

St. Mary And All Saints Church



Great Budworth

Sunday 31st March 2024

Easter Day



Sunday Morning

*This is the day that the Lord has made:
let us rejoice and be glad in it!
This is the day of the Lord;
our Saviour, Christ, is risen!
He has conquered sin and death,
the power of love has overcome,
and God has given us the victory!
Alleluia!*

Good morning and may we send each and every one of you on this special morning our love and best wishes for a happy Easter.

We keep in our prayers all who are ill, and those who can't be with their families this Eastertide.

We also pray for all who have lost a loved one and are mourning their passing.

We have laid our palms, we have placed the items that tell the story of Holy Week at the foot of the Lent cross,

We have sat and watched and waited like Jesus and his disciples, waiting for Judas and the soldiers to arrive;

We have sat in quietness and read meditations at the foot of the cross and reflected on that cruel, sad, but necessary day;

Then, silence, waiting, anticipation.....

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. ²So 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." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and 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. ¹³They 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." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" 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." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus 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.'"

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.
John 20: 1 – 18

*Alleluia, The Lord is risen, he is risen indeed,
Alleluia!*

Services for Easter Day:

8.00am Holy Communion – The Rev Alec Brown
10.30am Family Communion – The Rev Alec Brown
Christina sends her best wishes to everyone, she is officiating at St. Mark's Antrobus.

Readings:

Isaiah 25: 6 - 9

Acts 10: 34 – 43

John 20: 1 – 18

Happy Easter!

Easter – the resurrection from the dead of Jesus – is the rock, the foundation or cornerstone, of our faith as Christians – the faith that we try to live out each day of our lives, in whatever circumstances or situations we find ourselves. And just as the angels – those two figures dressed in white – brought news of this wondrous and history changing event to Jesus' followers, so too are we, in our own ways, messengers (angels) to others of the good news.

Easter brings new life and hope to so many people across our troubled and divided world, and this can be seen in many different ways – in individual lives, in the way in which we respond to difficulties and emergencies and the way in which we try to deal with some of the most pressing problems and challenges of our world – and there are many! Wars, oppressive regimes, persecution, drought, floods and fires; the list could go on, and men and women are working day and night to try and bring about an end to the violence where war ensues, and to try and deal with the displacement of people on a scale that is unimaginable.

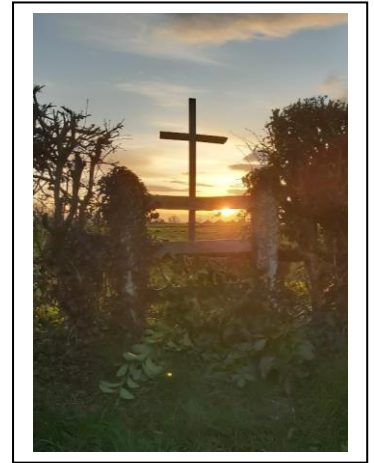
Some of this may seem, I know, a very long way from our lives in this small part of the Kingdom of God – but we can and must all play a part in the unfolding story/drama of our time, through prayer and action, as individuals and as churches, as brothers and sisters of a worldwide family, built on the strong foundations of faith, hope and love.

So much has passed since that first Easter in Jerusalem and the story told by those first women followers and witnesses – dismissed by some of Jesus' male followers as "an idle tale" – and that story lives and continues in us and in the life of the worldwide Church. It is our responsibility, and our deep joy, to make sure, in every way possible, to convey to others that the new life and hope of Jesus' resurrection is life changing and transformative, and definitely not anything like "an idle tale"!

May the joy of the risen Christ be with you all this day.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed – Alleluia!

The Revd Alec Brown



Easter reflection

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair".

So starts the tale of 2 cities by Charles Dickens, perhaps one of the most famous openings to a book and the words as a relevant today as when they were written over 160 years ago

Good Friday was the worst of times. Jesus was crucified. The followers of Jesus had betrayed him, denied him and run away. Those left saw Jesus go through unimaginable sufferings and saw him die on the cross – the skies turned black, the temple curtain was rent apart, and the earth shook – darkness covered the earth. It was finished. Jesus was laid in the tomb and the stone rolled in front of the opening.

But then on the 3rd day Mary Magdalene and the women went to tend Jesus` body. The stone was rolled away. The tomb was empty.

The empty tomb will forever show that suffering and death do not have the final say.

Jesus has risen!

Pope Francis wrote,

"Christ is alive! We need to keep reminding ourselves of this, because we can risk seeing Jesus Christ simply as a fine model from the distant past, as a memory, as someone who saved us two thousand years ago. Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."

We have that amazing encounter between Mary Magdalene and Jesus – she mistakes Jesus for the gardener – when he says her name – she runs to him and goes to hug him – "Do not hold onto me" Jesus says –

Mary the apostle to the apostles – runs to tell the disciples that Jesus has risen.

We see unimaginable horrors around the world,

The world seems dark.

The world is in need of Jesus.

Sometimes the work of spreading the Good News of Christ seems incredibly hard.

But we need to remember that we are Easter People living in a Good Friday world.

John Davies the former Archbishop of Wales in his Easter message a couple of years ago called on people to find a new way of life, their own "**resurrection**", to reach out in "faith, courage and love" in a "broken and suffering world".

At Easter and at all times may we recognise our potential to be resurrected and to bring resurrection to others around us;

To show faith, hope, tenderness, courage and love – to lead a new life, our own resurrected life - showing people the incredible difference that Christ makes in our lives.

To be there for people who are grieving and suffering loss remembering that through Jesus` sufferings there is nothing he has not experienced, that Jesus walks beside each person in the times of darkness.

The early followers of Christ turned the world upside down and we have the same opportunity. Jesus makes all things new. The empty tomb shows that death and suffering never have the final say.

Let us pray that each of us have that encounter with the risen Christ when he calls our name.

Let us emerge from the winter into the spring of hope.

Let us go out and celebrate being Easter people!

The Rev Christina Westwell

Christ our life,
You are alive,
 In the beauty of the earth
 In the rhythm of the seasons
 In the mystery of time and space
Alleluia



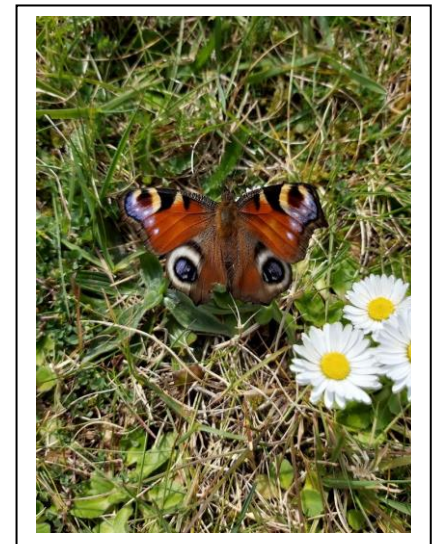
Christ our life,
You are alive,
 In the tenderness of touch
 In the heartbeat of intimacy
 In the insights of solitude
Alleluia



Christ our life,
You are alive,
 In the creative possibility
 Of the dullest conversation
 The dreariest task
 The most threatening event
Alleluia

Christ our life,
You are alive,
 To offer re-creation
 To every unhealed hurt
 To every deadened place
 To every damaged heart
Alleluia

You set before us a great choice.
Therefore, we choose life.
The dance of resurrection soars and surges through the whole creation.
It sets gifts of bread and wine upon our table.
This is grace, dying we live.
So, let us live.
Kathy Galloway (Iona Community)



Intercessions

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations.

Nourish with your love, those who have lost their way, their sense of human worth or their integrity.

Jesus, Lord of life,

In your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,

Give food to the hungry, we pray for all who are destitute and without hope, the poor or marginalized, those with no clean water, those who are exhausted by the sheer struggle to survive. Lord nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life,

In your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way; we pray for Christians the world over, and especially those in countries where they are isolated and persecuted. Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life,

In your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, ever loving brother, support we entreat you, the peoples on whom the terrors of invasion, aggression, war, have fallen, remembering at this time the people of Ukraine, The Holy Land, Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, and all nations who are suffering the ravages of war. We pray for those who are deprived of their home or country, who groan under the burden of anguish and sorrow, searching for a place of refuge. Cause these storms to cease, O Christ, and move the hearts of those in power that they may respect the men and women created in your own image.

Jesus, Lord of life,

In your mercy, hear us

Jesus, Good shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,

Recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures. We pray for all who are ill, whether in hospital, hospice, care home or at home, for those awaiting operations or recovering at home. We give thanks for all who care for them. We remember all those for whom prayers have been asked.

Jesus, Lord of life, **In your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give thanks for all who have lived and believed in you. We pray for those we love but see no longer and for all those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time, from this parish and beyond, and for all those known only to ourselves.

We remember those who have died recently. Surround those who grieve with your love Lord Jesus, and we pray that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss and have strength to meet the days ahead.

Jesus, Lord of life,

In your mercy, hear us.

Lord, we celebrate today not only that you rose from the dead, but that you are our Living Lord!

We praise you for the empty tomb and we celebrate your victory over life and death.

We call you Friend and Brother, and we name you Saviour and King...

But today we declare that you are Lord! We pray that the power that raised Christ from the dead will transform our lives, our witness and our worship for the glory of your name.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

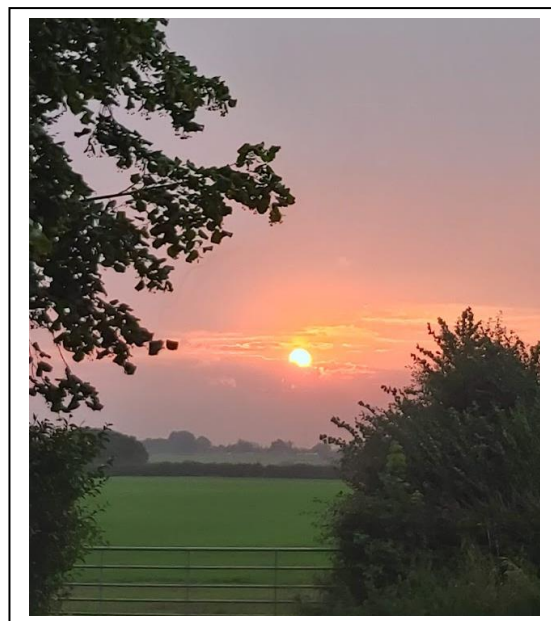
Collect for Easter Day

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. Amen



Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
For ever and ever, Amen.**



**Alleluia! He is risen!
Alleluia! He is light!
Alleluia! He is joy!
Alleluia He is strength!
Alleluia! He is love!
Alleluia! Jesus!**

Blessing

May the power of the cross,
The joy of resurrection,
And the presence of our risen Lord
be with us, now and always. Amen



Alec's Palm Sunday sonnet from 2 years ago

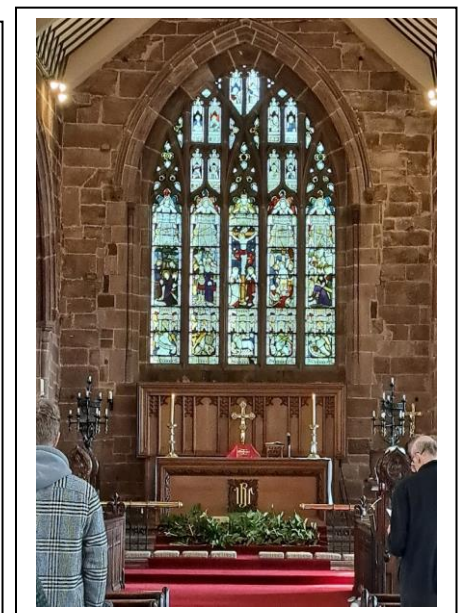
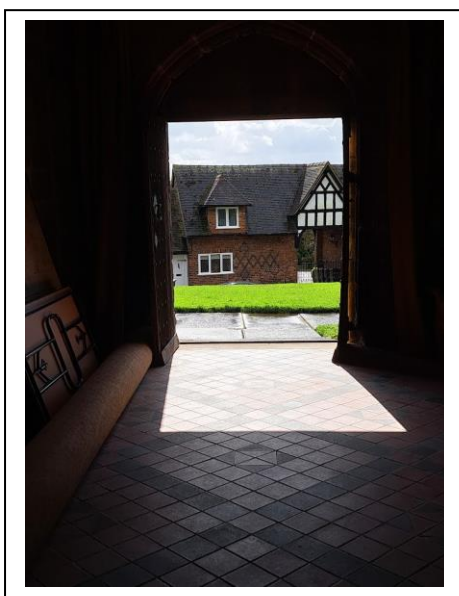
Palm Sunday 2022

Carrying our newly blessed palm crosses and green branches
we process slowly but joyously through the village
and round the Church, singing all the way;
and around us, from the choir and people, sound sweet hosannas
which fall on our ears like the manna
that came from heaven, and which today brings much comfort and peace
to our minds and hearts and souls as we begin this holiest of weeks;
and later, listening to the reading of the story of those seven days,
which changed the course of human history,
we join our voices with those of two millennia ago
who cheered and cheered, and then condemned,
who cried and wept, and watched and waited,
as we do now, in hope and expectation and with joyful tears
that we can do this together again after these last pandemic years.

© The Revd Alec Brown

Great Budworth and Marbury Country Park.

11th April, 2022.



The Strange Fire

One morning in the mid 1960's, during the incumbency of Rev. Leslie Evans, the cleaner went into our church as normal and, to her horror, she found it full of smoke. In the vestry a large robe cupboard had been reduced to a pile of ash.

All had been normal the night before when Mrs. Cocksey, who lived on School Lane opposite the church gate, had as usual gone in at dusk and locked up.

No one had seen flames or light in the church, but there had been a blaze in the vestry.

The fire appeared to be most carefully contained, as the cupboard stood on the stone part of the floor, only inches away from the wooden floor of the vestry which was covered with linoleum which was not touched by the flames.

The vestry was built over an old chapel, raised by two large steps and with a raised east end where the altar would have been. The wooden floor was put in place to compensate for the raised altar and to give a flat floor. Wooden steps gave access and wooden rails ensured no one would fall off. It had been built as the site for the organ when it was moved from the chancel arch in 1856; the organ remained there until 1882 when it was moved to its present position.

The fire must have burned with terrible ferocity: one of the lead tablets listing the Ten Commandments which hung on the wall above the cupboard was melted. The church records and registers were stored in steel deed boxes near by and were undamaged, apart from still smelling of smoke.

A heavy chain that no one recognised was found in the ashes and it appeared that only the cupboard and robes were consumed by the flames, although there is always the fear that documents stored in the cupboard were burned as well.

A fire brigade attended and found no cause, no electric cables or heating or cleaning products, all of which were stored at the other end of the church.

The mystery of what caused the fire remains unsolved, but the great good fortune which stopped it spreading through the whole building is truly wondrous.

Another mystery the fire highlights is what is the chapel beneath the vestry? When was it used? Who built it? Does it have a crypt and burials beneath it? The sources we have say nothing about it and no one knows!



Forest Church



24th March 2024



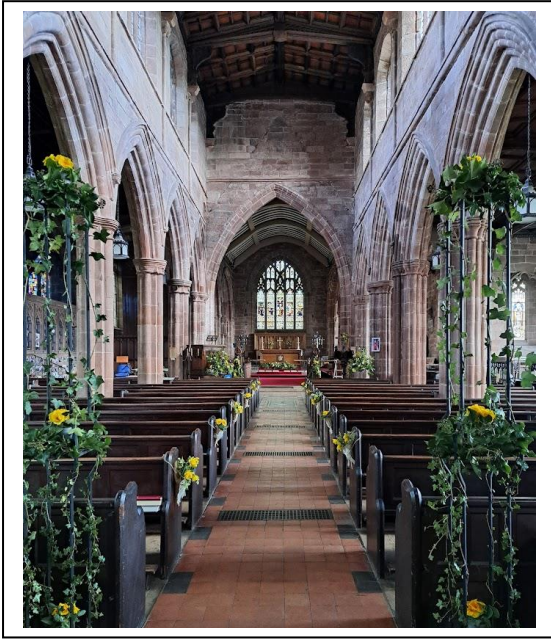
We met in the Lady Chapel, for a short time of prayer, reflection and information about the afternoon's activities. We made twig crosses, planted sunflower seeds to take home and nurture into growth, then we proceeded outside for our weather watch with Anne O'May. We then headed off through the churchyard, to the quiet garden, and lower churchyard. It was such a beautiful day, and the views from the lower churchyard are fantastic, it was a pleasure to be outside in the sunshine, we all felt the better for it. On our walk, we observed the pictures depicting The Way of the Cross, which Christina had fastened up along our way. We then returned to church to have a go at various crafts and to join together for our afternoon tea. An enjoyable, relaxed afternoon.

The next Forest Church will be on Sunday 21st April (a week early) which will be a special one, as it is our 2nd birthday!! We are hoping to be at Arley, but this is to be confirmed.

Forest Church is open to everyone from 0 to 100yrs (or older)! You can bring your dog (must be well behaved and kept on lead) and we always advise dressing for the weather!

For more information phone Christina 07870 687304

Easter flowers – Thank you to the team who arranged the flowers, the church looks wonderful.



Diary

April

- Monday April 1st – Tower trips and teas in church 1.30pm-4.30pm
Tower trip weather permitting £5/person inc. tea & cake
Children must be 8yrs and over and must be accompanied by an adult. Book stall open.
- Wednesday 3rd 10.30am Holy Communion Common Worship
followed by refreshments.
2.00pm Service of Blessing at Arley Chapel
- Thursday 4th 7.00pm Celtic Evening Prayer
- Friday 5th 12.00pm Funeral in church & cremation at VR
Crematorium.
- Saturday 6th 2.00pm Service of Blessing at Arley Chapel
- Sunday 7th 8.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am All Age Worship
2.00pm Church Teas in the Parish Hall till 4.30pm
- Wednesday 10th 10.30am Craft and Natter in Old School
- Sunday 14th 10.30am Matins BCP
6.30pm Holy Communion Common Worship
- Sunday 21st 8.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Parish Communion Common Worship
2.30pm Forest Church (week earlier) 2nd birthday!!
Venue Arley Chapel & Grove tbc
- Wednesday 24th 10.30am Craft and Natter in the Old School
- Thursday 25th 2.00pm Play and Praise in church
- Sunday 28th 10.30am Parish Communion Common Worship
3.00pm Chester Cathedral Licensing of The Rev
Jane Proudfoot as the Archdeacon of
Macclesfield
- Wednesday 1st May 10.30am Holy Communion Common Worship
followed by refreshments
- Thursday 2nd 7.00pm Celtic Evening Prayer
- Sunday 5th May 8.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Rogation Sunday Service and walk in the
Village. All Age Service.

Ascension Day 9th May – Service at 7.30pm Holy Communion Common worship
The Boyd Walk led by Rev Alec Brown Saturday 18th May – meet at Antrobus Church 9.15am

Please see flyer on next page about Rev Jane Proudfoot's Licensing Service.

A group of us are planning to go to the service and will then enjoy a meal together in Chester after the service. If you wish to join us, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church by 7th April.



Licensing and Installation

Archdeacon of Macclesfield

Bishop Mark warmly invites you to the licensing and installation of the new Archdeacon of Macclesfield.

On 28th April 2024 the Right Reverend Mark Tanner, Bishop of Chester will license the Revd Jane Proudfoot as the Archdeacon of Macclesfield. At the service, the Very Reverend Tim Stratford, Dean of Chester will also install Jane as Archdeacon.

You are warmly invited to join us to celebrate the start of Jane's ministry in this role at a service in Chester Cathedral.


Licensing and Installation

Sunday 28th April 2024 at 3pm, Chester Cathedral

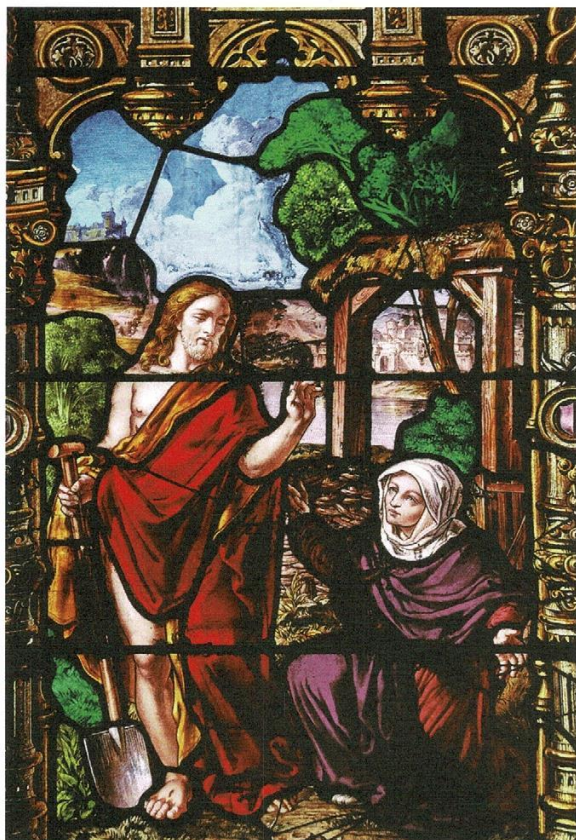
Please RSVP by Sunday 21st April 2024 using the contact details below

Please RSVP by 21st April

 jessica.snowdon@chester.anglican.org

 01244 350 864

Connecting faith and daily life



The Risen Christ and Mary Magdalene, Church of Saint-Gervais-Saint-Protais, Paris

Thinking the unthinkable

Gillian Cooper *reflects on* John 20:1-18

Mary thought he was the gardener. She was, after all, in a garden, and Jesus, she knew, was dead. The empty tomb, the missing body, even the presence of mysterious figures in white, failed to shake that knowledge. She had seen him die and watched as he was buried. Someone must have moved the body; there was no other possible explanation.

Every year we follow Jesus through Holy Week. We face the dreadfulness of Good Friday and the emptiness of Holy Saturday, but we know that Easter Day is coming. So it is helpful that the Gospel readings emphasise the sheer shock of the Easter events. The resurrection was not expected. It was a miracle way beyond anyone's imagining. So impossible was it that even Mary, close as she was to Jesus, could not see him when he stood in front of her. Only when she heard her name spoken could she begin to think the unthinkable. Then she knew that the world had changed, and everyone had to be told.

The resurrection of Jesus is a shocking turning point in the story of the relationship between humanity and God. It tells us with absolute certainty that death has no hold over God, or over us. It shows that in God's universe, love is stronger than hate. In the quiet garden, a man and a woman speak each other's names, and the world is made new. 🌱

The Church Fathers

Part 3, Justin Martyr

by Richard Gunning

Richard Gunning continues our look at the early Church Fathers.

Justin Martyr (c. 100-165) was born into a pagan family before converting to Christianity. A professional philosopher and Platonist, he soon became convinced of the moral and spiritual superiority of Christianity. Travelling widely, he spread the word that Christianity was the "true philosophy" and famously

wrote: "Whatever has been uttered aright by any men in any place belongs to us Christians; for, next to God, we worship and love the reason (Word) which is from the unbegotten and ineffable God."

Most of his works are lost, but some survive. His best-known text, *The First Apology*, passionately defends the morality of the Christian life, and provides various ethical and philosophical arguments to convince the Roman emperor to abandon the persecution of the Church.

Justin was martyred, along with some of his students, in Rome. 🌱

“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God.”

Revelation 19:1

Living Lord Jesus, surprise us with your presence in unexpected places and at times of our greatest need; that all our fears and sorrows may be turned to joy, and we may bear witness to your promise of eternal life. Amen.

Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

We'd never had turkeys before so when a local smallholder was selling turkey eggs at the gate of their small farm we bought some. Two of our hens had just gone broody so we divided the eggs between them. Four weeks of waiting but then, in the nest

box, was a chick but upside down, quite cold and still. I picked it up to take it away to bury it, but the warmth of my hand as I walked back to the house changed the story from sadness to hope, as first there was faint movement in the toes and then, under the heat lamp, a return to faint life.

The tiny bird wanted to live and I wanted it to live. It was enough. When the Spirit of God brooded over the waters in Genesis and there was life it was more than enough – "and behold it was good". 🌱