

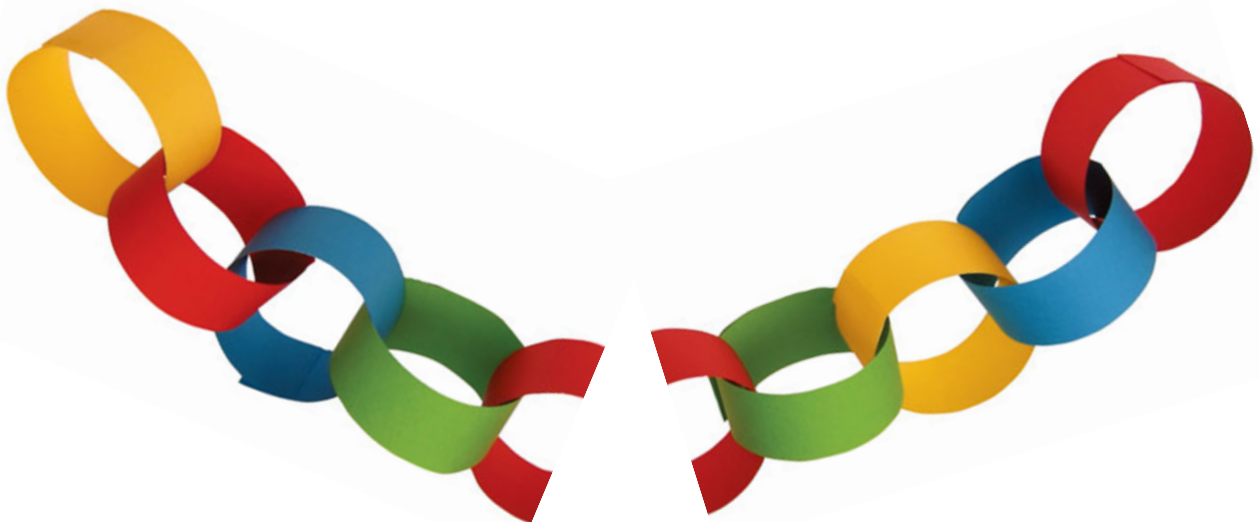
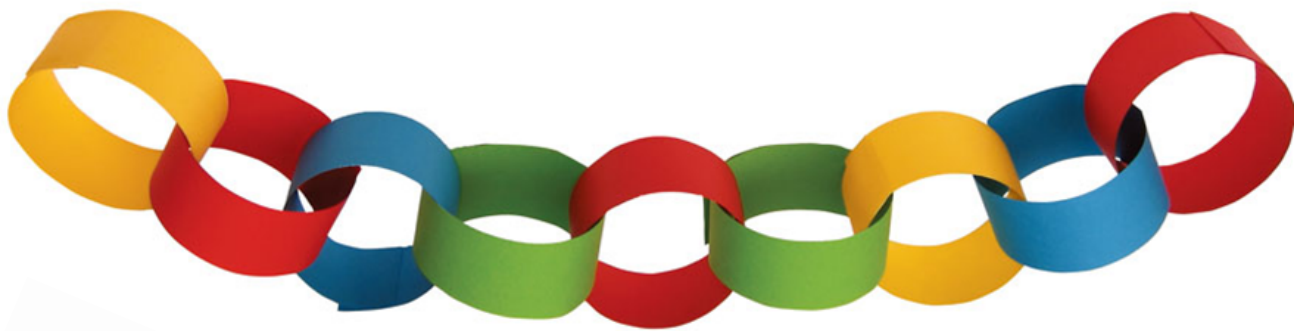


ALL TOGETHER

The Great Escape(s!)

SS Peter & Paul

28<sup>th</sup> June 10 am



Please visit our website [www.parishofkidlington.org.uk](http://www.parishofkidlington.org.uk)  
or our Facebook page 'Kidlington Anglican Churches'  
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*Words of welcome.*

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again. (Gal 5:1 NIV)

## **Opening Song**

Our God is a great big God,  
Our God is a great big God,  
Our God is a great big God  
And He holds us in His hands (repeat)

He's higher than a skyscraper  
and deeper than a submarine.  
He's wider than the universe  
and beyond my wildest dreams.  
He's known me and He's loved me before the world began.  
How wonderful to be a part of God's amazing plan.

Our God is a great big God,  
Our God is a great big God,  
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He's higher than a skyscraper  
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Nigel & Jo Hemming ©2001 VINEYARD SONGS (UK/Eire)

*We say sorry to God for the things we have done wrong:*

Lord,  
as we travel the journey of life,  
sometimes we are sad and discouraged,  
and don't recognise your presence.

**Forgive us and help us, loving God.**

As we travel through new experiences,  
sometimes we are confused and afraid,  
and forget to look for you amongst the unfamiliar.

**Forgive us and help us, loving God.**

As we meet new people,  
some who have different ideas and views from our own,  
some who challenge and make us feel uncomfortable,  
we fail to see you at work in them.

**Forgive us and help us, loving God.**

As we listen to old familiar Bible stories,  
sometimes we neglect to look for new opportunities among  
the well-known words.

**Forgive us and help us, loving God.**

When we have opportunities to share good news,  
we gossip and discourage.

When we have new ways of service before us,  
we waste time and make up excuses.

**Forgive us and help us, loving God.**

When we come before our Lord  
and confess our sin,  
God forgives us.

We hear then God's word of grace,  
our sins are forgiven.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

## The Prayer for the Day

Almighty God,  
whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul  
glorified you in their death as in their life:  
grant that your Church,  
inspired by their teaching and example,  
and made one by your Spirit,  
may ever stand firm upon the one foundation,  
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven  
and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Readings

*Today our readings will be told in two very different dramatic ways.  
If you would like to read them they are:*

### **Acts 12:1-11**

About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring

him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, 'Get up quickly.' And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, 'Fasten your belt and put on your sandals.' He did so. Then he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.' Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, 'Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting.'

### **Acts 9:23-25**

After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him; but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

### **Activity**

**Craft** - Making chains - Introduced by Katie

### **Song: The Spirit lives to set us free**

The Spirit lives to set us free,  
Walk, walk in the light;  
He binds us all in unity,  
Walk, walk in the light.  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light of the Lord.

Jesus promised life to all,  
Walk, walk in the light;  
The dead were wakened by His call,  
Walk, walk in the light.  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light of the Lord.

By Jesus' love our wounds are healed,  
Walk, walk in the light;  
The Father's kindness is revealed,  
Walk, walk in the light.  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light of the Lord.

The Spirit lives in you and me,  
Walk, walk in the light;  
His light will shine for all to see,  
Walk, walk in the light.  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light,  
Walk in the light of the Lord.

## **Prayers**

*Led by the young people*

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then,  
and do not let yourselves be burdened again. (Gal 5:1 NIV)

*We sing our closing hymn:*

## **Closing Hymn (MP33) - And can it be that I should gain**

And can it be that I should gain  
An interest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me!

'Tis mystery all! The Immortal dies:  
Who can explore His strange design?  
In vain the first-born seraph tries  
To sound the depths of love divine.  
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,  
Let angel minds inquire no more.

He left His Father's throne above -  
So free, so infinite His grace -  
Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race.  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
For, O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray -  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free.  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

## **The Dismissal**

### **The Blessing**

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again. (Gal 5:1 NIV)

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

### **The Peace**

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace.  
If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.