

The Christian Story

- ◆ After his death Jesus was buried in a rock hewn tomb. Some of his women followers watched this process. Nobody went to the tomb the next day (Sabbath).
- ◆ On the Sunday morning women came to anoint the body properly for burial. The stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. A figure in white tells them that Jesus is risen and the women are sent to tell the disciples who come to check this out (Peter)
- ◆ The risen Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene, and various groupings of disciples, in both Jerusalem and Galilee, over the next 40 days.

The Beliefs

- ◆ The light of Christ has overcome the darkness of sin and death.
- ◆ The Resurrection is at the core of the message of salvation – all mankind is redeemed through the death and resurrection of Jesus - atonement
- ◆ Easter Day is the most significant day of the Christian year

Easter Day

Matthew chapter 28 verses 1-10, Mark chapter 16 verses 1-8, Luke chapter 24 verses 1-11, John chapter 20 verses 1-9

“Easter” is not a Christian term – it refers to the goddess Eostre whose festival of new life took place in Spring. “Paschal” comes from the Jewish “Pesach” (Passover), which coincided with Jesus’ death.



The Customs

- ◆ Churches have night vigils culminating either at midnight or dawn with a Service of Light, which proclaims the resurrection with the lighting of the paschal fire from which a paschal candle is lit in turn. Those present light candles from the Easter light.
- ◆ The paschal candle is used for the Easter season and for baptisms. It is marked with the Greek letters Alpha and Omega for Christ the first and last, and five grains of incense for the five wounds of the crucifixion, plus the year. It is lit for services in the Easter season and later for baptisms.
- ◆ Easter is a traditional time for adult baptisms and confirmations. The newly confirmed will take their first communion on Easter Day.
- ◆ And of course, eggs, bunnies, cards, bonnets etc!

The Christian Experience

- ◆ New beginnings
- ◆ New life in Christ
- ◆ Life-changing / transformation
- ◆ Redeemed / saved / reconciliation
- ◆ Darkness and light