



## Welcome to Locking Castle Church

*A loving community that is growing by sharing Jesus with everyone*

**March  
2024**

**W**elcome to our church family newsletter and an especially warm welcome to Locking Castle Church if you are new. We hope you can find all you are looking for but please ask for assistance if we can help you to feel at home here.

The Paradox of Discipleship: A Journey Towards Easter.

As we journey towards Easter, the call of Jesus to "deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me" resonates with a profound challenge. This directive, steeped in the imagery of sacrifice and surrender, might initially strike us as a path laden with loss. Yet, within this apparent contradiction lies a deep-seated truth: in giving up, we gain immeasurably more.

The cross, emblematic of both suffering and salvation, invites us into a process of transformation. It's a stark reminder that true love often demands the highest form of sacrifice. Embracing our crosses—be they struggles, sacrifices, or services—ushers us into a closer communion with God and unveils our true purpose.

Denying oneself isn't about diminishing our value but rather discarding what hinders our spiritual growth. This self-denial opens the door to freedom, allowing us to live lives marked by generosity, love, and a deeper joy, unshackled by the fleeting allure of worldly desires.

The essence of this journey transcends the here and now, pointing us towards eternal life. This promise isn't solely about the afterlife but encompasses a fullness of existence that begins in the present. Following Jesus, we embark on a path that is both challenging and rewarding, offering peace, contentment, and a sense of belonging.

As Easter approaches, let's reflect on the crosses we are called to bear and the aspects of our lives we are invited to surrender. This path of discipleship, though it may involve sacrifice, leads to a resurrection of spirit and a life abundant with grace. In the spirit of communal faith, we support one another, finding that our burdens are lighter when shared. The paradox of the cross reveals that through death comes life, and we achieve the greatest freedom through surrender.

This Easter, let us embrace the transformative journey of discipleship with renewed vigour, remembering that in the economy of God's kingdom, the way of the cross is the way to true life.

Revd Andy Pearce



**CONTACTS** (please note staff members' personal family Sabbath day off in lieu of Sunday)

Revd Andy Pearce (Lead Minister) - 07956 097310 - [andypearce71@gmail.com](mailto:andypearce71@gmail.com) (Sat)

Emily Cumberbatch (Pastoral Asst) – **07393 816864 \*NEW** - [emily.pastoral@gmail.com](mailto:emily.pastoral@gmail.com) (Fri)

Cathy Bond (Children and Families Pastor) - 07875 442139 - [cathy.bond@mail.com](mailto:cathy.bond@mail.com) (Mon)

Fiona Mayne (Pastor Haywood Village Church) 07788 418347 [fionamayne@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fionamayne@yahoo.co.uk) (Fri)

**OFFICE OPENING HOURS:** Monday-Friday 9:30-11:30am

Administrator: Katherine Hollis - 01934 519888 - [office@lockingcastlechurch.org](mailto:office@lockingcastlechurch.org)

For **Hall & Room Bookings** contact Teresa on 07727 067887 or [lcchallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:lcchallbookings@gmail.com)

For **Weddings, Baptisms and Thanksgivings** please email [lccoccasions@gmail.com](mailto:lccoccasions@gmail.com)

**WEEKLY SERVICES:** Refreshments are available after both morning services.

- **Sunday 9am Holy Communion** with quieter worship and spoken prayers.
- **Sunday 10.30 am** – with worship, kids activities and prayer ministry. The talk is recorded, just click the link on our website.
- **Oasis Midweek Café Church Service** with favourite hymns, short sermon, fellowship, prayers and refreshments. **Holy Communion on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month.** All welcome. Tuesday 2:30-3:30pm. See Emily on **07393 816864 \*(NEW mobile number)**.
- **Haywood Village Church: Sundays 4-5:30pm** at Haywood Village Academy. See Fiona **HV 'Rooted' Group** meets Wednesdays 7pm-9pm. All 'Haywoodies' welcome!

**Finance:** We are very thankful for monthly gifts by standing order or direct transfer. To give on a regular basis, create a S.O. or print and complete the form on the website [forms page](#). You can now donate by using the **GIVT** app or via **credit card** at [lockingcastlechurch.org/giving](http://lockingcastlechurch.org/giving), or by direct Bank Transfer 60-23-06 A/c 57525358. If you're a tax payer please complete an [online Gift-Aid form](#) so we can claim 25% extra from HMRC on your gifts. For queries please contact our Treasurer Martin Purnell ([treasurer@lockingcastlechurch.org](mailto:treasurer@lockingcastlechurch.org)) or John Stanley, Gift Aid secretary.

**If you are new to LCC**, or interested in **Baptism, Life Group or Membership**, please contact Andy Pearce or Emily to find out more!



## March 24 reading plan

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Exodus 27-28	Exodus 29-30	Exodus 31-32	Exodus 33-34	Exodus 35-36	Exodus 37-38	Exodus 39-49	Matthew 1	Matthew 2	Matthew 3	Matthew 4
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Matthew 5	Matthew 6	Matthew 7	Matthew 8	Matthew 9	Matthew 10	Matthew 11	Matthew 12	Matthew 13	Matthew 14	Matthew 15
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
Matthew 16	Matthew 17	Matthew 18	Matthew 19	Matthew 20	Matthew 21	Matthew 22	Matthew 23	Matthew 24		

# Easter

Palm Sunday Service 10.30 and Easter Experience 2pm 24th March  
Maundy Supper, 6.30pm 28th March.  
Good Friday: Reflective Service, 2pm 29th March.  
Easter Sunday Service 10.30, Baptism and Celebration 31st March.



Come, see the place where he lay.

## Maundy Supper – 6:30pm Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March.



# MAUNDY Thursday



**A lively and interactive family-friendly Lamb Supper  
to observe Jesus' Last Supper and explore elements of our Jewish roots  
and traditions of the Passover celebration.**

With activities, reflection, optional hand or foot washing, fun and a meal!  
Suggested donation £5. Booking by Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Menus available for  
dietary requirements, please advise when booking). See Emily for details 😊

# Easter

EXPERIENCE

24TH MARCH, 2-4PM

EXPERIENCE THE STORY OF EASTER THROUGH INTERACTIVE STATIONS,  
ACTIVITIES AND FOLLOW A TRAIL TO AN EASTER EGG.  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.

FOR FURTHER INFO PLEASE CONTACT CATHY BOND ON [LCCCATHYBOND@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LCCCATHYBOND@GMAIL.COM) OR 07875 442139.





## Easter services and events round up

### Palm Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> March

9am & 10:30am Sunday services

2pm-4pm **Easter Experience**: Interactive stations, Activities and Egg trail

### Maundy Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

6:30pm **Maundy Supper**, explore some Passover traditions and activities!

### Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March

#### **12noon March of Hope & Good Friday Service**

Meet at Emmanuel Church WsM, leaving there 12noon to walk the half-mile to the Italian Gardens (approx. 10 minutes) for an **open-air Good Friday service** starting 12:30pm, with worship, (ends approx. 1:10pm).

**2pm Good Friday Service**, Locking Castle church, Reflective & thoughtful

### Easter Day! Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March

6:30am **Sunrise Service**, WsM Seafront, Marine Parade, opp Carlton St.  
Greet the day with worship followed by bacon butties

**Easter Celebration & Baptism Services**, LCC - 9am and 10:30am.



## Baptisms

**If you are considering being Baptised, or wish to discuss Baptism, please see Andy or Emily.**



## World Day of Prayer Service

**Friday 1st March 10.30am, Locking Castle Church.**



The Service has been written by the Christian women of Palestine, and gives an insight into their lives before the current devastating war in Gaza.



# REPAIR CAFE

Locking Castle Church is part of the worldwide Repair Café movement.

Find out more at <https://www.repaircafe.org/en/>



LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH

**Every First Saturday in the Month 11-1pm**

To find out more please visit: <https://lockingcastlechurch.org/repair-cafe/>

## Clothes swap @ LCC

**Saturday 2nd March, 11-1pm**

**Bring your clothes, bags, shoes & accessories and swap them!**

**Clothing Requirements:**

Clothes should be in good condition and clean.  
No underwear please!!

Please contact Nicky (07880 556590) for more information

## GARDENING



10am-12noon Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. No expertise needed! Bring tools and gloves if you have them. See Emily for further details.

## LIFE GROUPS

— where Faith meets Fun, Fellowship, Discipleship, and Care — each group meets weekly in local homes, and all in the group look after one another. Make sure to join one! For further information see Emily. **07393 816864** \*(NEW number).

## Practical Theology

Subject: Discovering your gifts and ministry

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 7.00pm for 3 weeks

## Worship night

**Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month**

For more info: contact Andy on 07956097310



On your own? Join us for **Sunday lunch** at 1pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March February at The Summerhouse. Call Sandra Blackwell 07719 210623 for details.

**Ladies' Breakfast** 9:30 Sat 9<sup>th</sup> March, Carriages Café, Garden Park Garden Centre, Hewish. See [W@LCC Facebook group](#) or Lin Thomas 07557 132680 [lin@clearly.me.uk](mailto:lin@clearly.me.uk)

**Men's Breakfast** – Contact Pete Burden on 07746 567236 to join.

**LCY**  
**LOCKING CASTLE YOUTH**  
**MARCH 24**

**Thursday night Youth**  
**7-8.30pm 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> (£1 subs per person)**

**Sunday morning 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**Discussion group in the Upper Room.**

**THIS**  
**IS**  
**THE**  
**WAY**

**Children and families** at LCC. Kids Church (Term time only)

Sunday weeks 1 to 4: Kids Church. (5th Sunday: Children Stay in)

**TLC toddlers** Free play, craft, refreshments and singing. See the 'Toddlers Locking Castle – TLC' Facebook group or to join the waiting list.

**Wonderfully Made** Toddler group at St. Anne's Church Academy West Wick. Wednesdays 9:30-11am during term time.



**Fun, Games, Crafts,  
Bible Stories and More!**  
**Thursdays 5.30-6.30pm**

**£1 per child.**

**Key Stage 2, Sch yrs 3-6**



**LOCKINGCASTLECHURCH**

For more information please contact

Cathy Bond 07875 442139 or [cathy.bond@mail.com](mailto:cathy.bond@mail.com)

Newsletter:	Submission deadlines	Issue date
April	1pm Weds 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> March
May	1pm Weds 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> April

Please email content to Emily at [emily.pastoral@gmail.com](mailto:emily.pastoral@gmail.com)