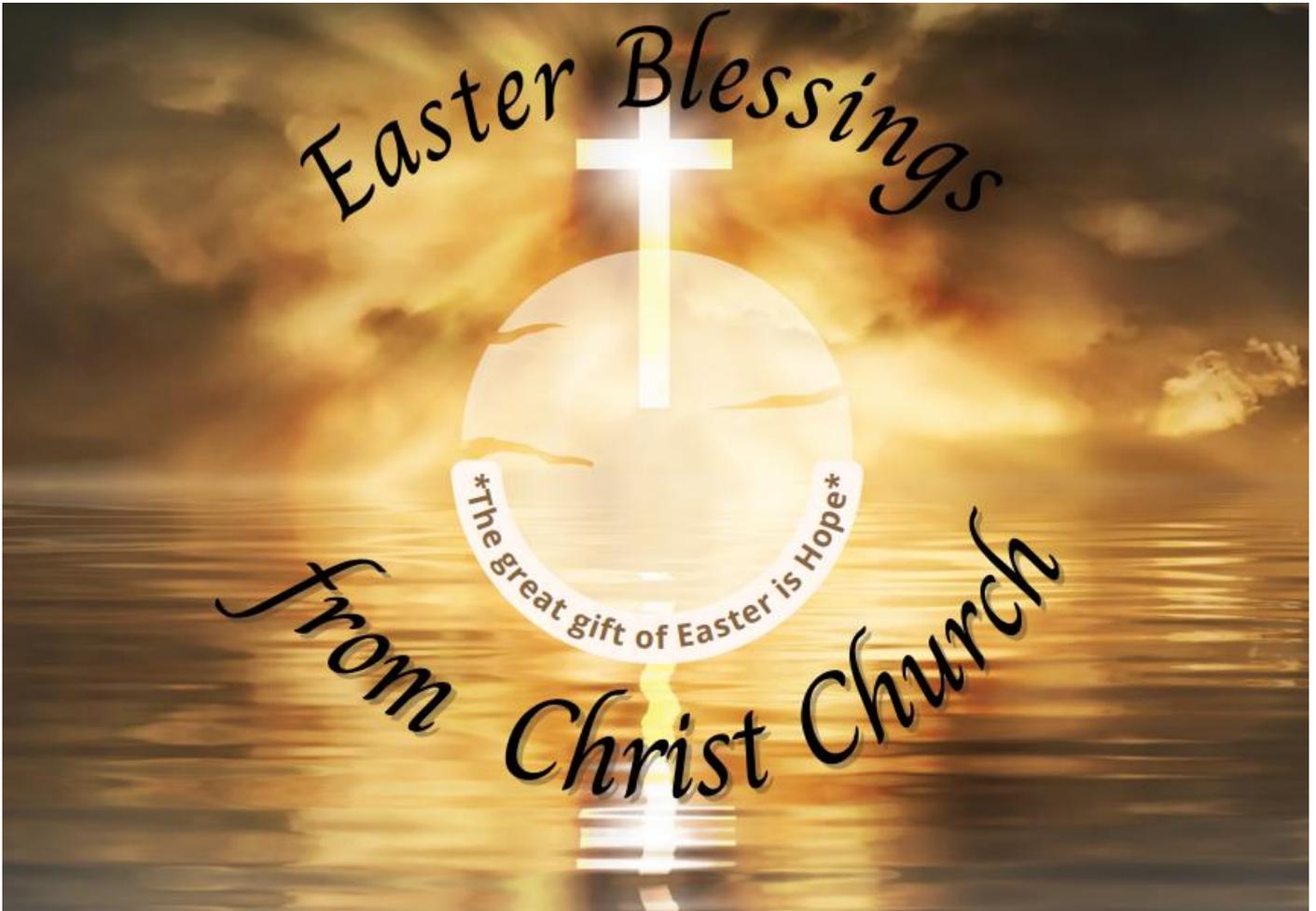


Christ Church News Easter 2022



“Spring brings new growth. Weed out the bad and make new for something beautiful.”

*Christ Church Anglican Congregation Vision Statement
“Through our worship, mission, nurture and service we want to enable all people to enter into a living relationship with Jesus Christ”*

In this edition of the Parish News:

- *The Rector writes*
- *Paul's Retirement*
- *Praying for Growth*
- *The Power of Story*
- *Christ Church Library*
- *Thank you*
- *Winter into Spring*
- *Garden Tidy*
- *Traidcraft News*
- *Easter Colouring*
- *Regular Christ Church activities*

Dates for the diary

- *Lent Quiet day- 2nd April 10am-3pm*
- *Holy week 'Lent Groups together' - 12th April 7.30pm*
- *Maundy Thursday- 14th April 7.30pm*
- *All Ages Workshop with Crafts and Easter Garden- 15th April 10.30am*
- *Good Friday liturgy and reflection- 15th April 2pm*
- *Easter day Holy Communion with breakfast- 17th April 6.30am*
- *Easter day Family Communion- 17th April 9.30am*

The Rector Writes – Easter 2022

A ‘Great Day’ - Christ is Risen!

What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out. John 1:5

This is my 20th Easter message – what more is there to say?

Twenty Easter's ago I wrote my first Easter 'message': Easter is the time more than any other when we are called to witness our Christian faith. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are witnesses to the fact. Acts 2:32

It is a message that implies we have something very important to share. It was the message of the early church, which had amazing results. This of course stands in stark contrast of ever declining church rolls and attendance where today's church seems to testify more to its reluctance than hunger to tell the 'Easter story' to a very needy world.

Perhaps back then I was being a little bit bold in challenging the church. Yet truth prevails and at Christ Church twenty years as I write my last Easter message, there is a

hunger and not reluctance to lead the church into growth with a flourishing testimony to the 'Good News' of Jesus Christ. We have been praying and will continue to do so especially at this time for the message of Easter to reach across the year, our community and people we serve.

And that message is ever needier today. It is clear that this Easter will be profoundly different for millions of people in the world. Perhaps like me, you have been challenged by the powerful images of Orthodox church gatherings in war torn Ukraine. Christian people, great and ordinary at prayer, worship, preparing, marrying and it seems always holding a lighted candle. I am reminded of the words of John, "The Life-Light blazing out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out". John 1:5. Yes, Easter light, resurrection light - light brightly shining and overwhelming the darkness of encroaching evil – loveless destruction, murder, bombs, missiles and the inhuman madness of an inhumane leader.

Amidst such darkness, the Ukrainian (and Russian) Orthodox Churches will celebrate this prevailing never fading Easter light a week after our own celebrations at Christ Church. In the Ukraine, Easter day is called 'The great day', a family day with services and special meals, games and fun together. It will be their testimony to the world that the risen Jesus stands with them as they face this time of real peril. A 'great day' for all the world to witness, let it be a sign of hope, the resurrection and the

life, light unquenchable an encouragement to us all.

From the safety and sanctuary of our lives let us pray for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and Russia to boldly stand and without any reluctance celebrate the Easter hope, new life, a 'great day' for all. Christ is risen - He is risen indeed!

Happy Easter

Yours ever Paul

“How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”

Dear Sisters, Brothers and friends in Christ,

We are writing to share news that Paul is to retire from ministry at Christ Church at the end of September 2022 and stepping down as Area Dean at the end of July.

Having served for 20 years at Christ Church and Paul eight years as Area Dean, we know in our hearts that the time is right for us to make this decision. We know that there will always be more for us to achieve and we'll be working to complete several tasks before we go. Both Glyn and I will find it hard to leave this wonderful place and its people!

Please pray for us as we prepare to move into a new phase of life and the new adventure of 'ministry' together before us!

Please also pray for our Bishop, Archdeacon, the PCC and all the fellowship of Christ Church as they digest the news and reflect on God's hopes and desires for the future of the parish.

Thank you all for your love, care and friendship but please remember we have not gone yet and there are still many opportunities for us to be Kingdom builders together.

All prayers, peace and blessings
Paul and Glyn



Praying for Growth

Members of the PCC and the Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) have recently attended a Leading Your Church Into Growth (LYCIG) conference and we are encouraging everyone to become involved so that together we have a shared vision, hope and desire for growth.

When we talk about growth, we are not only thinking about numerical growth but also spiritual growth (each one of us growing closer to God) and mission growth (growing in our service to our community).

To this end we would love you to join us in praying for growth.

The notice sheet now has a 'Focus for Prayer for Growth' and we will be concentrating on this focus at Morning Prayer on Tuesday mornings (9am) and invite you to join us in the Chapel at Christ Church each week. If you are unable to be with us, please stop at 9am and pray.....or at a later time on Tuesday if that is easier.

We'd also like you to join with us in praying for growth, using the week's focus, at home at 8am on Saturday mornings – or later in the day. It would be so good to know that we are all praying together at

the same times each week....a wonderful support and encouragement for each other.

There is also a bookmark available in church with the LYCIG Prayer for Growth – divided into seven sections, one for each day of the week. On the reverse can be written the names of three people who one longs would come to Jesus.

We look forward to praying together either at church on Tuesday 9am or at home at the same time, and again at home on Saturday at 8am.

Sheila Godwin

(On behalf of the Ministry Leadership Team)

The Power of Story

Once upon a time, we listened to bedtime stories, or maybe read afternoon stories for ourselves. Lots of us still enjoy stories! What power a story has to draw us into another place and time! And what quiet strength the medium of “story” has to show us things, to persuade us, to invite us, to allow us to think differently and see from a new vantage point.

The Bible is perhaps the best book of stories ever compiled. Whether or not you know it to be the manual of Christian Faith, it is always a compendium of stories of adventure, war, love and loss, rescue, travel, relationships, history, and family life. Alongside other kinds of writing such as poetry, wisdom and genealogy.

We had a Story Evening in February, gathering one Sunday evening for an hour to look at the huge story of

Moses, and put under our reading lamp one chapter of Exodus. Most of us didn't know the passage (Ch 18) well. It was fascinating and unexpected to find Moses' father-in-law in the role of adviser on people-management; and refreshing and heartening to remember how relevant and practical is what the story is telling, in even the oldest stories in the Bible. We had a fruitful and interesting discussion and listened to each other's reactions.

We hope to have another Story Evening, probably in late May. We would love to hear from you with any further thoughts about the February event (if you were able to be there). And if you have suggestions for a piece of “story” that might be under the reading lamp in May, please do let us know!

*The Nurture Group (Judith Budge,
Sara Humphreys, Clive Joyce, Marion
Saunders)
Spring 2022*

WELCOME TO

CHRIST CHURCH LIBRARY

Please browse our selection,
choose a book and sign it
out.

Open to everyone!



Christ Church Library – Refreshed and Re-Opened for Browsing and Lending

Our Library can be found in the bookcase on the balcony. It is available for browsing for inspiration and pleasure, and for borrowing.

The Library has been spring cleaned and is open all hours! Its contents have been re-appraised to appeal to a wide variety of tastes, and it has easy access with books that can be borrowed to be read at home.

To borrow a book, simply record your book along with your name in the folder tucked at the end of a shelf near the railing. There is something for everyone and for all ages.

The children's section of the library has also had a spring clean. For the

youngest, the two brightly coloured boxes of books (on the lowest shelf)

have a more balanced selection with an equal number of religious and non-religious stories.

For slightly older children there is a separate section in the bookcase (at time of writing awaiting its own named divider!)

Do please take a look and try out a new book!

We are open to suggestions for new stock; though we can't promise to meet every request, we would love to hear from you with ideas for new purchases.

*Judith Budge and Marion Saunders
(on behalf of the Nurture Group)
Spring 2022*

Operation Christmas Child

You have been a part of something amazing!

As a result of the partnership of churches and groups like yours, Operation Christmas Child in the United Kingdom sent an amazing **277,350** gift filled shoeboxes to Children around the world, that is part of a global total of **10.5 million** shoebox gifts sent by the UK and other partnering countries to hurting children worldwide.



Gardeners Q&A-

A huge thank you to everyone that attended our Gardeners Q&A, we raised a fantastic amount for the building fund.

Thank you to our fabulous panel and to everyone who sent in fantastic questions and pictures.

The Gardeners' Q and A evening raised

£567.45

for Christ Church Building Fund

Many thanks for your support.



Winter into Spring in the Christ Church Garden

March sees the spring equinox, that time when day and night are the same length. From now on until June 21st the days are growing!

Increasing daylength is one of the key signals for animals, birds and plants to shift into the growing season. Gardening really gets rewarding as we watch new leaves unfurl, seeds germinate, bulbs flower and dormant plants begin their active period. Watch out as well for birds investigating nest boxes, early queen bees on the wing and frogs gathering in ponds!

At Christchurch, the daffodils we planted in lockdown are crowding up in the beds around the lower door, the carpark and around the new trees.



In the long grass there are snowdrops, crocus, primroses and cowslips.



Roses on the wall are budding and coming into leaf, and our new trees are looking lovely in their second spring season with us. Have a look next time you're there!

In addition to an open-fronted birdbox on the wall behind the war memorial, we have two new nest boxes high up on the church wall by the path to Cambridge Walk. Take a look! You might see great tits or blue tits starting to use them.

By the time you read this we hope to have had our 'Gardeners Q & A' event as well as the first 'Garden Tidy' of the year. Look out for more events to share in our garden as the 2022 continues, whether you are a keen plants person or you just like to be outside for some social activity and a picnic together!

The Gardening Team



Garden Tidy- 12th March 2022

'Coffee break at the recent Spring Garden Tidy. Thanks to more than a dozen helpers the garden was pruned and weeded, Cambridge Walk cleared, an insect hibernation home constructed and paths swept!

Look out for our next gardening event and enjoy the spring whenever you can get outside.

The gardening team



News from Traidcraft

The new spring catalogue is now available, do ask me if you would like to have a browse through one. Fairly traded Easter eggs, cards and gifts are there.

Do read about Mama Mazungu, a fighting for those affected by albinism in Uganda (p.82) or meet the makers of the Rainbow Range of pottery on P. 96

Traidcraft Exchange along with the Corporate Justice Coalition and other organisations, are asking all of us to

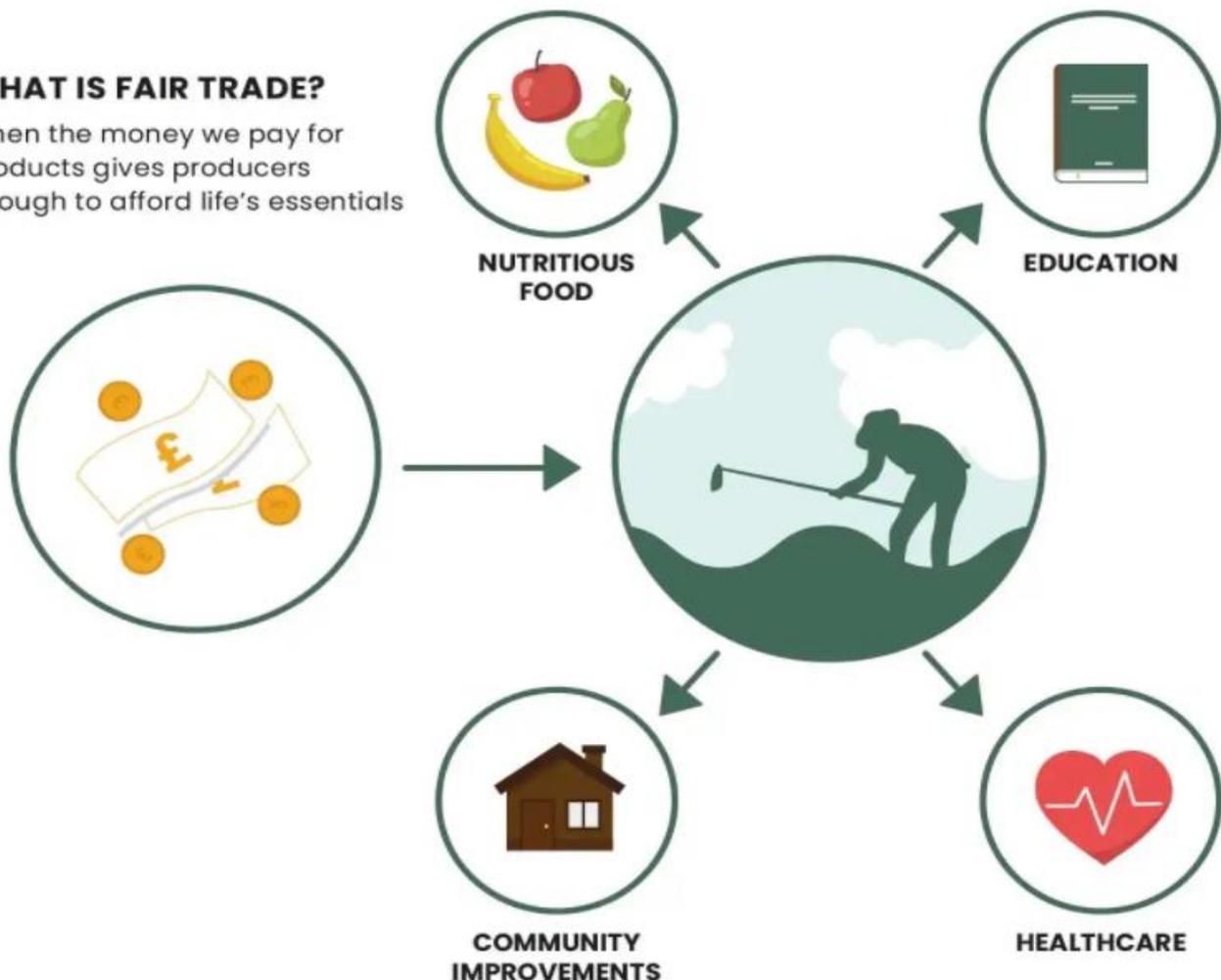
consider signing a petition asking for a new law, The Business, Human Rights and Environment Act, to make British businesses accountable for crimes committed in their supply chains and operations overseas. From mining to fashion to agriculture, people who work in our supply chains are being abused and there is at present no accountability. To sign the petition, go to traidcraftexchange.org/business-human-right-act

It only takes a couple of minutes.

Clare (Lankshear

WHAT IS FAIR TRADE?

When the money we pay for products gives producers enough to afford life's essentials



Fairtrade Easter Eggs



(150g)

The Real Easter Egg Milk Chocolate



(180g)

The Real Easter Egg Dark Chocolate



(125g)

The Real Easter Egg White Chocolate



(180g)

The Real Easter Egg Fun Pack



(152g)

Divine Milk Chocolate Foiled Easter Mini Eggs



(152g)

Divine Dark 70% Chocolate Foiled Mini Eggs



(152g)

Divine Milk Chocolate Speckled Easter Eggs



(260g)

Divine 70% Dark Chocolate Luxury Easter Egg with Mini Eggs



(260g)

Divine Salted Caramel Milk Chocolate Egg with Milk Chocolate Mini Eggs



(90g)

Divine Dark Chocolate Raspberry Egg



(90g)

Divine 70% Dark Chocolate Easter Egg

WHAT MAKES OUR EGGS THE *Fairest* OF THEM ALL?

Everyone throughout the supply chain has been paid a fair price for their part in getting our Easter eggs from cocoa bean, to you. Why not take a look at our 100% transparent costs breakdown and see for yourselves?



*Based on RRP of £10 excl. VAT (E2)

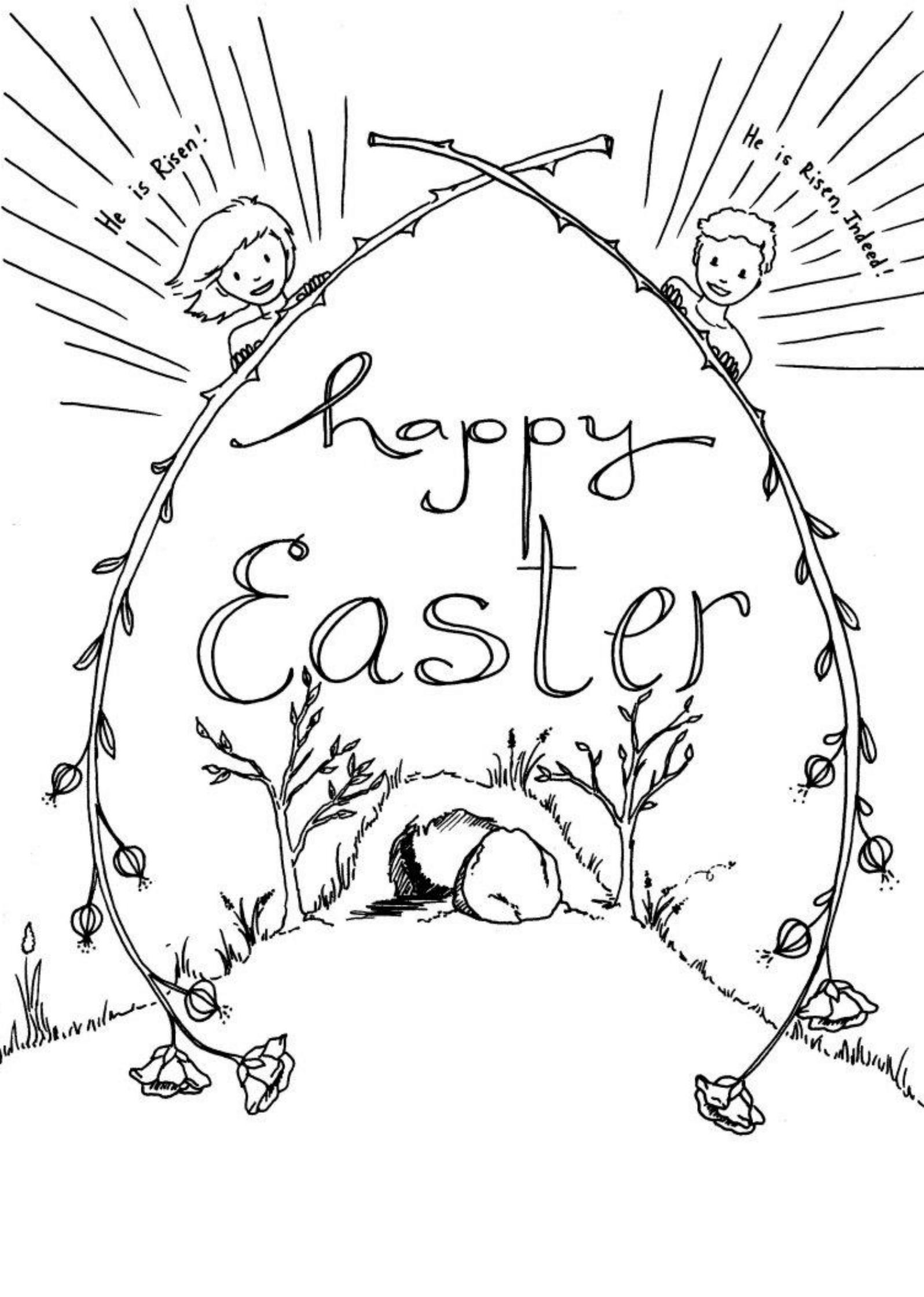
WHAT SETS OUR EGGS APART?

- ✓ Fair trade surprise INSIDE the egg, handmade by artisans who have been paid a fair price
- ✓ Super thick shell
- ✓ 100% Organic
- ✓ Fairtrade chocolate
- ✓ Available in mixed cases
- ✓ 10% off for buying a case of four #BuyRight



*May also contain other nuts, milk, soya and gluten





He is Risen!

He is Risen, Indeed!

Happy
Easter

Regular activities at Christ Church

time together

Meets every Tuesday morning in term time from 10am to 12 noon,

Our aim is to provide a welcoming environment for little ones (0-4yr) to play and for parents, grandparents and carers to chat and relax over a cup of coffee.

We close our morning together with a Bible story, some nursery rhymes, Christian songs and celebrate any family occasions e.g birthdays.

Please feel free to drop in for a short visit or stay for the morning.

Email:

timetogether@colchesterchristchurch.org.uk

the BREAKFAST CAFÉ

Thursdays from 9am to 11.30 ish.

A café for all ages held in the main church space, a safe space for little ones to play, adults young and old to meet over cake, breakfast quiche, tea coffee and other goodies.

Pop in for a short time or stay longer.
All ages welcome

FLAMES

(for all those aged 4-11)
On Sunday mornings

**Bible stories, games,
crafts and prayers**

more information contact Sheila



An after school club for primary school age children, on Tuesdays 3pm till 4.30pm. Parents and Carers stay in the building with the children, pre-school children are also welcome (toys provided).

Activities include Craft, Stories, Videos, Lego and Games.

There are refreshments during the afternoon for children and adults.

FrOG club has a relaxed atmosphere for children and adults to enjoy.

Splodgy Youth



**Join us at
Splodgy on the
2nd Friday of the Month
7:30pm till 9pm
School Years 6 - 10**



COVID19

We will have relevant COVID safety measures in place in line with the government guidance in place.

To see visit www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk/splodgy



Christ Church
Colchester



splodgy@colchesterchristchurch.org.uk
www.facebook.com/christchurchcolchester
www.colchesterchristchurch.org.uk/splodgy

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Judith Cronshaw
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Diocese of Chelmsford