

**What's on in Kingston for  
you, your friends and family  
20-31 March 2024**



**CORNERSTONE  
CHURCH  
KINGSTON**



## Easter is nearly here and we'd love for you to come and celebrate with us.



We have events running where everyone from the local community is welcome. All the events are organised by some of the hundreds of people at Cornerstone Church Kingston. We're from a diverse mix of backgrounds, cultures and ages but all have in common our love for Jesus Christ.

This is a season when we remember the coming of new life. As spring breaks through winter, Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday remind us that Jesus broke through death to new life. There is hope and good news for the world.

We look forward to welcoming you during Easter.

For events that require booking and for more information about us, please visit [cstone.uk/easter](https://cstone.uk/easter)\*

See you then.

### **Pete Woodcock**

Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Church Kingston

*P.S. Cornerstone Church Kingston runs many regular social events throughout the year, which you are welcome to join. We also meet every Sunday morning, 10:30am at Tiffin School and again on Sunday evening, 6:30pm at The Hub. All the information can be found at [cstone.uk](https://cstone.uk).*

\*All events include a short explanation of our church and beliefs. Book event tickets at [cstone.uk/easter](https://cstone.uk/easter). Bookings generally close the day before the event, unless full capacity is reached beforehand.



# Easter Experience

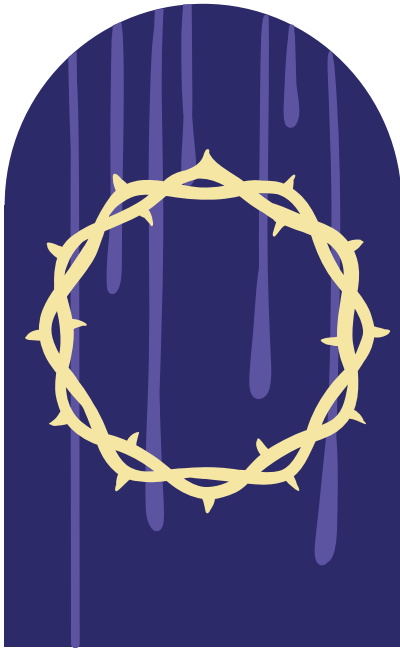
## Wednesday 20 March

4:00–6:00pm, Cornerstone Hub

£ Free – book a 30-min slot online

The Easter Experience is an interactive event aimed at Key Stage 2 children. Travel back in time to meet characters who saw some of the most important events in history. On arrival, you will be offered a hot dog and light refreshments where there will be a craft and some activities. You will then make your way into an interactive dramatisation of the Easter story. Children are given the opportunity to hear the story of Easter engagingly presented by actors. They will meet characters who were at crucial events from the last days before Jesus' death, and those after his resurrection.





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**Saturday 23 March**  
**Michael J. Tinker Concert**

4.00pm, Cornerstone Hub  
**£10** per family

Celebrating 10 years making music for children, Michael J. Tinker is touring a special show that will bring together all his hit songs from the last decade.

Along with his barmy crew, you'll discover wonderful truths about Jesus in this song-filled, laughter-packed extravaganza. Captain Archibald is hunting through the ship for the mysterious IGASAT... will he find it? What is it? Does anyone else even care? This hour-long, Bible-filled show is for all the family.

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**Friday 29 March**  
**Good Friday Service**

10:00–11:00am, Cornerstone Hub

Arrive early for tea, coffee and a hot cross bun before our Good Friday service begins. This short meeting will be appropriate for all-ages, including Bible-readings, singing, prayer and a sermon.

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**Sunday 31 March**  
**Easter Sunday Morning Service**

10:30am–12.00pm, Tiffin School

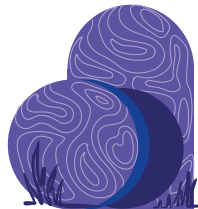
Join us for a family-friendly service to celebrate Easter Sunday. Arrive at 10:00am for light refreshments – the service begins promptly at 10:30am. As you arrive, you'll be greeted by our welcome team. There will be a time of singing (modern and traditional worship songs), prayer and a sermon. Our regular Sunday-morning groups for children and youth will also be running.

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**Sunday 31 March**  
**Easter Sunday Evening Service**

6:30–8:00pm, Cornerstone Hub

Join us for a relaxed evening service to celebrate Easter Sunday. Grab a tea or coffee before sitting at a table with others. The service format will be similar to the morning service.





**10<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
SHOW!**

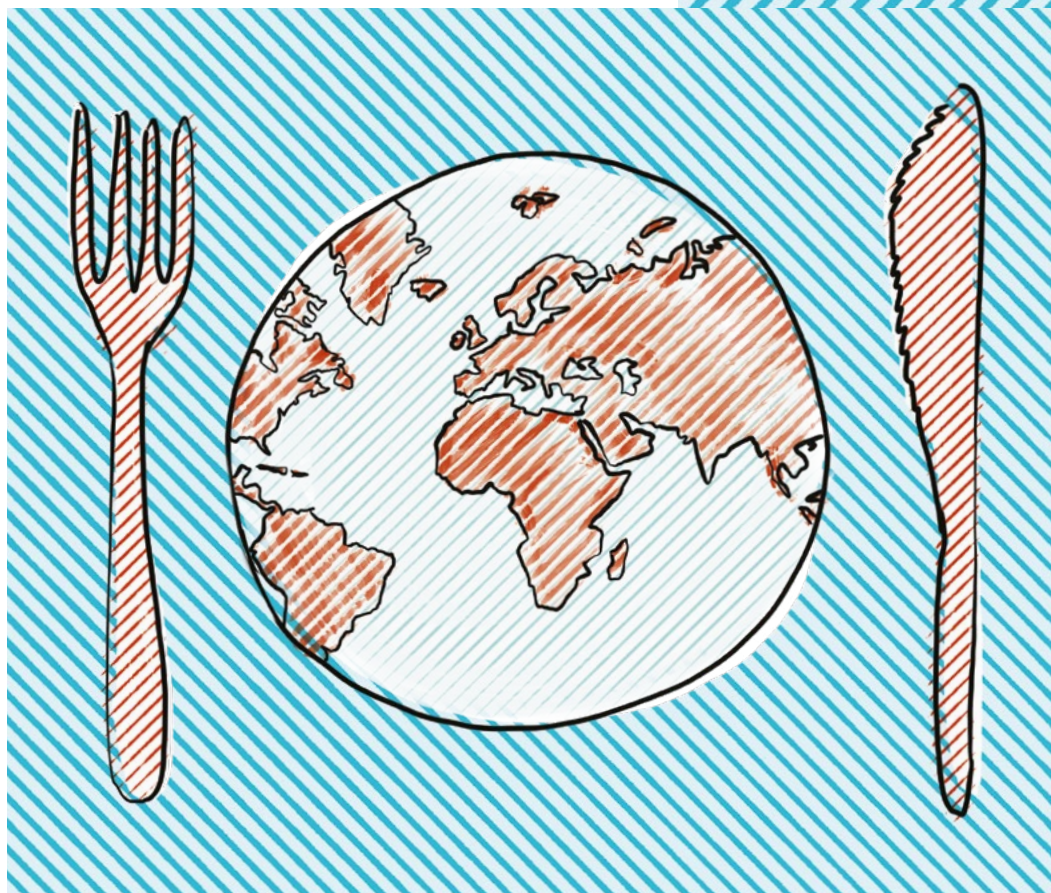
***I'VE GOT A SONG  
ABOUT THAT!***

***A MUSICAL BIBLE SHOW FOR ALL THE FAMILY!***

**SATURDAY 23 MARCH**



# INTER- NATIONAL EASTER





**At our International Café, we have had people from well over 30 nationalities visit us throughout the year. So, we thought we would find out what traditional food they would eat in their country of origin. Here are just a few examples.**

**Simnel Cake** *UK & Ireland*

A light fruit cake with two layers of almond paste or marzipan, one in the middle and one on top which is toasted. Simnel cake goes back to medieval times. At Easter, it is topped with 11 marzipan balls to represent the 11 apostles of Christ – the 12 disciples minus Judas.

**Capirotada** *Mexico*

A bread pudding filled with raisins, cinnamon, cloves and cheese. Each ingredient carries a reminder of the suffering of Christ. Cloves stand for the nails on the cross, cinnamon sticks for the wooden cross itself, and the bread for the body of Christ.

**Tsoureki** *Greece*

A brioche-like decorated bread, flavoured with essence of wild cherries and decorated with hard-boiled eggs that have been dyed red to symbolise the blood of Christ.

**Hot Cross Buns** *UK*

The cross on top of these fruit buns is a symbol of the crucifixion – which is why they are traditionally eaten on Good Friday.

**Roast Lamb** *Many countries*

Often served on Easter Sunday, lamb is referenced in quite a few Christian stories and has become linked with Easter due to Jesus being the sacrificial Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of all who believe in him.

**Fanesca** *Ecuador*

A special soup served only during the week leading up to Easter in Ecuador. It's made with 12 different beans and grains to represent the 12 disciples, the first followers of Jesus.

**Pashka** *Russia*

A sweet cheesecake often decorated with sliced almonds in the form of religious symbols like the letters XB, which means 'Christ is risen'.

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**Kingston International Café**

Tuesdays, 7:00–9:30pm,  
Cornerstone Hub  
£ Free

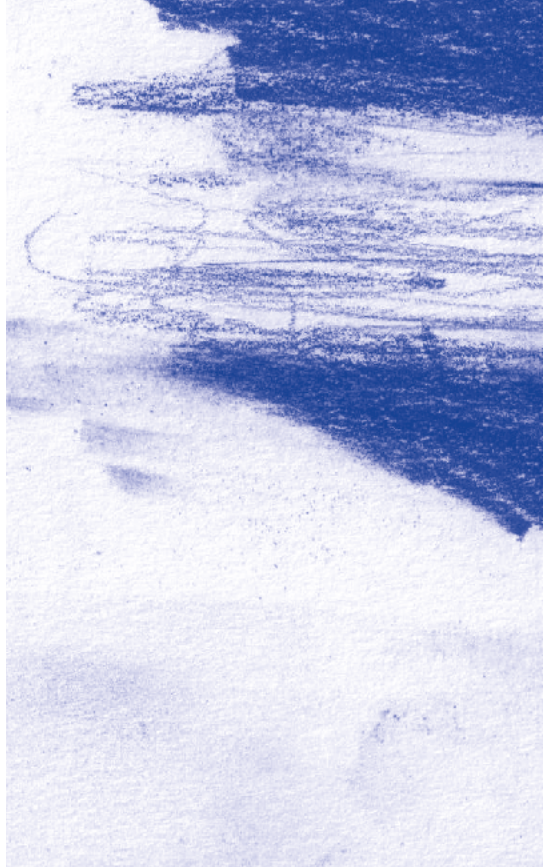
Internationals can learn, have fun and make friends. Come along to take part in a free English lesson at 7:00pm. Afterwards, there will be a fun activity to enjoy together. A hot meal is then served, followed by a brief talk from the Bible. There is the opportunity to discuss the talk and ask questions. For more information, please visit [kingstoninternationalcafe.org](http://kingstoninternationalcafe.org).

Illustration by Alex Devane

# What's so good about Good Friday?

## **A child asks their parent: why celebrate something so bad?**

Dad, is being betrayed by a friend a good thing? *No, of course not.* Dad, when someone lies about you – is that good? *No. It's horrible.* What about being bullied and beaten up? That isn't good, is it? *Of course not – why are you talking like this?* What about being killed in a violent way? *What's up, son? What's going on? Why are you upset?* Well, why is it that we call it Good Friday on the day Jesus was betrayed, beaten up, sentenced to death, mocked, and then nailed to a wooden cross and left to die? *Good question. My friend at work told me in Germany it is called, "Karfreitag", which means "Sorrowful Friday". Why do we call it Good Friday then? Is it because we hate Jesus? It's because of the GOOD Jesus did for us in that terrible event. The Bible passage we read at church explains.*



## **Isaiah chapter 53**

*He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*





Illustration by  
Susan Dreyer



# Bet your life on it?

What do a  
mathematician,  
an ancient wager  
and an empty tomb  
have in common?



Illustration by Alex Devane

**B**laise Pascal was a mathematician and philosopher in the 17th century. He famously suggested a wager, now known by his name: that a rational person should seek to believe and live as though the biblical God exists because if it turns out that he doesn't, only a few years have been changed; it's no big deal. But if he does exist, there's eternal life to look forward to, and unending hell to avoid. So the bet is a no-brainer.

**Many people think the Christian faith amounts to no more than taking a gamble on God, an existential leap of faith.** The Easter story makes it very clear how wrong they are.

If Jesus Christ didn't rise from the dead on the first Easter morning, Christians throughout history haven't just placed their bet on the wrong horse: they are, as Richard Dawkins suggests, badly deluded. Dangerous, even. Not only have they surrendered their own lives on the hoax of a megalomaniac; they have tried to convince others to yield to that hoax. Paul, an eyewitness to the resurrected Jesus, explains in the Bible, 1 Corinthians 15: "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead... if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied."

That's quite a catalogue of errors, isn't it? If the resurrection didn't actually happen, then churches around the world should issue a hefty and heart-felt apology, close their doors and call it a day.

But what if it did happen? C. S. Lewis, author of the Narnia books, wrote that, **"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important!"**

**If Jesus Christ was alive and well on Easter Sunday, it is infinitely important for at least four reasons:**

**1** It proves the identity of Christ. Jesus claimed to be more than a good teacher or an inspired prophet; he claimed to be the Son of God. If he didn't rise again, he was at least deeply psychotic or a delusional maniac.

**2** It demonstrates that death has been defeated. If Jesus didn't rise again, the grave is the shared destiny of all humanity. If he did, it means he has the power to resurrect us, too – to eternal life.

**3** It assures us that Jesus will come again. The Bible tells us that God has given proof to the world that one day he will judge humanity with justice by the man he has appointed. That man is Jesus, and his resurrection is God's proof.

**4** It offers us true and lasting forgiveness. As he was dying, Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" He had completed his mission: he lived a perfect life for us, and paid for our imperfections with his life. If he didn't rise again that payment failed, and we're still guilty.

The resurrection of Jesus is not a 'good bet'. It's a historically verifiable fact which represents world-changing, life-transforming news for everyone. We'd love you to hear and consider that good news afresh this Easter.

# Easter at Cornerstone Church Kingston

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