

**"Jesus is alive! He is risen!"**

Can you imagine what that felt like to Jesus' followers as the story made its way through the city and countryside?

From the depths of despair there is hope.

From death there is life.

From crucifixion there is resurrection!

Open your hearts to hope.

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him." Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb.

Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

John 20:1-8

It's been said that it is darkest before the dawn. If true, Good Friday was the darkest in the Jesus story, but Easter Sunday brings a powerful new dawn. The characters from the week are reassembled. First, Mary discovers the empty tomb. Then the disciple Jesus loved and impulsive Simon Peter race to the tomb to see it for themselves. Finally, inside the tomb, they see Jesus is gone. The disciple who Jesus loved saw this and believed. From the darkness of crucifixion to the bright light of resurrection, the followers of Jesus - at some level they may not even understand - begin to sense what Jesus had been teaching them all along: He is the Christ, sent by the Father to show them a new way.

Today's church celebrates this, but imagine the emotions of such a week when you do not know how the story ends. This is resurrection. This is new life.

Oh God, for new life I shout Hallelujah! Christ is risen, and into his glory I am called to redeem the hurting in this world. Show me the way! Amen.

By Brian Foreman. Adapted from d365.org



# Sunday Services

Services led by Revd. Jonathan Hardwick unless otherwise stated.

## Sunday 18th March

10.30am Family Communion Service followed by AGM and lunch.

## Sunday 25th March

10.30am Morning Worship led by Jon Bartlett

## Sunday 1st April

10.30am Easter Family Communion Service

6.30pm Evening Prayer

## Sunday 8th April

10.30am Morning Worship

## Sunday 15th April

10.30am Family Service

## Sunday 22nd April

10.30am Morning Worship

## Sunday 29th April

10.30am Morning Worship

**There is an open invitation for prayer at the end of each morning service. If you would like prayer, with or without the anointing of oil, then please make your way to the front row of chairs during our closing songs.**

**PARENTS:** Could we remind you to collect your children from Sunday School straight after the service. The team need to pack away and cannot assume responsibility for children after the service.

### Hearing aid users:

We have a hearing loop so please turn your hearing aid to the setting "T".

### Children:

Please note that children are the responsibility of their parents except whilst in Sunday school.

### Sunday morning messages online:

You can listen to Sunday morning messages online at [www.earlswoodbc.org](http://www.earlswoodbc.org)

# Other Events and Activities

## **Family Fun @ 3**

Please come along and support this family orientated, community congregation on **March 24th and April 28th from 3.00pm - 5.00pm**. If you are able to join us as a volunteer “Enabler” it would be great to see you. If you would like some flyers to hand to family or friends then please see Jonathan.

**The following regular activities take place during the week. If you would like more information such as venues, please do ask.**

## **House Group:**

House Group meets each Tuesday evening at 8pm. Please speak to Jonathan or Jon for the venue.

## **Coffee Club:**

Coffee Club meets every other Friday at 10.30am for the more “senior” members of our fellowship and community. There will be tea, coffee, cake, board games and other fun activities. Coffee Club will meet on 13th and 27th April.

## **Prayer meetings:**

- We will be meeting for prayer on the first Sunday of each month at 6.30pm.
- Women’s prayer on Wednesday mornings in term-time.

## **“Little Ark” Parent and toddler group:**

Term-time Thursdays, 9.00-11.30am. Speak to Maxine for more details.

## **Spark:**

Spark Infants - 5.30pm - 6.30pm Term time Thursdays. For children in Reception to Yr2.

Spark Juniors - 5.30pm - 6.30pm Term time Fridays. For children in Yr3 - Yr6.

# HE IS Risen

## 30th March

- 10.00am Good Friday  
Communion Service
- 11.00am Churches Together  
March of Witness  
(Starting from  
Gloucester Rd car park)
- 11.15am Churches Together  
Good Friday service  
(Warwick Quadrant -  
Redhill)

## 1st April

- 7.00am Churches Together  
Sunrise Service  
Earlswood Common
- 10.30am Easter Sunday Family  
Communion Service

## *Coffee Club* at Earlswood Baptist Church

Tea, coffee, cake, a chat and some games.

For the over 55's, every other Friday you can meet old friends or make some new friends in a relaxed environment.

(Suggested £1 donation per week)

Join us on:

13th & 27th April

