

## WHO WE ARE

Welcome in the name of Jesus to the Church of England parish of Kirkdale, Liverpool, comprising St. Lawrence church and St. Paul's church.

Everyone is welcome to attend our church services, please introduce yourself to the ushers on the door:

Our regular services are at **St. Lawrence at 10.30 am on Sunday mornings** and at **St. Paul's at 6 pm on Sunday evenings**.

Our churches are available for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

Our church halls are available to hire for Birthdays, Anniversaries, Community events and Corporate events, and can be booked online at [kirkdale.org.uk/venues](http://kirkdale.org.uk/venues)

## Contact us

**St. Lawrence, Westminster Close, Liverpool L4 1XB**

**St. Paul's, 35 Celia Street, Liverpool L20 2BG**

Phone: 0151 523 6968

Email: [admin@kirkdale.org.uk](mailto:admin@kirkdale.org.uk)

Web: [www.stlawrencewithstpaul.co.uk](http://www.stlawrencewithstpaul.co.uk)

## ST. LAWRENCE & ST. PAUL KIRKDALE

### Easter Magazine 2024



MAUNDY THURSDAY  
28 MAR 2024, 7:30 P.M. ST. PAUL'S

GOOD FRIDAY  
29 MAR 2024, 2 P.M. ST. LAWRENCE

RESURECTION DAY  
31 MAR 2024, 10:30 A.M. ST. LAWRENCE  
6 P.M. ST. PAUL'S

Vicar, Rev Mike Griffin  
Associate Priest, Rev Gill Hoy  
Parish Evangelist, Sister Marjorie Griffin

# PALM CROSS

You can use your Palm Cross to pray at home using the prayer suggestion below. (If you don't have a palm cross, you can make a cross together from thin card instead.)

1. Each point of the cross links to a theme. Hold the cross in your right hand and then place your left thumb on the left 'crosspiece'. **Pray for the world**, in these or similar words: *Loving God, thank you that your peace reaches into every situation across our world. Be close to those places that need peace this day. Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer*
2. Place your left thumb on the right of the 'crosspiece' and **pray for people in need** in these or similar words: *Loving God, thank you that your hope reaches into every situation. Be close to those who are ill or sad this day. Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer*
3. Place your left thumb on the base of the 'crosspiece': **Pray for the community where you live** in using these or similar words: *Loving God, thank you that your joy reaches into our homes. Help us to know that you are with us every day. Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer.*
4. Place your thumb on top of the 'crosspiece': **Pray for those who lead in the church and teach us about Jesus:** *Loving God, thank you that your love is shared through your church. Give wisdom to those who help us to know the Good News of Jesus. Lord in your mercy – Hear our prayer*
5. Place your thumb in centre of the 'crosspiece': **Pray for yourself**, in these or similar words: *Loving God, thank you for Jesus and the love he showed for me. Help me to follow him more and more each day. Amen.*

Article taken from [www.churchofenglandchristenings.org](http://www.churchofenglandchristenings.org) with permission

# BISHOP JOHN

**“He is risen.” “He is risen, Indeed.”**

This is how Christians in the early church greeted one another as they came together for worship on Sunday mornings. For them every Sunday was Easter. The church accepted the Resurrection as the foundation of its faith. Every worship is an occasion to proclaim that the Risen Lord is present in our midst.

The experience of Resurrection was much different from the crucifixion. Crucifixion was a public event. It was witnessed by both believers and non-believers alike. Even the sceptics were able to 'see' it. But the Resurrection was known and experienced only by the believers. Thus Resurrection belongs to an altogether different category. God's ultimate victory over death can only be discerned by faith.

To argue that all reality should be scientifically proven is to ignore much of our day-to-day experiences which are meaningful, true and important to us. We know that the precious experiences of life and emotions such as love do not always lend themselves to such 'scientific' verification. The Resurrection is an experience of truth that can be known only by faith. Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Resurrection is the victory of the Cross. For the religious and political leaders of Jesus' time, Jesus' tomb was a symbol of the defeat of Jesus' movement. It was victory for the religious and political powers of oppression. But the final victory was not theirs! He is risen. Jesus' Resurrection is a symbol of victory over injustice and oppression by both political and religious authorities. The Resurrection assures us today that the powers of death and oppression can not claim supremacy in this world of God.

Resurrection brings power and authority. Jesus shared this authority and power with his whole church. This is not the oppressive authority like what was operative in Jesus' crucifixion, but a liberating authority which transforms dehumanised people into human beings. It is the power to fight and overcome the evil. The disciples, who had locked the doors of their house for the fear of the Jews (Jn. 20:19), have now become courageous enough to stand outside in the public and declare their faith (Acts 2:14 ff.). God's message to us in the Resurrection is 'do not be afraid'.

For believers in Christ, Resurrection is not exclusively an experience after death. It happens every day. In love we experience many deaths and many resurrections. To Paul the Apostle, the proof of Resurrection is in the quality of the change that it brings about in our relationships. With the Resurrection, Christ brings a new humanity, a new creation. Paul is very specific in Col. 3:1 : "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above". What are these 'things above'? Look at verse 13: "As God's chosen people clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience". "Bear with one another and forgive whatever grievances may you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you".

All these are about daily relationships in the family, community and in the wider society. It is in the daily transactions that we need to experience the ultimate victory of Christ over us and over the world. The summary of all the virtues is again given by Paul: "Over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity". Is this our experience? Looking at the life of our congregation can someone say truly, "Christ is Risen"?

The Resurrection happens every day. In love we can experience many deaths and many resurrections.

# APCM

## **The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)**

The Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the APCM will be held at St Lawrence Church on Tuesday 30th April 2024 at 7.30pm. These are important meetings within the life of the church and are open to everyone in the parish.

Our new Church Wardens will be elected during the short Annual Meeting of Parishioners.

This will be followed by the APCM which serves as a forum for reporting on various matters related to the church community. The financial state of the parish is discussed, updates on parish activities and initiatives are shared and changes to the electoral roll are reported

PCC Laity representatives and independent examiners will also be elected.

It is important that the right people are chosen for all these important posts within our church (more so as we will soon be going into a period of interregnum), so please pray for wisdom and guidance throughout this meeting that all of our thoughts and actions will reflect God's Holy will as we seek to serve Him in this parish.

Remember, the APCM is an opportunity for parishioners to engage, participate, and contribute to the life of the church community, so please come along and have your say!

# REV MIKE GRIFFIN

## **A STORY OF TWO GARDENS**

Holy week is upon us and the major celebration for all Christians is within our midst. The range of emotions stem from utter sadness to overwhelming and staggering joy. We never tire of it for we marvel at the One who would offer Himself as a Sacrifice for all. The Lamb of God who humbly, and obediently, allowed Himself to take the full force of God's anger for all our sin. Who Himself faced and experienced the utter humiliation of all – separation from His Heavenly Father, whom He loved like we can only imagine.

In the first Garden in Genesis chapter three we encounter the beginning of a downfall that would impact on all humanity and every aspect of God's created order. All would suffer because of wrong choices, lies told, and humiliation never the like experienced before. Adam and Eve together in the Garden of Eden. They lived a life with the most beautiful relationship with each other and God. They knew of no shame. No guilt. No sadness. No pain. This was a garden like no other. God blessed. God lived in.

But all that changed when Satan in the form of a snake talked to both. He told lies. He accused God of being a liar. He enticed. He used all his evil ways to doubt, question and undermine God. They fell for it, as we all do from time to time, and sin entered that beautiful garden of Eden. God was so angry and upset that Adam and Eve were later thrown out. God gave them new clothes to hide their shame. That meant that animals had to die for that to happen. God still showing care and love for them.

Then we are given over 1160 chapters of Holy Scripture, the Bible, telling us how God is going to renew our broken relationship with Him. All pointing to Jesus, His Beloved Son. This week we see the culmination of all God's restoration plan. The Easter Story. His Easter Story. The Story of a new relationship given to all who would for themselves accept Jesus to be their Lord and Saviour. A new relationship that would live for eternity in a new Heaven and a New Earth.

This is the Second Garden I speak of. A Garden where there is an absence of Satan and all that is evil. He's living in another place. A Lake of Fire!

Rev'd Captain Mike Griffin  
22nd March 2024

# TOM MCGAULEY

Asked to speak about Tom I thought, where do I start, or for that matter, where do I finish, his legacy seems to go on and on. Even though he has moved on to pastures new, I still talk and think of him in Radley Drive.

How can someone so impact your life, and then leave without there being a vacuum. I speak as if we are the only people to lose someone, but he was so special in every way, to me, the dad I never had, and I would love being the son he never had.

He knew everything, everyone, so who do we go to with all our questions. I recall my last chat relating to Balaam's donkey!

How do you replace the hourly phone calls, only to hear him say, 'your 60 minutes are up, thanks for ringing'. We put the world and church to right, and pulled you lot to pieces.

Lil says, you couldn't mention Tom without Gladys, it was always Tom and Glad. They did so much for me and my family, and we are not the only ones to say that.

I tried to get him to talk about his tough upbringing, but even that would end hilariously. From going down Thomaston Street inside a lorry tyre, and finish in Greattie, to the monkey on the end of a chain in Boundary Street, who swung out and clouted you on the back of the head, before disappearing back down the lobby. Or his getting locked up whilst away with Pathfinders on a Sunday in North Wales, for impersonating a postie, trying to not be detected by his searching teenagers. Apparently, it was an offence in some backward country. Was I implicated? It was probably my uniform he'd borrowed.

Talking about getting locked up, whilst on leave from the services, and being chased by irate Arabs, who mistakenly thought that he was a Jewish spy because he had a camera. You did have your Jewish granddads nose Tom! He and his companion were chased around Port Said and arrested, which caused a diplomatic incident. Luckily, the Military Police were called to arrange his release from an underground prison. I suppose North Wales was just a prank eh Tom?

Oh, and he had a thespian side too! Whilst at his collage, the Collegiate on Shaw Street, he joined the Acting class, with non-other than 'Rigsby', Leonard Rossiter of Rising Damp fame. Don't think he liked Tom though, and Tom said he took it to seriously.

I wonder what Rigsby would say about Tom's involvement with his faith. I think he would reciprocate the comment. How serious was he when it came to his Lord and Saviour? How much he taught us, not just from the lectern, but in our everyday conversations. And he was able to because of his daily devotion to the scriptures. Did he know everything there is to know, I guess not, but it felt like it. Thank you, Tom. Sitting with Vi, Paul, Mike and myself, she told us about Tom, who being annoyed about having to drag his younger, annoying sister along, did no more than open the grid cover to someone's coal hole, drop her in there, replace the grid, and pick her up on the way home. You didn't tell me that one Tom!!

Miss you my friend, Joe.

# CHURCH ACTIVITIES

## Prayer and Fellowship

Every Wednesday lunchtime, 12.00 to 1.30pm at St. Paul's

## YOUNG at HEART

Second Monday of every month from 12 to 3pm at St. Paul's.



Food, fun, friendship and entertainment. All welcome.

Contact Pauline Worthy or Don Rivers for any further information.

## Breakfast Club

Third Saturday of every month from 10.00am at St. Lawrence

