

REFLECTIONS

The resurrection was not just good news for the disciples it was an *utter* surprise. They had seen Jesus die in the most appalling circumstances; among the disciples there had been betrayal, desertion and denial; all hopes had turned to despair. Nobody was expecting to find an empty tomb. Matthew tells us that it was Mary Magdalene and another Mary who were the first witnesses to the resurrection. To them Jesus gives an instruction and a promise: 'go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.' And so the despair of Good Friday gives way to the joy of Easter morning.

In the months and years to come the disciples of Jesus grasped more clearly the implications of that amazing weekend. In Acts Peter addresses a sermon to the gentile household of Cornelius: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality.' This is a pivotal moment in the reception of gentiles into the Christian church; in telling of both the crucifixion and the resurrection, Peter explains how God has appointed Jesus as judge of the living and the dead. This means that death cannot have the last word, only Jesus. The only thing necessary for a judgement of forgiveness, rather than condemnation, is repentance and trust in him. In spite of whatever the world may say, God can bring light out of darkness; something out of nothing; even life out of death, for *all* people. Alleluia. Christ is risen!

Going deeper

Apart from this dawn meeting with Jesus, Matthew records no other resurrection appearance in Jerusalem, his focus shifts to Galilee, to the people living in darkness (Matthew 4.15,16). There the disciples see him and receive the commission to go into all the world. Where is our Galilee, our place of encounter with Jesus today?

I wonder...

At a time when we are physically restricted from going and telling, how shall we share God's large hearted love?

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Easter Sun 12th	Morning Psalm 114 & 117 & Revelation 15 2-4 Evening Psalm 105
Mon 13th	Morning Psalm 111 & 1 Corinthians 15 1-11 Evening Psalm 135
Tue 14th	Morning Psalm 112 & 1 Corinthians 15 12-19 Evening Psalm 136
Wed 15th	Morning Psalm 113 & 1 Corinthians 15 20-28 Evening Psalm 105
Thurs 16th	Morning Psalm 114 & 1 Corinthians 15 29-34 Evening Psalm 106
Fri 17th	Morning Psalm 115 & 1 Corinthians 15 35-50 Evening Psalm 107
Sat 18th	Morning Psalm 116 & 1 Corinthians 15 51 to end Evening Psalm 145

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX HOLDERS Please continue to hold on and await further instructions sometime in the future. Thank you for your co-operation. *Eunice Harris*

April's edition of **PARISH NEWS** is available on the website at <http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews>

Due to the current circumstances, **THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS FOR A NEW TEAM RECTOR IS NOW PAUSED.** The vacancy will continue to be advertised on both the St Mary's website and the Diocesan website, though the interview process will take place at a later date, as soon as it is feasible.



See St Mary's church, SW, website at www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org to find out more.



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The Grapevine

COVERING THE PARISHES OF SAFFRON WALDEN, WIMBISH, DEBDEN, ASHDON AND HADSTOCK.

Easter Day
12th April 2020

Collect

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

First Reading: Acts 10. 34-43

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Gospel: Matthew 28. 1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Churches Together Prayer Cycle: In April please pray for: **St Mary's Church of England, St Mary's C of Primary School**
The family and friends of those who have died recently:
Keith Simmonds

EVENTS

WITH APOLOGIES, PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS ALL EVENTS ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

NEWS

We have received the sad news of the death of Keith Simmonds. Keith and Pat were for many years regular worshippers at the 8 o'clock service and generous supporters of St Mary's. They moved to London five years ago to be near their family. Keith, who was 92, died on 23rd March following a fall and a short illness. *Denis Tindley*

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Today of all days it is sad that we can't be together to share the joyful good news of Jesus' resurrection. Being locked-down, isolating, or socially distancing, is a worrying, confusing and painful experience. It's been said that being a Christian is learning to live out of control, and that certainly seems to be true today. Perhaps, this might be compared to the loss of control that the disciples must have felt as they accompanied Jesus towards Calvary. Yet, in the midst of all this, we can always take heart, because Jesus' resurrection brings us a genuine hope for the future, which rightly leads to worship, wherever we are. This is the essence of our Easter faith.

The Church world-wide is learning how to be the Church in a time of isolation. The crisis is teaching us that we can still worship together, even though we are apart. Our Ministry Team continues to produce worship resources for us during the restrictions. In the quiet of our own homes we can still come to God, with others on our hearts, and experience something of the communion of saints. Don't forget radio and television broadcasts during the Easter season (e.g. on Easter Day: Archbishop of Canterbury on Radio 4 at 8.10am; and a service for Easter from Bangor Cathedral on BBC One at 11.25am). Let's remember to keep in touch with those who do not have internet access by telephone or letter - it is greatly appreciated. For those with the internet, then there are details of our online resources on the adjoining page. Also, our Cathedral has a youtube channel where daily morning and evening prayer services and a weekly Sunday eucharist can be accessed (go to youtube and search 'Chelmsford Cathedral'). If you are self-isolating and you need support, you are not alone, you can contact our pastoral team (details on the next page).

And finally, let us never forget that although we may be physically isolated from loved ones, we can never be separated from God or his love. Let's join our hearts together as we separately proclaim: Christ is risen, He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

With love and prayers,
Andy Colebrooke

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Lord Jesus Christ, meet with us when life is hard and our faith weak, and grant the assurance that, despite appearances, your purposes continue unchanged, your strength remains undiminished, and your love indestructible. Speak again your word of peace, and may our souls find rest. All this we ask in your name. Amen.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER DURING THE PERIOD OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

We have a team of church members who are ready to help by

- * Collecting essential shopping and medical supplies
- * Providing a regular friendly chat by phone. If you are self-isolating and would like some support or, if you would like to be part of the team who can help, please contact the Parish Office by telephone or email. *Judith Hasler*

PARISH OFFICE The Parish Office is now closed to visitors but we are contactable by telephone and email as usual.

ALL CHURCHES IN THE TEAM REMAIN CLOSED until further notice in accordance with national guidelines.

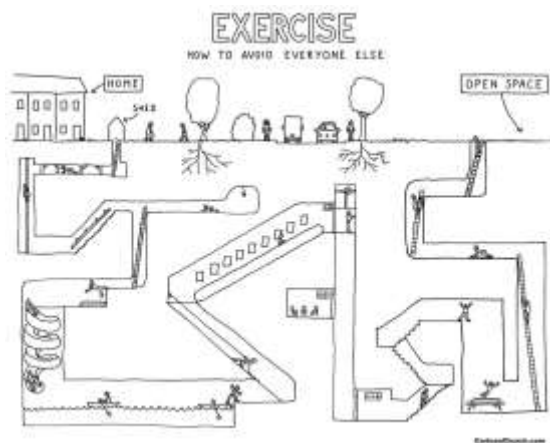
EMAIL BULLETINS We are issuing regular email bulletins that highlight information from the website, attach the Grapevine and service sheet and provide the Zoom links for live services that weekend. Please email Dawn at office@stmaryssaffronwalden.org if you would like to be added to the distribution list.

WORSHIP for HOLY WEEK There are many ways of joining in our team worship on Sunday which can be accessed from links on St Mary's Church at Home webpage. You can watch pre-recorded Reflections on youtube for Good Friday and Easter Day. You can participate in live Zoom Services on Maundy Thursday and Easter Day led from various locations in the team. The service sheet used for these services and Grapevine are also available on the webpage. If you would like technical help in setting up Zoom, please contact Gerald Gardner gerald.gardner@ntlworld.com or Steve Hasler s.hasler@btopenworld.com

This is to confirm that the St Mary's Annual Parochial Church Meeting, which was previously planned for Sunday 26th April has been postponed. We don't have a new date yet. The Diocese has advised us that we have until the end of October and we will let you know as soon as a new date is confirmed. Deanery Synod representatives elected in 2017 (or subsequently to fill a casual vacancy) continue in post until 30th November 2020. Many thanks. *Lisa Brook*

THE TRANSITION PROJECT Whilst the Tuesday clinic is **CANCELLED**, on line support continues – *contact us at* www.transitionproject.co.uk

CARTOON BY DAVE WALKER



MINISTRY TEAM

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