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Notices and News from St.Paul's - for the Sundays in Easter
HAPPY EASTER!

As I type this, we are in that 'waiting' period between Good Friday afternoon and Easter Day. For most of you, no 'Spoiler Alert' will be necessary. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is central to the Christian faith. Even when we experience loss or struggle with health problems, Easter is still Good News, as it was to the first disciples of our Lord. They had passed through much grief and knew that they still faced troubles ahead. The difference now was they would not be alone. Jesus is still with us in Spirit today. Some of his final words to the disciples were to encourage them to love each other, to stick together and to gather in prayer. That's a good formula for the Church today.

The **Easter magazine** is out: the free online full colour version is available to download via a link on our website www.barnstaple-st-paul.org.uk and part-colour print editions are in the rack by the inner door of the church). The following magazine will be out in the second half of May.

Some of you will not have been in church since the PCC decided to continue to offer **communion in both kinds** using intinction from the Common Cup on the altar, **but** those who would like to **receive the wine from a common cup** are invited to pause at the rail after receiving a bread wafer. **Zoom connections** continue to be available primarily for the housebound twice a month. The back cover of the magazine indicates when a zoom link will be available.

Refreshments after worship are on the first and third Sundays of the month. If the team on the rota were larger by two people we could manage another Sunday.

The stop-gap Thursday morning parent/toddler group in the hall has yet to restart in church as **Seedlings**. We need a few more befrienders and to safely fit out the old Choir Vestry with practical storage. Our monthly (in church) **community cafe & book-swap** and use by **Petroc CU** are back to normal. **Open the Book** assemblies have been as popular as ever in both primary academies in the parish, delivered alongside members from Roundswell and the Methodist Church. However, there is a pause in our assemblies at Roundswell at the moment. We are on the lookout for a few more basic mime actors. **Visits from school** also restarted - exploring Easter's meaning with years 3 & 4, in mid March.

Hopefully John will be back soon as our Safeguarding Representative. Those who have not had a **DBS check** since Spring 2020 need a training refresher if they work with children or vulnerable adults unsupervised or if on the PCC.

There were no changes to church officers at the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** and Meeting of Parishioners. We do however have two vacant places on the Church Council which the PCC can co-opt to. As the Vicar and Heather plan to retire and move in mid autumn, it is very important that we have a full compliment of church officers as the vacancy may well last a year. It is now getting urgent that someone be willing to learn to provide financial oversight as Treasurer.

Services / events are listed on the **national website** (www.achurchnearyou.com) Visitors are invited to enter a postcode and then access the nearest Anglican churches. There is a direct access from the resources section of our website **'CLICK - Services & Calendar'**. At the time of this update, it is not clear yet what local events will be held to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and the Queen Consort.