaps I will be able to wish you a Happy Easter at one of our later services that morning, or at Easter Beer and Hymns, which will be in the Blue Bell, Old Ellerby on Easter Sunday at 8:30pm.

If not, may I now wish you a happy Easter! Alleluia, He is Risen!

Another way of supporting your Parish Church is to attend your Church's Annual Meeting or indeed joining the electoral roll of your church. All of our annual meetings are taking place during April so keep an eye out for them in this issue and exercise your right as a resident to vote in the Church Warden Election!

Yours in Christ,  
Rev Andy Simpson