



Holy Week and Easter



Holy Week

Holy Week is the week leading up to Easter.

It starts on **Palm Sunday** and ends with the celebration of Easter on **Easter Sunday**.



Holy Week comes at the end of a time of year for Christians called **Lent**.

Lent is a time of waiting and preparing for **Easter**.

We try to think about God and how we can be better Christians.



Lent

Lent is a season of forty days (not including Sundays), which starts on Ash Wednesday and ends at Easter.

The forty days remind Christians of the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert, praying and fasting.



Palm Sunday



On Palm Sunday we remember when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

Jerusalem was very busy, as it was a Jewish festival called Pesach: Passover.

Lots of people came out to see Jesus.



The people were so pleased to see Jesus because they believed he was coming to save them from all their problems.

They waved palm branches and shouted “Hosanna!”, which is a cry of hope and praise.



A week before Easter, at the start of Holy Week, Christians remember what happened on Palm Sunday.

Many churches have a procession into the church from outside and people carry palm leaves as they walk.



Many Christians make their palm leaves into palm crosses and put them in their homes, to remind them of Jesus, who died on the cross.



Maundy Thursday



Maundy Thursday is the day when Christians remember Jesus sharing his last meal with his friends, his disciples, before he died.

This is known as **The Last Supper**.



Maundy comes from the Latin word “mandatum”, which means “a command”- when you tell people to do something.

Jesus’s command to his friends on Maundy Thursday was,

‘Love one another as I have loved you’.



Before he ate his last meal with his friends, Jesus washed the disciples' feet.



He was giving them an example of how to be kind and to help one another after he was gone.



The Last Supper

At the meal Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to God for it. He blessed the bread and shared it with his friends.



Then Jesus took some wine and gave thanks to God for it. He blessed the wine and shared it with his friends.



Jesus also said to them that whenever they did this they should remember him,

“Do this in remembrance of me.”

Christians still remember Jesus by sharing bread and wine. This is called a Eucharist or Communion service.



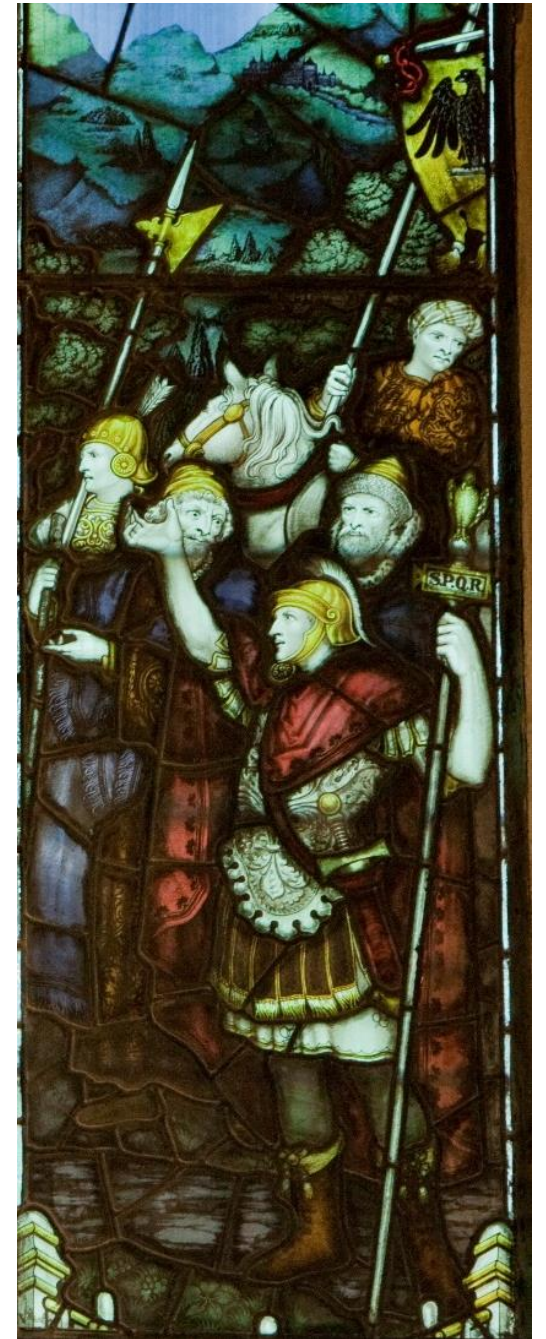
In the evening, Jesus went into the garden to pray. He knew what was going to happen to him and he was feeling sad and upset.

He took some of his friends with him and asked them to wait with him, but his friends fell asleep.

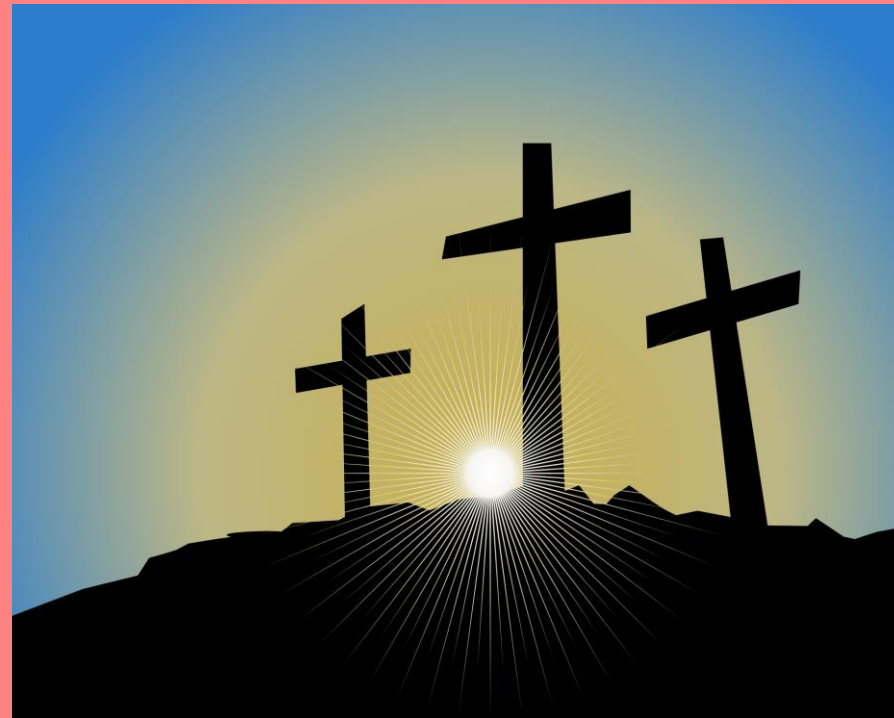


Jesus prayed for a long time and he accepted what God the Father wanted him to do.

After he had finished praying, some soldiers came and arrested him.



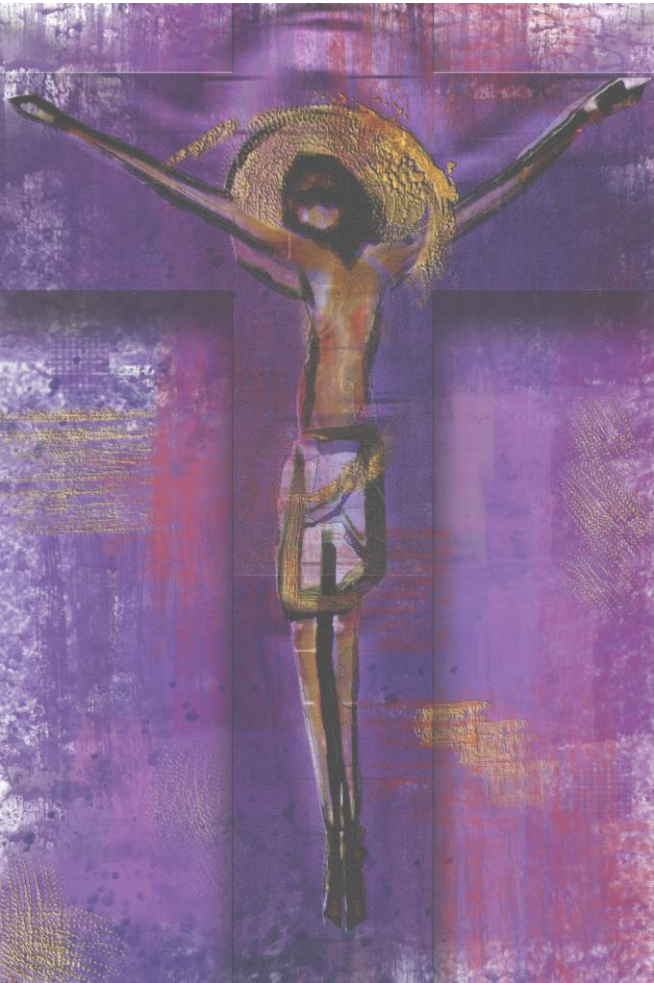
Good Friday



Good Friday- God's Friday

This is the day when Christians remember that Jesus died on the cross to save us from all the bad things that people do.

It was a very sad day but it showed the world how much God loves us, because he sent his son to be an example of goodness in the world.



Jesus was treated badly by some people before he died. These people did not believe that he was the Son of God.

Jesus's family and friends were very upset about what happened to him on this day.

Good Friday is a day when we remember all these things.



When Christians look at a cross, we see it as a sign of **love** and **hope**, because of what Jesus did for everyone.



After Jesus had died his friends put his body in a tomb- a bit like a cave, cut out of rock.

They rolled a heavy stone in front of the tomb and everybody went away.

The next day was the sabbath, the holy day, and it was a day of rest.



On Good Friday, when we remember Jesus's death, the colour in a church changes from purple to red.



At Easter, gold and white are used.

The colours in a church help us to remember what part of the church year it is.



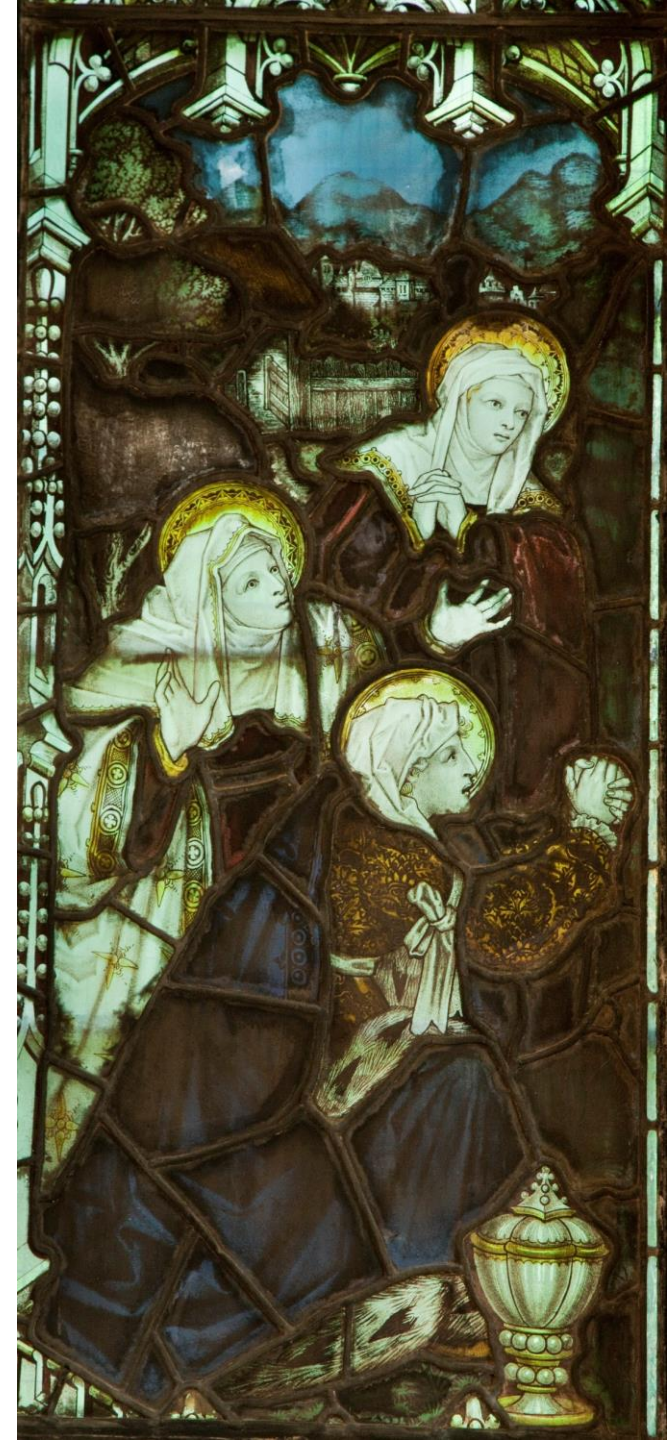
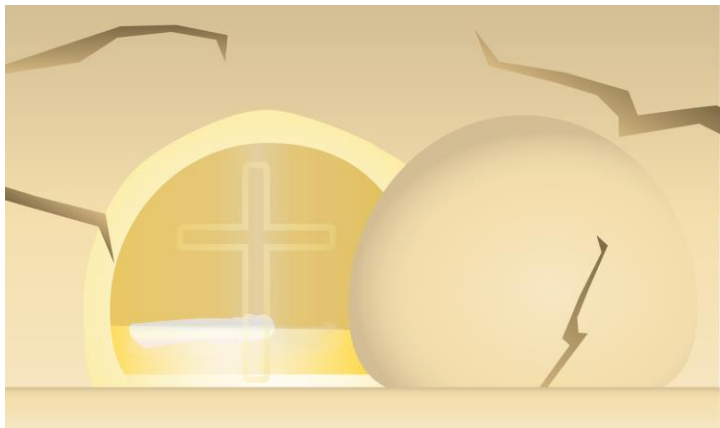
Easter Sunday



Easter Sunday

On the third day after Jesus's death, some of the women who were his friends went to the tomb- but the stone had been rolled away and Jesus wasn't there!

An angel told them that Jesus had risen from the dead and had gone into the city.

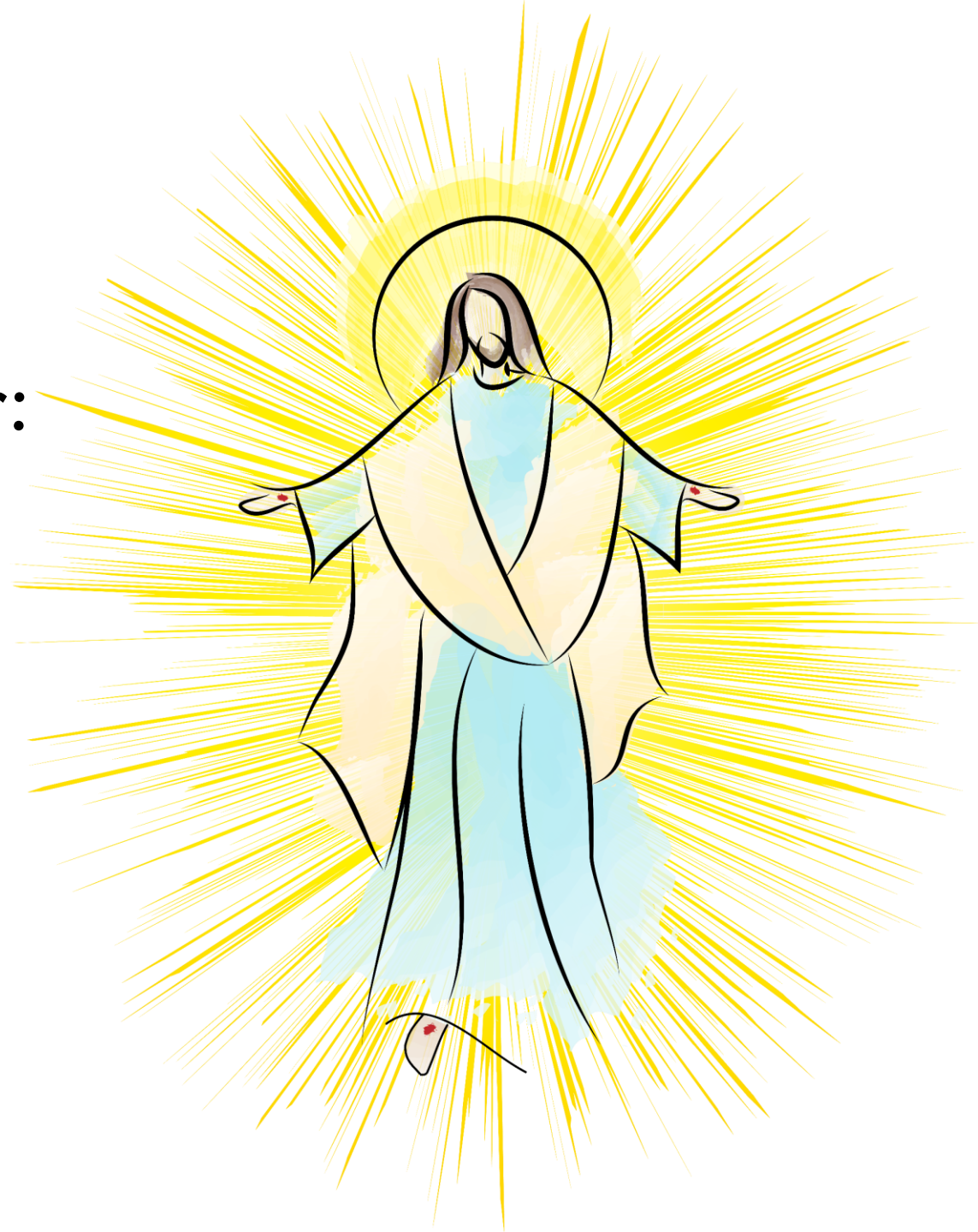


Easter Sunday

On Easter Sunday each year,
Christians celebrate the most
important date in the church year:
Easter.

On this day we remember the
remarkable thing that Jesus did:

Jesus rose from the dead.



Easter Celebrations

On Easter Sunday Christians are happy, because we remember that Jesus rose from the dead. It is a time of hope and joy.

Christians say or sing “Alleluia”, which means “Praise the Lord” in Hebrew.

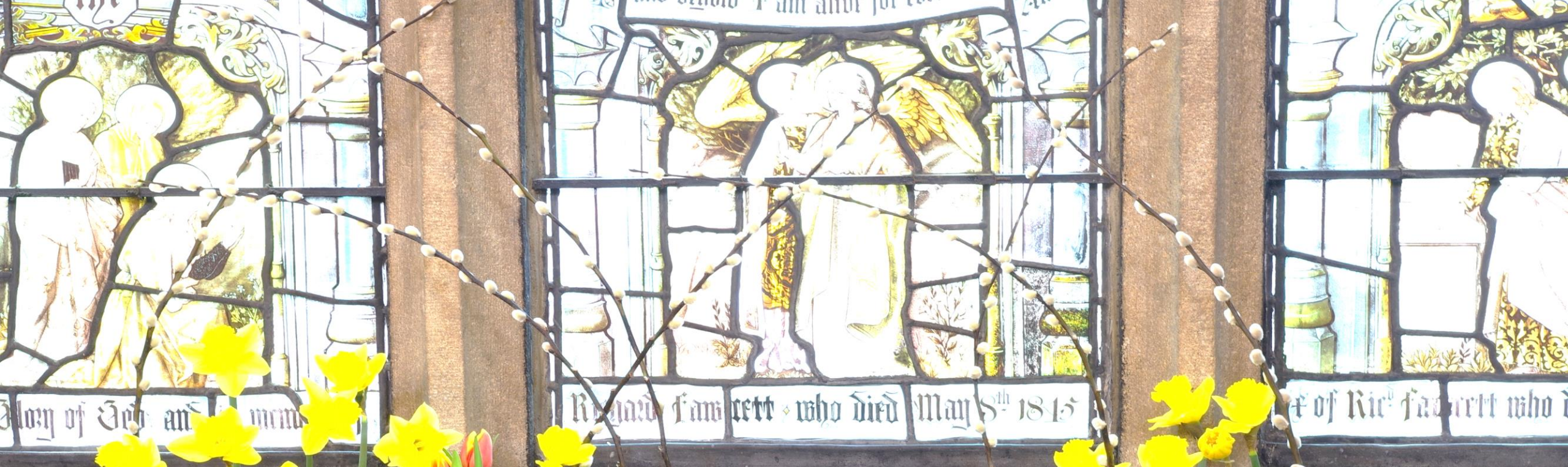




Churches and cathedrals like ours that have been simple and bare in Lent are now full of flowers.

It's time to eat our Easter eggs and enjoy this special time with our families.





Happy Easter from Bradford Cathedral



Acknowledgements

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