

St Martin of Tours  
Epsom

St Stephen on the Downs  
Langley Vale

The parish of  
St Martin of Tours  
with St Stephen-on-the-Downs

Weekly Newsletter  
Registered Charity Number: 1134149

## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – Easter Day

Dear Friends,

On behalf of all my colleagues, may you have a peaceful and holy Easter. The world needs hope in so many ways, and the story of new life after death is as powerful as ever.

Two ways in which people recognised the risen Christ – Mary did, when he spoke her name. This speaks of intimacy and connection. Disciples did when he broke bread with them. This speaks of the power of sharing food.

I hope we can all, in person or virtually, experience those revelations of the divine in the coming days.

**Nick Parish**

### THIS WEEK

#### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Day

- 9.30am – Holy Communion Service at St Stephen's, in Church – led by David Candlin
- 10.00am – Holy Communion Service at St Martin's, in Church and live streamed – led by Nick Parish
- 6.30pm – Choral Evensong– in Church and live streamed – led by Graeme Lodge



#### Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April

- 10.00am – Holy Communion, in Church and live streamed – led by Nick Parish

### FUTURE SERVICES

#### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Second Sunday of Easter

- 9.30am – Holy Communion at St Stephen's – led by David Candlin
- 10.00am – Morning Prayer at St Martin's, in Church and live streamed – led by John Padwick
- 6.30pm – Stations of the Resurrection – music, scripture, poetry, painting and prayer inspired by the Risen Christ. Easter Celebration words and music. Live and streamed at St Martin's – led by Adrian Esdaile.

## **Worshipping at St Martins – Easter Update**

We are excited to be celebrating Easter with more of you returning to congregational worship.

We thought you might appreciate an update on our COVID safe practices:

### **COVID SAFETY**

We are still in lockdown and subject to National restrictions and guidance. To rehearse these with regard to coming to Church:

- Please arrive at Church in plenty of time. As more of our congregation is comfortable in attending Church in person, this can mean that there is a short queue waiting to enter the Church, registering for Track and Trace and sanitising hands etc.

Having arrived at Church:

- Please wear a face covering (unless exempt)
- Register for Track and Trace - If you have a smart phone, please use the Covid 19 app to log in using the QR code displayed. Otherwise, fill in a Track and Trace form (on the tables at the back of church). Then deposit the form in the 'red box'. Your information is for the sole purpose of informing NHS Track and Trace if needed and will be destroyed after 21 days
- Sanitise your hands on entry and exit
- Observe the relevant distancing and route guidance.
- When inside the Church, please don't 'mingle/socialise' with people from different households (or outside your support bubble). When outside you should only mix in groups of up to six
- Whilst the heating will be on, to maintain good ventilation in Church, the windows in the west end of the Nave will be open
- To avoid the need to touch or handle any articles within the church, there are no service booklets, hymn books or bibles etc. handed out. All service material will be on the screens.
- When receiving communion please approach the altar in a single queue, one side of Church at a time. Sanitise your hands before receiving (provided) and then stand to receive. Please return to your seat via the side transepts, thus walking round in a circle.
- At the end of the service, the normal exit is the North door, which is also the accessible entrance. A 'no touch' bin is there for disposable face coverings. (These are potential bio hazards, so do take care when removing them and sanitise your hands after doing so)
- No collections are taken during any service to avoid the handling of money. Please give by banker's order if you can. The Parish Office can process this for you or you can give online through the QR codes displayed in Church and the newsletter, which take you to our account with the Charities Aid Foundation. Donations can be made either on a one-off basis using direct debit or as a regular donation.

If you have any questions or suggestions about this, please do not hesitate to contact one of the Churchwardens.

***David and John***

## **DISCIPLESHIP /STUDY/ WORSHIP MEETINGS**

**Easter 2021 Tour de Parish**

**Show your support for St Martin's!**

Three familiar faces are taking to their bikes this Easter to celebrate the end of lockdown and raise funds for St Martin's ministry in the parish. On Easter Monday, Churchwarden John Flower and Rev David Candlin will start riding every road in the parish – from the busy town centre to the open spaces of Epsom Downs. Intrepid bicyclist and St Martin's regular David Stamp will take over on Tuesday. Together, they have fifty miles of tarmac ahead of them!

Please support them – by sponsoring them to complete the ride – or maybe you fancy joining them for some or all the route? Or you'd like to provide tea and cake half way round? It's all to support St Martin's ministry. You can give electronically using this link: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377#!/DonationDetails> or donate in cash or by cheque to the church office. Thank you!

# **TOUR DE PARISH**



**THREE FAMILIAR FACES ARE  
CYCLING THE STREETS OF  
EPSOM TO RAISE MONEY FOR  
ST MARTIN'S MINISTRY.**



**Easter Monday (5th April)**

**PLEASE SPONSOR US ON  
OUR 50-MILE ROUND THE  
PARISH CHALLENGE AT:**

**[HTTPS://CAFDONATE.CAF  
ONLINE.ORG/13377#!/DO  
NATIONDETAILS](https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377#!/donationdetails)**

**OR DONATE IN  
CASH/CHEQUE TO THE  
CHURCH OFFICE.  
THANK YOU!**



**St Martin of Tours  
Epsom**



## STEWARDSHIP

### Giving to St Martin's and St Stephen on the Downs

For general and stewardship giving you can give online giving via the Charities Aid Foundation.

Donations can be either a one-off donation or a regular donation using direct debit.

To make a donation either:

1. Click on the following link:

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/13377>

OR

2. Use your Smart Phone and Scan the QR Code below



There is also a "Donate" button on our website.

**Thank you for your continued giving directly and via online giving.**

## OTHER NOTICES

### The Roadmap

Looking at the government plan for easing lockdown, there are a few milestones relevant to us. The number of people allowed to attend a wedding begins at 6 from the end of March, and builds up with each phase to 15, then 30, and then unrestricted. Funerals remain at 30 until derestriction, but wakes will be permitted in increasing numbers as the plan progresses.

A key change for us will be when indoor meetings for social purposes are allowed from phase 3, albeit with a limit of 6 people, and then unlimited from phase 4.

### Electoral Roll Revision

The Electoral Roll is due to be revised on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and a notice to this effect will be displayed outside both our churches from 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021. If you are unsure please check that your name is entered in the current Roll (at the back of St Martins) or with me by email ([aronson\\_john@hotmail.com](mailto:aronson_john@hotmail.com)), also if there have been changes to your address or contact details please inform me or the Parish Office. Your full details can be checked in the office. We always want new people to join so if you are not yet on the Roll and would like to join please complete an application form and hand it in to the Parish Office. The Roll will be closed for any new entries from 6 May 2021 until after the Parish AGM on 23 May 2021. ***John Aronson, Electoral Roll Officer.***

### Trees in the Churchyard

As I think most of you know, Epsom and Ewell Borough Council are responsible for the maintenance of our Churchyard. The Council exercise their responsibility for the trees in our Churchyard by employing a Tree Officer who surveys the trees at regular intervals, and determines what works are required to maintain them in good and safe order. We have now received the latest schedule of proposed work to the trees and most of the work refers to removing ivy where it is damaging trees and minor pruning; only one tree will be felled completely and that is the dead pine tree to the east of the Church, next to the pathway that runs through the south-side of the churchyard.

The dead tree should be removed in the next week or so, but the Borough Council has agreed that the remainder of the work will be delayed until the late summer so as to avoid disturbing any birds during the nesting season.

If you have any queries regarding this work, please do not hesitate to speak to the Churchwardens in the first instance. ***The Churchwardens***

St Martin's Church &  
St Martin's Schools invite you  
to take a socially distanced

# Easter Trail

Can you spot all ten eggs and tell the story of Easter?

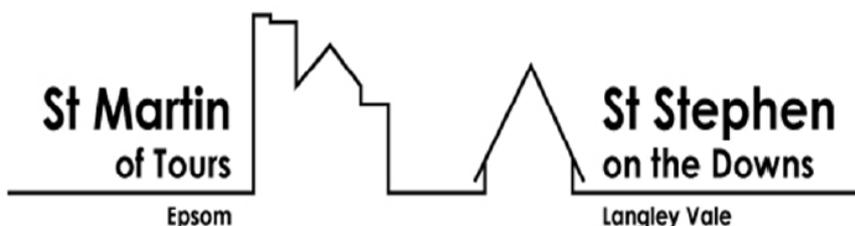
- Good Friday 2 April 10:30 – 5:00
- Saturday 3 April 10:30 – 5:00
- Easter Sunday 4 April 11:30 – 5:00
- Monday 5 April 10:30 – 5:00

Starting at the Infant entrance, wind your way to St Martin's Church hunting for posters. Scan the QR codes as you go to bring the journey to life. The map will be revealed in the last newsletter of term!



Please keep at least 2 metres from other families and wear your mask to keep our community safe.

We are sorry we cannot welcome you into the church building during these times, as we continue to protect the most vulnerable within our church family, but we look forward to seeing you soon.



## **Mission For April**

### **HOME**

MAF believe nothing should stop people from receiving the love of of God and the essentials of life. Their vision is to see isolated people physically and spiritually transformed in Christ's name. MAF uses light aircraft and technology to reach isolated places, as the only way to reach isolated people in need.

***Meg Topley***

### **ABROAD**

Christian Aid is an international NGO endeavouring to help people have the advantage of living a full life, free from poverty and inequality operating on the basis of need, irrespective of religion, ethnicity, race, gender or nationality. Working with local partners to address the root causes of poverty through integrated development and humanitarian programming, policy and advocacy work.

***Jill Chapman***

**Can you please hold these Mission areas in your Prayers – Thank you**

### **CTiE**

The next **Churches Together in Epsom**, prayer time will be on:

**Friday April 9th, 9:15-9:45 am** All are invited to join on **Zoom**:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9901533047?pwd=NU1JS3hzMzNYNVpyZDR3SXhBZHJVUT09>

Meeting ID: 990 153 3047

Passcode: CTiE

### **Church & Tenant Empowerment Worker**

Hope into Action, Epsom is looking for someone to join the team for 8 hours a week as an Empowerment Worker. You will be supporting our tenants who have been homeless. Tenants may be singles or families with support needs and you would empower them towards a fulfilled life. The initiative has just purchased its first house for the homeless. You will also be working with our partner churches to train, equip, encourage for their role in mentoring, befriending and giving practical support to tenants.

For job description & application pack, click the link below, and then the red download buttons

<https://epsom.hopeintoaction.org.uk/vacancies/empowerment-worker/da7fbe20-d214-46bc-99a3-ca3c2c1faa52>

Closing date: April 30<sup>th</sup>

## **Retreats from the House of Prayer, April 2021.**

House of Prayer  
35 Seymour Road  
East Molesey  
Surrey KT8 0PB

**Tel: 020 8941 2313**

Charitable Incorporated Organisation 1174120

### **Embodying Centering Prayer**

Mon, 12 Apr 2021, 10:00 am - Fri, 16 Apr 2021, 4:00 pm

Led by Jill Benet via Zoom

The Christian experience of awakening and of unity consciousness is a true Oneness that involves the full participation of our humanity, body, soul and spirit. While Centering Prayer may be our core daily practice, when we bring alongside the practice of Lectio Divina and the Welcome Prayer, we see that it is a way of life that brings us fully into contact with ourselves, the world around us and the divine source that unites all. Suitable for those who are familiar with Centering Prayer and wish to explore the Welcome Practice and Lectio Divina.

Retreat from home cost: £200

### **Time Aside: Midweek Individually Guided Retreat**

Tue, 20 Apr 2021, 6:00 pm - Thu, 22 Apr 2021 3:00 pm

Led by the House of Prayer Team via Zoom

This retreat provides an opportunity to step aside from the busyness of everyday life and spend time in quiet prayer and reflection. A retreat guide will be available for daily individual meetings to accompany you through the retreat. Above all, this retreat is a time of listening to God who is present in the experiences of prayer and daily living. All communal prayer meetings and spiritual direction will be online using the Zoom platform. If you wish to attend this retreat from the House of Prayer you will need to bring a laptop or device with you.

Retreat from home cost: £60

### **Consolation and Desolation for Challenging Times**

Saturday, 24 April 2021 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Led by Gemma Simmonds, C.J. via Zoom

Lockdown has stripped many of us of the identifying markers by which we define our lives: normal patterns of work and relationships, both private and professional, patterns of interaction with wider society, patterns of travel for both work and leisure. Many of us have had to re-negotiate our sense of meaning and purpose and are searching for tools to help us. The teaching of Ignatius of Loyola on consolation and desolation can be a useful means of navigating these new pathways and finding the hidden opportunities within the pandemic crisis.

Cost: £30

## **Latest message from Chris Short at Food Bank**

This week we need:

Coffee  
Washing powder/liquid/tabs  
Custard  
Dried pasta n sauce  
Hot chocolate  
Pasta sauce  
Toothpaste - adults  
Marmalade/honey  
Tea bags

Please either donate at the usual supermarket points, or bring donations to our car park (please wear a mask);

Epsom & Ewell Foodbank

Generation Resource Centre  
(Behind West Ewell Primary School)  
Ruxley Lane  
Ewell  
KT19 0JG  
Monday – Friday : 9am – 2pm

Can't get to the shops? You could text to make a small donation, send us a supermarket delivery to the address above, or contact us about sponsoring some fresh fruit & veg!

You can help by texting 70450 to donate:

Text **FOODBANKGIFT2** to donate £2  
Text **FOODBANKGIFT3** to donate £3  
Text **FOODBANKGIFT5** to donate £5  
Text **FOODBANKGIFT10** to donate £10  
Text **FOODBANKGIFT15** to donate £15  
Text **FOODBANKGIFT20** to donate £20

## **CONTACT US**

***Parish Office:***

***Church House, Church Street, Epsom,***

***KT17 4PX Phone: 01372 722567***

***E-mail: [stmartinsepsom@btconnect.com](mailto:stmartinsepsom@btconnect.com)***

***Website: [www.stmartinsepsom.org](http://www.stmartinsepsom.org)***

**The Revd Nick Parish, Vicar – 01372 743336**

**Email: [vicar@stmartinsepsom.org](mailto:vicar@stmartinsepsom.org)**

**The Revd David Candlin – Curate - 07723 849 477**

**Email: [revcandlin@gmail.com](mailto:revcandlin@gmail.com)**

## 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

(Alternative readings)

*The reading from Acts must be read as either the First or Second Reading.*

Either **Acts 10:34-43**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

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."

Or **Isaiah 25:6-9**

**PSALM Psalm 118:1-2. 14-24**

**R** *This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.  
Let Israel now proclaim,  
"His mercy endures for ever." **R**

The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation.  
There is a sound of exultation and  
victory  
in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the Lord has  
triumphed!  
the right hand of the Lord is exalted!  
the right hand of the Lord has  
triumphed!" **R**

I shall not die, but live,  
and declare the works of the Lord.  
The Lord has punished me sorely,  
but he did not hand me over to death.  
Open for me the gates of  
righteousness;  
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to  
the Lord. **R**

"This is the gate of the Lord;  
whoever is righteous may enter."  
I will give thanks to you, for you  
answered me  
and have become my salvation.  
The same stone which the builders  
rejected  
has become the chief corner-stone. **R**  
This is the Lord's doing,  
and it is marvellous in our eyes.  
On this day the Lord has acted;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it. **R**

Or **Psalm 118:14-24**

## SECOND READING

(Alternative readings)

Either **1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

*A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.*

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you – unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be

called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them – though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Or **Acts 10:34-43**

**GOSPEL** (Alternative readings)

Either **John 20:1-18**

Or **Mark 16:1-8**

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.*

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. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. 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. 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." 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.

## POST COMMUNION

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.

# Sunday Homily

## EASTER SUNDAY

4 APRIL 2021

YEAR B

“Then the disciples returned to their homes.  
But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.”

John 20:10-11

### Illustration

It isn't always possible to predict how people are going to react. Some people who seem very ordinary and timid most of the time turn out to be superb in a crisis, while the person we all thought would be brave goes to pieces completely. Some people cope philosophically with sadness and loss but are totally thrown by unexpected happiness or good fortune, as though it somehow disturbs their whole understanding of how the world is supposed to be. Some people can only be at ease when they are in charge of a situation, and some can't cope with responsibility at all but are fine if they're told what to do. People are all different.

### Gospel Teaching

So it is only to be expected that people reacted very differently to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Some of Jesus' followers had clearly been expecting the worst for some time before the crucifixion. It sounds as though some of the women, at least, had already made preparations for his death, had brought the spices they would need to anoint the body, and had detailed someone to watch out after the crucifixion and see where Jesus was to be buried.

Perhaps this group of people never really expected that Jesus would succeed. They loved him and believed in him, but they knew the world too well. They knew people's cynicism and selfishness, and so they knew that Jesus would be rejected and killed, eventually. Sad, but not surprised, they set off to take care of the corpse.

So they are thrown into disorder and terror when they find the empty tomb and the angel. Hope and new life were not part of their plan.

Other disciples were sure, right up to the last minute, that Jesus would pull some spectacular trick out of the bag and save himself. They had seen him do so many miraculous things, after all. So as it became clear that nothing was going to happen to save Jesus, that he really was going to die, their world was turned upside down, and they scattered in devastated disarray.

People's reactions to the resurrection are just as varied. In John's Gospel this morning, the empty tomb means very different things to the two sets of people who see it. For Peter and the beloved disciple, the dark mouth of the cave is a channel for the rebirth of hope. They had been right about Jesus: he did have one more spectacular miracle to perform after all. They see the tomb and run to spread the good news.

But for Mary, the black hole of the empty tomb is still about loss. Where is the dead body on which she had intended to lavish her loving tears? She is so far gone in the grief that she had been expecting for so long that she cannot feel hope until she sees Jesus with her own eyes.

Mary is sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she was the first to see the risen Jesus and to tell others what she had seen. But other disciples, like Thomas, or the two who were walking to Emmaus, or Peter, who had betrayed Jesus, all needed to meet the risen Lord, too. Each of them needed something slightly different in order to believe. Mary needed to see, Thomas needed to touch, the pair on the road to Emmaus needed to see how it made sense in terms of the scriptures, Peter needed to be forgiven and given responsibility. Each one was different, and to each one, Jesus appeared.

## Application

People are all different. Jesus knew that, and treated them accordingly. God knows that, because he made us. But we who want to proclaim the good news of the risen Lord don't always remember how different people are.

What makes each one of us come to faith in Christ and go on believing and trusting in his new life will vary from person to person. Jesus can be encountered in many different ways. Our task, on this Easter Day and always, is to discern what it is that people need in order to meet the risen Christ, and to try to help them in that need. Some need to meet Jesus in grief, some in hope, some in human touch, some in rational argument, some in anger at the cruelty of the world. Jesus wants to meet everyone where they can find him, so that all may share in his risen life. There isn't a package deal, only new life.

**MONDAY****5 APRIL**

Acts 2:14. 22-32

Psalm 16:1-2.

6-end

Matthew 28:8-15

**TUESDAY****6 APRIL**

Acts 2:36-41

Psalm 33:4-5.

18-end

John 20:11-18

**WEDNESDAY****7 APRIL**

Acts 3:1-10

Psalm 105:1-9

Luke 24:13-35

**THURSDAY****8 APRIL**

Acts 3:11-end

Psalm 8

Luke 24:35-48

**FRIDAY****9 APRIL**

Acts 4:1-12

Psalm 118:1-4.

22-26

John 21:1-14

**SATURDAY****10 APRIL**

Acts 4:13-21

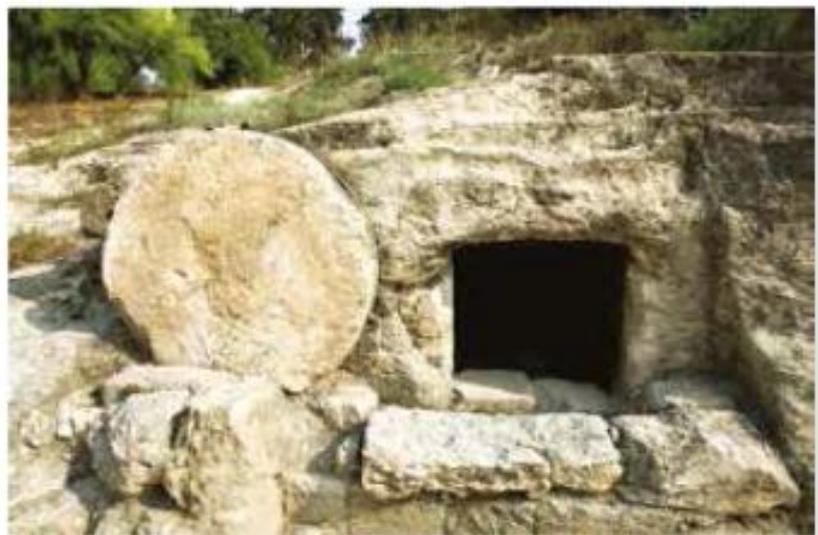
Psalm 118:1-4.

14-21

Mark 16:9-15

**REFLECTION**

In these weeks after Easter we are invited to take in the reality of Jesus risen from the dead. Our readings this week



take us through all four Gospels, looking at the resurrected Jesus from all angles, rather like a cubist painting, and in some ways just as confusing. The reading from Mark on Saturday is almost certainly a later addition to the starkness of the original ending at verse 8, with the disciples fleeing terrified from the empty tomb.

In Luke, the disciples on the road to Emmaus fail at first to recognise Jesus – and the same is true in John's Gospel for Mary, thinking that Jesus is the gardener, and again for the disciples on the shore. In Matthew not only do the authorities refuse to believe, but the disciples have ongoing doubts. It's hard to take in such a momentous fact as Jesus' resurrection, God's power for life breaking through again into the world. Let's not be afraid of our doubts and questions, but bring them in prayer to Jesus and allow him to love us back into faith and life.

**PRAYER**

Loving God, you meet us by your risen Son  
in the midst of our questioning and our doubts.  
Help us to recognise him in the reality of our lives,  
to hear his word of healing love,  
and to bring that word to others.

## PART II – THE HOLY ISLAND OF LINDISFARNE

The Holy Island of Lindisfarne, just off the Northumbrian coast, is a popular place of pilgrimage now, although it has a turbulent history of Viking invasion which forced its famous monastic community to leave. Turn east off the A1 nine miles or so south of the border town of Berwick. Head over the main east coast railway at Beal and the peace hits you like a wave. No wonder when St Aidan arrived in Northumbria in around AD 634 at the request of its king, Oswald, he chose it as the place for a priory. This was to be the base from which he restored Christianity to the kingdom.

The island is cut off at high tide, and for centuries visitors had to take the route across the sand to get there. In the first half of the twentieth century there were special high taxis to take you, allowing for the longest possible access between tides. There has been a causeway since 1954. Travel across it with careful attention to the tides and find yourself in the place that was known by Finian, Bishop of Northumbria (651-661) and Northumbria's patron saint, Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne. The famous Lindisfarne Gospels were produced here in the eighth century.

Today, the Community of Aidan and Hilda holds retreats on the island and you can stay at their house, the Open Gate. Their approach is in the Celtic tradition and you might find a week based around the fantastic nature on the island or on mysticism or Aidan and Hilda themselves.

It would be hard not to feel inspired by the place, whether you find it windswept or bathed in sunshine. You can almost catch a glimpse of those early Christian leaders walking on the beaches, communing with God, and there is plenty of opportunity to do the same. You might wonder why it was all too busy for Cuthbert, who moved to the island of Inner Farne, further down the coast, to live as a hermit.

# LIVE the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU  
THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by  
Caroline Hodgson  
and  
Heather Smith



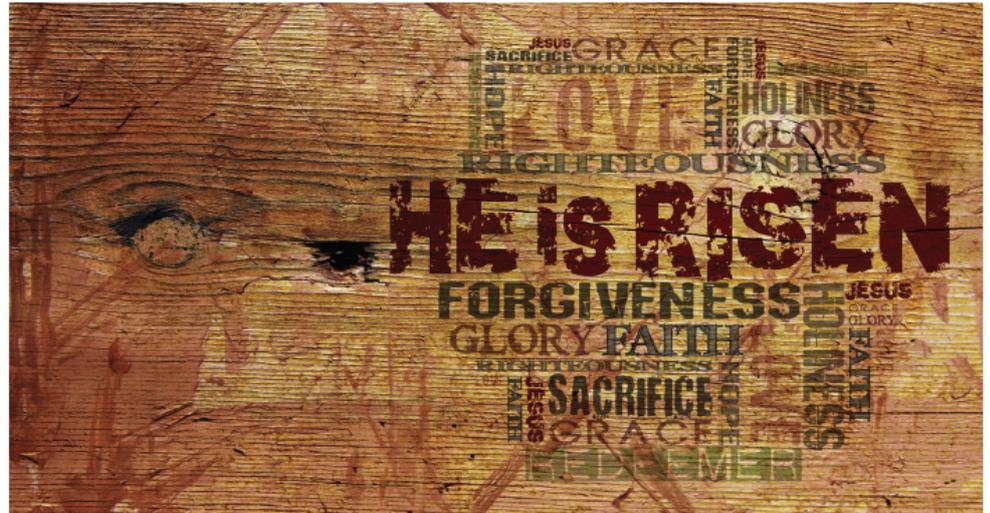
St Cuthbert in the ruins of the Benedictine monastery of Lindisfarne

Easter Week

Monday 5 April to  
Saturday 10 April  
2021

WEEK

# Afraid to hope



Gillian Cooper *reflects on* Mark 16:1-8

The ending of Mark's Gospel is strange, so strange that down the centuries various bits have been added. We want what the other Gospels offer us: some meetings of Jesus with his disciples, some explanations, some commissioning, something other than three women running away and not telling anyone what they have seen.

And yet Mark's account somehow rings true. The women have been with Jesus during his life. They have seen him executed. They have waited till after the sabbath to go to the

tomb and perform the last rituals for him. They understand the situation. Their grief will be deep and enduring, but it will follow the usual path of grief. They will get used to life without Jesus. They will go home and get on with things. They do not want to see an angel, or hear stories of resurrection. They cannot cope with the prospect of a live Jesus, a new beginning. It is all too much. They cling to their despair and run away from hope.

Hope is frightening. It sets us up for disappointment. It stops us settling where we are comfortable. And yet hope is where we are invited to live, because Jesus really did overcome death. As the women no doubt discovered, after Easter we cannot run from hope. God has given us eternal life. Today for us there is no running away, but rather a joyful acceptance of the promise of a future in which everything is possible. ☺

**God of life and power, we thank you for the hope you give us in Christ. Help us not to run away, but to take hold of your promises and look forward with expectation, joyfully sharing the good news of our salvation. Amen.**

## Church music

### Part III – liturgical action

by Andrew Lyon

My early excitement that music could powerfully combine with words to make their meaning more intense was tempered by realising that music can also obscure the words. So I believe church musicians have a responsibility to ensure that the music they produce is a vehicle for devotion.

Does this mean that church musicians ought ideally to be practising Christians? The Iona Community's John Bell once told me that he didn't think so, but that

"anyone who's writing liturgical music has to be, if not immersed in, then certainly working towards the flow, the depth, the intention of liturgy. And in an increasingly secularised society, we cannot presume that everyone has the [necessary] kind of religious formation (irrespective of religious belief)."

Church composers and musicians have to have a good understanding of the liturgical action if they are to write, select and lead music. It is not enough to be musically competent, because "good" liturgical music is a very different thing from "good" music in the concert hall or at a gig. If composers and musicians are to make music that aids us in our prayers, an understanding of what the liturgy is for, and to be in sympathy with it, surely does matter. ☺

## Holy places

### Iona

by Heather Smith

We describe holy places as "thin" places, where heaven and earth seem very close, where the faith of modern pilgrims is deepened. Iona is such a place. Tradition tells us that the monastery was founded in AD 563 by Columba, having been exiled from Ireland. St Aidan lived here until he answered a call from King Oswald of Northumbria to bring Christianity to his kingdom and set off for Lindisfarne. Iona was

a centre of Celtic Christianity and it is thought that the *Book of Kells*, an illuminated Gospel book, was begun here in the eighth century.

Iona Abbey, in a dramatic position overlooking the sea, was built around 1200 and outside is an impressive ninth-century Celtic cross, St Martin's Cross. The burial ground on the island is the resting place of many early kings of Scotland, including Macbeth.

The Iona Community, an ecumenical Christian community, was founded by George MacLeod in 1938. It is a dispersed community, welcoming members in various categories who want to share its life. <https://iona.org.uk> ☺

“All I can 'pay back' to God or others of myself is who I really am.”

C. S. Lewis (1898-1963), writer and theologian



Sunday 4 April 2021  
John 20:1-9  
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord



My name is \_\_\_\_\_

# JESUS IS ALIVE!

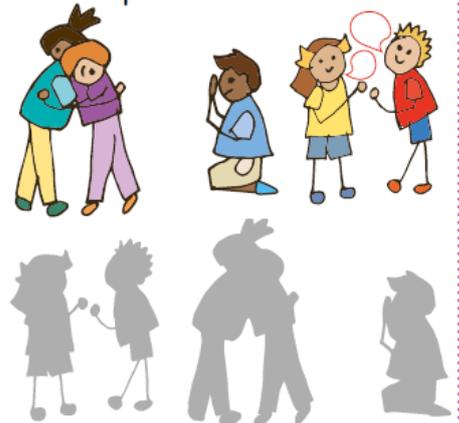
Join the dots to see what Mary found at Jesus' tomb early that Sunday morning.



When Mary Magdalene arrives at Jesus' tomb, she finds the stone has been rolled away. Mary runs and tells Simon Peter and another disciple, who discover that Jesus' body is gone. They do not understand yet that Jesus has risen from the dead.

## When someone is sad...

Mary was upset that Jesus was gone. Talking to Simon Peter helped her feel better.



Match the shadows to see how you can help people who are feeling sad.

## See for yourselves

Mary Magdalene told Simon Peter and his friend that Jesus' tomb was empty. Can you help them find their way to the empty tomb so they can see for themselves?



## God's plan

Jesus' friends were upset the tomb was empty. They thought someone had stolen Jesus' body. But God had a bigger, better plan.



Decode the letters to find out what the plan is.

## A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, when Mary saw your tomb was empty, she was very sad. She didn't understand the good news that you had risen from the dead. Sometimes we don't always understand what is happening. When we are sad, help us to trust that you always have a bigger and better plan. Amen.

Answers: Jesus is risen from the dead.