

EASTER TRADITIONS IN BRITAIN



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The Origin of Easter



Easter is a religious holiday, which celebrates the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday following his crucifixion and death, according to the Bible, on Good Friday.

The English name for this festival comes from the Anglo – Saxon word, Eastre, a prechristian festival celebrated in honour of the Teutonic goddess of dawn, Bede Eastre. Its exact date varies from year to year because it depends on the moon's cycle, but the earliest possible date is March, 22 and the latest is April, 25.

Many churches throughout the UK hold a special service. This may be a communion service in the evening or a time of prayer during the day, especially around 3 o'clock as that is about the time of day when Jesus died.

Egg Exchanging Custom



Easter celebrates life and rebirth, that is why we see lots of symbols of new life and fertility at Easter, like eggs, chicks and rabbits. The custom of decorating Easter eggs and exchanging them as gifts was begun by the ancient Egyptians. Then this custom became popular with the peoples of Eastern Europe. Another symbol of Easter is the white lily, or Easter lily. Easter colours are pastel colours and purple.

The traditional food on Good Friday in the UK is hot cross buns.

Hot cross buns are typical cakes that are made at Easter time. They are like spiced bread rolls with raisins and they always have a cross on top. They are delicious when served hot with butter.





A Basket of Candies

Easter is a real fun for children: on Easter Sunday they wake up to find that Easter Bunny has left them a basket of candy. They enjoy chocolate eggs, chicks and rabbits. Parents try to hide them somewhere in the garden.





Easter Bunny

The Easter Bunny is to Easter what Santa Claus is to Christmas. The Easter Bunny has usually a basket of eggs. The story of the

first Easter Bunny who did coloured eggs for young children to find on Easter morning was first recorded in the fifth – century Germany.





In the UK, chocolate is definitely the most popular way to enjoy eggs at Easter. But there are some less sugary traditions, too. Chickens' eggs are painted and decorated to give as presents, and eggs are also hidden for children to find as part of an 'egg hunt'. Some places even hold competitions to see who can roll an egg down a hill without it breaking!



Some Things That Easter Brings

Easter duck and Easter chick,
Easter eggs with chocolate thick,

Easter hats for one and all,
Easter bunny makes a call!

Happy Easter always brings
Such a lot of pleasant things.





HOT CROSS BUNS

Hot cross buns,
Hot cross buns,
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot cross buns.
Give them to your daughters,
Give them to your sons.
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot cross buns.





A Time to Rest

Schoolchildren and students in the UK have two-week holidays at Easter time which is almost as long as the Christmas holidays. It's also the first public holiday after Christmas, and everyone looks forward to their Easter break as a moment to relax, have a short holiday or visit family and friends.



HAPPY EASTER!

