Church news

Sunday 4th April: Easter Day

April's "Letter from the Ministry Team" comes from Revd John Chambers:

Dear friends

It is so wonderful to see and hear of the many ways in which people right across our community and beyond are responding to the lockdown. We've heard about people picking up prescriptions and food, having meaningful rather than rushed conversations on the phone, cooking meals, walking the dog, co-ordinating the volunteers, sending funny clips on TikTok or WhatsApp etc to cheer someone up. We know we isolate to protect others as well as ourselves but it feels counter intuitive to not shake someone's hand in greeting or to hug a friend and so we let people know how much they mean to us and how thankful we are, using the best means we can.

We are about to celebrate Easter in the best way we can, not in church full of beautiful lilies and flowers and joyful resurrection hymns but in our own homes either watching or quietly joining in with our services which are sent out every week. As we approach Holy Week and Easter perhaps this year, more than ever before, we can feel closer to how the disciples felt during that first Easter..... confused, frightened for their safety, lonely, bereft of their friend, wondering what the future would look like, questioning would it ever be the same again? It was never ever going to be the same again for those friends of Jesus, as they discovered. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you" John 20: 25. Isn't that just what we need to know too. Even in our isolation, our fear, however busy we try and keep ourselves, however lonely we may feel, that we are not on our own. The doors may be shut, but that's no barrier to the risen Lord Jesus. He will always enter where he is welcomed, where he knows there are those ready to receive him.

Life won't be the same again for us either. There will be the 'do you remember during lockdown ...' stories and, of course, for many thousands who have lost loved ones, life will always be heartbreakingly different.

There has been time spent reflecting on how we can actually manage with less and that time spent with loved ones is not to be wasted. As we have this time and space to reflect on our lives and how we have chosen to live them, let's give space each day to the risen Lord Jesus who brings us his peace, his joy and his hope.

Revd John

0800 804 8044
DailyHOPE
A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

The BBC Group of Churches

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THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has sent me cards, telephoned, left messages, brought gifts, and kept me close in prayer after my operation. I am recovering well and hope to see you all soon. I wish you all a Happy Easter "God Bless" from Kath Shipley

Acts 10.34–43

34 Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that
God shows no partiality, [35]but in every nation anyone who fears
him and does what is right is acceptable to him. [36]You know the
message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus
Christ—he is Lord of all. [37]That message spread throughout Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: [38]how
God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with pow-
er; how he went about doing good and healing all who were op-
pressed by the devil, for God was with him. [39]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; [40]but God raised him on the third
day and allowed him to appear, [41]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. [42]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. [43]All the prophets testify
about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness
of sins through his name.'

John 20.1–18

20Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary
Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been
removed from the tomb. [2]So she ran and went to Simon Peter and
the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them,
'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know
where they have laid him.' [3]Then Peter and the other disciple set
out and went towards the tomb. [4]The two were running together,
but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. [5]He
bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but
he did not go in. [6]Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went
into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, [7]and the
cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrap-
pings but rolled up in a place by itself. [8]Then the other disciple,
who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and be-
lieved; [9]for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he
must rise from the dead. [10]Then the disciples returned to their
homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she
bent over to look into the tomb; [12]and she saw two angels in
white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the
head and the other at the feet. [13]They said to her, 'Woman, why
are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my
Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' [14]When she
had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but
she did not know that it was Jesus. [15]Jesus said to her, 'Woman,
why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him
to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him
away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.'
[16]Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew,
'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). [17]Jesus said to her, 'Do not
hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But
go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father
and your Father, to my God and your God." ' [18]Mary Magdalene
went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and-
she told them that he had said these things to her.

NEWARK FOODBANK

The items we need this month are as follows:

Instant mashed potato
Long Life Milk
Tinned or microwaveable sponge puddings
Jam
Marmalade
Peanut Butter
Chocolate biscuits eg: Kitkat