

A Very Joyful Easter to you all!

A Prayer for Easter

Lord Jesus, we pray for those who long
for the stone of their distress to be rolled away:
those who are ill,
those who have to watch others suffer,
those whose relationships are breaking down.
May they know your risen presence in their lives.

We pray for those who are too afraid
to tell others what they feel and know:
those who are being bullied, those who harbour guilt,
those who think they won't be believed.
May they know your risen presence in their lives.

We pray for those called to be witnesses in your world today:
for all those in positions of opportunity and authority,
for ourselves and for one another,
that we would be bold, not timid.
Lord Jesus, may we all know your risen presence in our lives.

Amen.

Forthcoming Events

Praise Midweek this month is at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15th. Refreshments will be served from 7.45 p.m. followed by a time of informal praise and worship.

Messy Church this month will be at 3.15 p.m. on Thursday, April 23rd. Everyone is welcome for a time of fun, food and fellowship.

Wreyfield Drive church hold their **annual meeting** on Wednesday, May 12th at 7 p.m. and Northstead members are invited to join them at 7.45 p.m. for **refreshments** and a **general discussion** on ways the churches may continue to work together in the future.

Events for Holy Week and Easter

Easter Sunday, April 5th, starts with a **Sunrise service** on Johno's Field in the centre of the Barrowcliff estate with superb views across Scarborough. We meet on the field at 6 a.m. ready for the sunrise at 6.23! You can access the field from half way along Gildercliffe, (park near the School or Children's Centre on Briercliffe, then walk through the play park and continue up the hill) or from where Barrowcliff Road and Redcliffe Road meet (park around the corner of Barrowcliff Road and Redcliffe Road, then proceed a short distance up Redcliffe Road and take the tarmacked path onto the field). Breakfast will be served at Wreyfield Drive after the service.

Easter Day Communion at Northstead, April 5th, **9.30 a.m.** Don't forget to bring a few spring flowers to decorate the Cross!

All Age Easter celebration at Wreyfield Drive, Easter Day at 10.45 a.m.

There will be a **Communion service** at Priceholme on Easter Sunday at 3.30 p.m. led by Rev. Anne Staton.

Message from the Minister

“My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die.”

Samuel Crossman

What does it all mean, this cross, this man, this death? Why do we remember? Why does it matter, so long after it happened?

There is more than one way of understanding the cross. Think about these words for a moment :

See two figures facing one another. One is “Death”. He's disturbing, frightening, a shadow that sweeps across the landscape. He is the Last Enemy. He's predictable and commonplace - hard to face and hard to accept. But all of humanity is chained to him - a reality in our lives. He holds the key to those chains that bind us.

Facing him is the second figure. He is “Love”. He comes with words of hope and peace. He is perfect and he comes to face up to the imperfect. He speaks in a gentle voice. “Death” is not the last enemy, because “Love” is stronger. And “Love” is here to remove the key and to unlock humanity's chains. “I have come to remove the fear of death.”

But there is a problem - death is more than just a fear - it is a fact - a reality. It is a fact that must be faced head on in the flesh.

“Love” and “Death” face each other, and they wrestle. The struggle is tremendous - but too soon it is over.

And “Love” is there, impaled on a cross, conquered and defeated. “Death” stands gloating in victory. “See, I am the stronger, and I take everything.”

But then “Death” realises that he no longer has the key. In their struggle, “Love” has removed it from him. And as “Death” watches in horror, “Love” descends from his cross, ready to unlock humanity's chains.

“Death” departs, vanquished! And “Love” reaches out to all of humanity. “You are in chains - you deserve your sentence, but I am about freedom and forgiveness. I now hold the key to death. And if I make you free - you will be free indeed. Won't you allow me to unlock your chains?”

Jesus died, that death itself might be defeated, and that all people may know the love of a living Saviour, and the freedom of eternal hope.

As you look at the cross again, this Holy Week and Easter, know that Love has won! And that his victory over death is permanent. And be free in that knowledge!

*He endured the suffering that should have been ours,
the pain that we should have borne.*

*But because of our sins he was wounded,
beaten because of the evil we did.*

We are healed by the punishment he suffered. Isaiah 53

I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer,
I will sing of the blood that never fails,
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed,
Of death defeated and life without end.

Stuart Townend

Clare

Wednesday Fellowship

The Fellowship is open to both ladies and gentlemen, and meets at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons for a short time of worship, a speaker or other entertainment, a cup of tea and a chat.

The programme for April is as follows:-

April 1st	Easter Communion
April 8th	No meeting
April 15th	An afternoon of song, with Sandra and Maurice.
April 22nd	Beneath the Surface - Louise Atkinson
April 29th	AGM and Tea.

Annual Meeting

Our annual Church meeting will be held after the morning service on Sunday, 19th April. This is the meeting where we appoint our church stewards and representatives to Church Council. It also gives us the opportunity to raise any issues for discussion, and share information about the life of our Church. Annual reports on all our activities are now available.

Family News

We recently welcomed 2 new members to our church family - Gertie and Dianne - we hope you both feel at home at Northstead.

Thank you!

Thank you for donations to the impromptu retiring collection for the Vanuatu disaster appeal. As a result of your generosity, we were able to make a donation of £ 120.

This month's services

Easter Day , April 5th, 6 a.m.	Sunrise service, John's Field.
9.30 a.m.	Holy Communion, Rev. C. Stainsby.
10.45 a.m.	All-age worship, Wreyfield Drive.
Sun. April 12th, 10.30 a.m.	Morning worship, Mr. C. Davies.
Wed. April 15th, 8 p.m.	Praise Midweek
Sun. April 19th, 10.30 a.m.	Holy Communion, Rev. C. Stainsby, followed by Church AGM.
Thurs, April 23rd, 3.15 p.m.	Messy Church.
Sun. April 26th, 10.30 a.m.	Morning worship, Rev. M. Calver.