

April Fool

April Fool's Day this year is the same day as Easter Day. That thought stimulates our brains. One of the early explanations of what happened at Easter is that the Devil was made a fool of. He thought he had the Son of God in his power. Inspired by Satan, human beings had tortured to death the only truly good man who has ever lived. It looked like a victory for evil over good and death over life. The Devil appeared to have won. Jesus was dead on the cross and buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.

On the Sunday morning, however, the tomb was empty. Women and men encountered the risen Christ. Jesus is alive. Christ is risen. Life in fact has conquered death. Good has conquered evil. Through faith in Christ, human lives are wonderfully transformed through the experience of His Holy Spirit. The Devil has been defeated. The love of God is more powerful than all the wickedness in the world. Satan took the bait of Jesus' offering of Himself in love and, by doing so, ended his own tyranny over humanity.

That's one way to look at the coincidence of Easter and April Fool's Day. Here's another way. Lots of people would say that the Easter story is foolishness. If God wanted to defeat the powers of wickedness and death, surely the way to do it would have been with an almighty demonstration of miraculous power. God could have performed tremendous signs and wonders which would have compelled people to believe. He could just strike down all the wicked people in the world. He could easily outsmart us, given His infinite wisdom. Wouldn't we do something like that if we were God? Meet force with force, cunning with cunning. Yet God didn't do that. He overcame evil with good. Jesus willingly offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It might look like foolishness to the people of the world, but, in fact, Jesus is the wisdom and power of God. Evil can't be defeated by evil. Evil can only be beaten by good. Death isn't overcome by killing others, but by Christ dying on our behalf. You don't destroy the devil and all his works by becoming even more devilish than Satan. You overwhelm hatred and indifference to others' needs only by self-sacrificial love.

April fool, Easter Day. Think about it.

We're marking these events this year as follows. All, of course, welcome.

Maundy Thursday (29th March): Holy Communion at St John's Halling at 9.30 am and a Passover Supper at 7.00 pm at the Church Hall, Rochester Road, Cuxton, ME2 1AF.

Good Friday (30th March): Family Services at St Michael's Cuxton at 10.00 am and the Three Hour Devotion from 12.00 at St John's Halling. You may, if you wish, attend for only parts of the Three Hour Devotion.

Easter Day: Holy Communion at 8.00 am at the Jubilee Hall, 9.30 am at St Michael's Cuxton and 11.00 am at St John's Halling.

More information is available from <http://cuxtonandhalling.org.uk/> or me on 01634 717134, roger@cuxtonandhalling.org.uk, The Rectory, 6, Rochester Road, Cuxton, ME2 1AF.

Roger Knight
Rector of Cuxton and Halling.