

EASTER 2024

LETTER FROM THE MINISTRY TEAM

“Step out and discover a new faith this Easter”

Dear Friends,
Today, as I write this article, is the official first day of Spring. The time of the year when we can witness nature growing new life.

Easter is a wonderful time of year as we celebrate the joy of God's love for us –it seems that nature itself joins with us in praise as all the beauty of spring bursts forth into wonderful new life, even after the wet weather we have been experiencing.

Easter is without doubt the most important season in the church year and Easter Sunday is the most important day of the year. The resurrection of Christ – the Son of God - changed the world in an unprecedented way.

The link between the new life of Easter and spring is one that is often made by Churches. It's a helpful reminder each year of how Jesus' death on the cross (winter) is miraculously transformed into new life (spring). This new life is one we are all invited to share in. I'm sure we'll all agree it's a great picture but for it to mean anything to us it first has to mean something for us personally, as individuals, and that requires a step of faith.

Faith is a strange thing, if you have it you can't imagine living without it, if you don't it just seems like a lot of nonsense. The Bible says 'faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.' (Hebrews 11:1) Reason goes a long way in helping to discover faith and is vital in the process but there comes a point when you just need to step out and trust. We all need to grow in faith and so can I urge you this Eastertide to do just that ... step out and discover (or rediscover) a new and wonderful faith in Jesus. What have you got to lose?

Yours in Christ, Revd John Chambers

SERVICES

Sunday 31st March: Easter Sunday

7.00 am Sunrise Communion Service by the River, All Saints, Barnby

10.00 am Family Communion,

All Saints, Coddington

10.00 am Family Communion, St Giles

Tuesday 2nd April

10.00 am Coffee & Prayer Time (online)

Thursday 4th April

10.00 am Holy Communion, St Giles

Sunday 7th April: The First Sunday after Easter

10.00 am Family Communion, St Giles

6.00 pm Free to Be, St Giles

Tuesday 9th April

10.00 am Coffee & Prayer Time (online)

Wednesday 10th April

7.30 pm Encounter (online)

Thursday 11th April

10.00 am Holy Communion, St Giles

Sunday 14th April:

The Second Sunday after Easter

10.00 am Family Communion, St Giles

10.00 am Family Communion, All Saints, Barnby

WISHING
YOU ALL A
VERY
HAPPY AND
BLESSED
EASTER

READINGS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Collect

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 25. 6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

7 And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; 8 he will swallow up death for ever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

9 It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Acts 10. 34-43

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 power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed 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.'

Mark 16. 1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. 2 And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. 3 They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' 4 When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. 5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 6 But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. 7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' 8 So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterwards Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.

Post Communion Prayer

God of life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 7TH APRIL

Collect

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.

Acts 4. 32-35

32 Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33 With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35 They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

1 John 1.1-2.2

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— 3 we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 We are writing these things so that our[a] joy may be complete.

5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; 7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

John 20. 19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' 28 Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

APCM DATES

St Giles Balderton: Sunday 5th May at 4pm in church
All Saints, Barnby: Monday 13th May at 7pm in church
All Saints, Coddington: Tuesday 14th May at 7pm in church

ELECTORAL ROLL

We will be holding the annual electoral roll review between 24th March and 14th April prior to the APCM on 5th May. If you are already on the roll, you do not need to do anything. (There is a copy hanging in the church porch for you to check). If however, you would like to join the roll or learn more about it, please speak to Jean Newson

IF YOU CAN'T COME TO CHURCH, THE CHURCH WILL COME TO YOU...

Requests for Home Communion should be made to Revd. Phil Smith.

Requests for Home Visits should be made to the group co-ordinator, Chris Wilkes, who will arrange for someone to visit. His contact details are as follows: crwilkes@btinternet.com (e-mail is preferred means of contact) or phone: 01636 385650.

DOUBLE PEW SHEET

Please note that this is a double issue of our pew sheet. The next issue will be out on Sunday 14th April.

PET SERVICE

St Giles' 4 @ The Hall in May will take the form of a Pet Service and will be held in St Giles' Church. Please put the date in your diary. More information to follow after Easter.

4 @ THE HALL

Sunday April 21st at 4pm in St Giles' Community Hall. Please spread the word and let any families know that they are very welcome for stories, songs, crafts and CAKE. Thank you. x

WALK & TALK

Please note that there will be no "Walk and Talk" on Wednesday 3rd April 2024.

ENCOUNTER

Please note that there will be no Encounter on Wednesday 3rd April.

DELICIOUS HOME-MADE CAKES FOR SALE

& WHY NOT STAY FOR TEA/COFFEE ?

SATURDAY 27TH APRIL 2024

10.00 - 12.00 AM



IN ALL SAINTS CHURCH, CODDINGTON

ALL WELCOME

WWW.BBC-CHURCHES.ORG.UK

THE NEXT ISSUE OF OUR BENEFICE BULLETIN

will cover May, June and July. The deadline for entries is 10th April. These should be sent to Louise Marshall at stgilesbalderton@gmail.com