



WELCOME TO ST PETER'S ASH



THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AT ST PETER'S IS CALLED TO CELEBRATE, LIVE AND REFLECT THE LOVE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST

26th APRIL 2020

EASTER 3

<p><u>READINGS FOR TODAY</u> Acts 2 v 14a, 36 - 41; 1 Peter 1 v 17 - 23; Luke 24 v 13 - 35</p>	<p>PARISH OFFICE: Closed until further notice. TEL:01252 331161; e- mail: office@saint-peters-ash.org.uk BOOKINGS OF WEDDINGS & BAPTISMS – 01252 321517 WEBSITE: www.saint-peters-ash.org.uk</p>
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***ALLELUIA, CHRIST IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!***



Jesus himself came near and went with them

COLLECT FOR EASTER 3

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained
by his risen life and serve you continually
in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR ALL AFFECTED BY THE CORONA VIRUS

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

DON'T FORGET OUR ST PETER'S PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like emergency prayer for yourself or
somebody else please phone: 01252 322292 or 01252
323037 – this is a confidential service.

If you would like a chat at any time, or if you need anything,
please give myself or Carol a call – 321517 or (Carol) 313239.
Be assured that we will be praying for you all, and that you
are very much in our thoughts, every day. Please keep in
contact with each other regularly.

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SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE RECTORY

Today should have been our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (to give it its full title) i.e. our AGM! By now you would have received written reports from all of our organisations and groups, keeping us up to date with all that we have been doing together over the past 12 months. Also, we would have been hearing the feedback from our 'Vision Sunday' on 15th March – as it turned out, the last time we were all together for worship. Alas, of course, none of that can happen at present. The Bishop has given permission for all parishes to postpone their AGM's until the Autumn, but, as yet, no date can be given.

As you know, the life of St Peter's is continuing, albeit in a different format. I hope everyone is feeling that they are still being kept in touch with one another. Personally, I have had some interesting 'distanced' conversations with people while out on my daily permitted exercise. Also, I have been trying to keep up with people by phone, as has Carol and our small team of volunteer 'callers'. When we are able to meet again I'm sure we will all have many stories to tell about the different ways we spent our time. Perhaps you have rediscovered skills that have long lain dormant? Maybe you have had the time to take up new skills using the wonders of internet learning. Or, maybe you have had time just to stop and think about your faith a bit more. Spent more time in prayer, or even been reading some of those 'spiritual' books that have been waiting for you on your shelves for ages.

If you have thoughts, insights, or other things you would like to share with other members of the congregation it would be great to hear from you. Why not drop me an e-mail at : keithbristow1956@outlook.com or phone me, and I can put something on the pew sheet next time. Although some people may be physically on their own, we are all still part of Christ's Body – the Church, and by sharing with each other we are also caring for each other.

A little while ago we ran a series in the magazine in which people shared their favourite hymns, and gave reasons why they were important to them. If you didn't get chance to go into print then, why not let myself or Ceri have your top 5 hymns now? Or, if you are a bit too shy to go 'global', why not share them with another person over the phone. You could also talk about other music that you enjoy. This can be a tremendous way of having a different conversation, especially if you feel that, after 6 weeks of lockdown, you are running out of things to say! If there are several people

isolating with you, you could always turn it into an inhouse version of 'Desert Island Discs', think about a 'luxury item' you particularly value too, and why!

Morning Prayer to share at 10 am on Sunday

You may wish to light a candle and have some reflective music playing in the background. Have a Bible to hand.

If there is more than one person present, someone may wish to read the parts marked (L), everyone says the rest together. You can say alternate verses in the Easter Anthems and in the psalm and in the Benedictus

(L) Alleluia, Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

(L) O Lord, open our lips

All: and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

(L) In your resurrection, O Christ

All: let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

L: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind:

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

(L): Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God. Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

(Pause for reflection)

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief:

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection. In your mercy, forgive us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing. In your mercy, forgive us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven. In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, have mercy, forgive us our sins and bring us to eternal life. Amen.

Read Acts 2 v 14a & 36 - 41 followed by Psalm 116 v1 - 3 & 10 - end, ending with:

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Read 1 Peter 1 v 17 - 23:

A Song of the New Creation:

Refrain: I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

1 'I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King.'

2 Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,

3 'Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old.

4 'Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

5 'I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,

6 'The people whom I formed for myself, that they might declare my praise.' *(Isaiah 43.15,16,18,19,20c,21)*

All Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Refrain: I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Now read Luke 24 v 13 - 35. Here are some thoughts from Carol on today's readings:

You don't need me to tell you how challenging a time we currently find ourselves in. Just like the disciples hidden away in fear of persecution, we 'hide' ourselves away in our homes and keep our distance from each other in fear of the unseen virus. Yet, we can be assured that in the midst of all that is going on, God is in it with us. How do we know and be sure of that? Well, we only need to take a look at the readings for this morning.

In Acts we are reminded that in baptism we receive the Holy Spirit. The receiving of the Holy Spirit is not a one off event, He continues to be with us, guiding, leading and prompting us throughout our lives. Yes, there will be, and there are, times when we will be more aware of His presence and other times when we may even think we have been abandoned, just like the disciples felt they had been left alone when Jesus died.

Then in the First Letter of Peter we are reminded of the Word of God - 1 Peter 1 v 25: 'but the word of the Lord endures for ever.' That 'word' is the good news that was announced to you.' This not only refers to the word as in the scriptures, but also the Word as in God Himself. Here I am reminded of the opening to John's Gospel: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.' And finally, we have the revelation of Jesus to the disciples at the breaking of bread. So you can see that all three readings today hold subtle messages within them that I believe are so relevant for us at this time.

Now I don't know about you, but I really am missing the gathering together to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. For me, it is, and has been, one of the central parts of my faith. It is the place where we come closest to meeting with Jesus personally, in a tangible way, and today's Luke reading is a reminder of that. It is only when Jesus breaks bread and blesses it along with the wine, that the disciples recognise Him. Yes, on their walk along the Emmaus road the disciples had been inspired and encouraged by Jesus' understanding of the scriptures. How excited they must have felt when they listened to Him as they walked together along the road, yet they did not recognise Him until He broke and blessed the bread and wine with them in the locked room.

Sadly, this act of breaking bread and taking wine together has been taken from us for the time being. However, this does not mean we cannot still know that God is with us or know Jesus in a tangible way. I know that many of you who have been taking part in the services on a Sunday morning have felt that you are indeed in communion with your fellow Christians. I certainly have, and in some ways, felt a deeper sense of being at one with Jesus in those times.

For all of us at this time we can take so much comfort from today's readings as we reflect and wait on God to speak to us through them. If you are feeling anxious or fearful about what is going on around us, or perhaps for what lies ahead, you can call upon the gift of the Holy Spirit to give you personal guidance and reassurance that you are not alone, that God is with you each step of the way. There is the gift of the holy scriptures that can speak in so many ways, and again, if what you are reading doesn't make sense, or it seems beyond comprehension, ask God the Holy Spirit to open you heart and mind, so that you can experience some of what the disciples did when Jesus walked and talked with them (Luke 24 v 32: 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?') Then you will experience the living Lord Jesus in a very real and tangible way.

Pause for your own reflections, and then we say:

The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah)

All: The Lord is risen from the tomb who for our sakes hung upon the tree. Alleluia.

- 1) Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2) He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of his servant David.
- 3) Through his holy prophets God promised of old to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4) To show mercy to our ancestors, and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5) This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6) Free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
- 7) And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8) To give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9) In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10) To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. (Luke 1.68-79)

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

All: The Lord is risen from the tomb who for our sakes hung upon the tree. Alleluia.

We now have a time of intercession, written today by Sheila Taylor.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life, and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

We pray for all who bring us hope and love and joy in this time of global upheaval. May they lift our spirits and call us together in solidarity. Risen Christ, hear us.

We pray for our political, economic and social leaders as they discern the road to recovery through and after the pandemic. May they help us imagine and work for a new society of justice, compassion and peace. Risen Christ, hear us.

We pray for parents struggling with home schooling and for teachers at schools that are open. May they find the resources they need to meet these new challenges. Risen Christ, hear us.

We pray for all who are financially insecure but ineligible for government support. May ways be found to alleviate their plight. Risen Christ, hear us.

We pray for those whose mental health is under serious threat from confinement and social isolation. May they find the resources they need to keep their peace of mind. Risen Christ, hear us.

We pray for the residents of aged care facilities. May they be well cared for as they suffer the pain of separation from loved ones. Risen Christ, hear us.



We pray for communities around the nation devastated by the winter floods. May their struggle to recover continue to receive the support it deserves. Risen Christ, hear us.

We pray for the recently deceased, especially those who have died from the coronavirus and for those whose anniversary of death falls at this time. May they join the risen Lord and all the saints in the glory of eternal life. Risen Christ, hear us.

Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ is the light to the world, a light that shines for all, let that light guide us always. Amen.

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray: Our Father in heaven.....

This hymn may be said or sung:

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

But the pain which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love, Alleluia!
Praise Him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

Let us pray:

Risen Christ,
as you knew the discipline of suffering
and the victory that brings us salvation,
so grant us your presence in our weakness
and a place in your unending kingdom
now and for evermore. Amen.

May the God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
make us perfect in every good work to do his will;
and the grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us and all who we love, today and always. Amen.

(L) Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

All: May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise with Christ in glory. Amen.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SOULS OF THE RECENTLY DEPARTED,
ESPECIALLY:

- JUNE LARBY; FREDDIE JONES; JUDY ASTBURY;
BETTY WRIGHT;
- ANNIE TYLER (Annie was a member of our Flower Guild for many years, and a great supporter of St Peter's)

READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK – EASTER 4

Acts 2 v 42 - end; 1 Peter 2 v 19 - end; John 10 v 1 - 10



Up He sprang at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Up from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

When our hearts are saddened, grieving or in pain,
By Your touch You call us back to life again;

Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

Evening Prayer for the Easter Season (2)

O lord open our lips,
and our mouth shall show forth your praise.

O God make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

In your resurrection, O Christ,
let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the deep waters of death
you brought your people to new birth
by raising your Son to life in triumph.
Through him dark death has been destroyed
and radiant life is everywhere restored.
As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light
may our lives reflect his glory
and our lips repeat the endless song.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This hymn may be said or sung:

Love's redeeming work is done,
fought the fight, the battle won.
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!
Lo, he sets in blood no more!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal!
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids him rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our victorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,
following out exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise,
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection thou!

We pray:

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,
so may your mercy come down upon us
to cleanse our hearts
and set us free to sing your praise
now and for ever Amen.

A Psalm is said: Mon 61; Tue 71; Wed 72; Thur 73; Fri 149; Sat 27, ending with:

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.
Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Monday – Deuteronomy 5 v 1 – 22, Ephesians 1 v 1 – 14

Tuesday – Deuteronomy 5 v 22 – end, Ephes. 1 v 15 – end

Weds – Deuteronomy 6, Ephesians 2 v 1 – 10

Thurs – Deuteronomy 7 v 1 – 11, Ephesians 2 v 11 – end

Fri (Philip & James) – Job 23 v 1 – 12, John 1 v 43 – end

Sat – Deuteronomy 8, Ephesians 3 v 14 - end

The Lord is my strength and my song: he has become my salvation. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. The Lord is my strength and my song: he has become my salvation. *(from Psalm 118)*

Gospel Cantic: The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. Alleluia.

1) My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2) From this day all generations will call me blessed; the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.

3) He has mercy on those who fear him, from generation to generation.

4) He has shown strength with his arm and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5) Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

6) He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

7) He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, to remember his promise of mercy,

8) The promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. Alleluia.

Prayers of thanksgiving may be made for the day. Intercessions are offered for the church, for peace, the world and for individuals and their needs

Rejoicing in God's new creation, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven ...

Saving God,
open the gates of righteousness,
that your pilgrim people may enter
and be built into a living temple
on the cornerstone of our salvation,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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