

The Lighthouse



Easter 2

Scripture Reading: John chapter 20 verses 19–31

Lock

[L. DeJuan & the Juicebangers]

Dear Friends, I trust that this letter finds you positive in these lockdown days. The disciples were locked in. They cowered in the room where they had eaten with Jesus; it was indeed his last supper. Peter has denied Jesus three times. Now the disciples were avoiding further confrontation, they huddled together secretly, ‘for fear of the Jews’. And all this on Easter Day – they had yet to understand fully the good news of the risen Lord which would unlock their fears and free them from their self-imposed imprisonment. This is not where the disciples are meant to be. Jesus’ tomb is open and empty, but the disciples’ room is closed and the doors locked tightly. The room has become their tomb. All they have is their fear, doubt and blindness. They have locked themselves in, and drawn the bolts across the doors.

The doors of our ‘tombs’ are always locked from the inside. Our timidity can force us to hide from fearful encounters. We long to feel safe. It is natural to put a barrier between ourselves and danger. We don’t always want to face reality; pretence and hiding can mask the pain. Every time we shut the doors of our life, our mind or our heart, we imprison ourselves. Every person, event or idea we lock out, regardless of the reason, we lock ourselves in.

Despite the locked doors, Jesus comes to the disciples. He comes right in, to be alongside the disciples. He brings to them what they need at that moment. His peace. ‘Peace be with you’ [John 20 v19]. It’s rather like when Jesus stilled the storm: frightened, faithless disciples hear Jesus bringing peace to the waves – ‘Be still.’ The disciples were out of their depth in the boat, and they are way out now – instead of sharing the news of the resurrection, they are protecting their own skin.

Jesus has the habit of arriving unannounced. He has the skill to know the very words that we need to hear. Unexpected, uninvited, and sometimes unwanted, he steps into our closed lives, closed hearts and closed minds. Standing by us, he offers peace and breathes new life into us. By faith, we in turn open our lives, hearts and minds to him. We unbolt and open doors so the freshness of the Spirit of God can blow the staleness of our unbelief away.

As Jesus said to Thomas, ‘Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe’ [John 20 v29]. Jesus comes to us, so that ‘believing, you may have life in his name’ [John 20 v31].

With Easter joy, Derek the Cleric.

Hands [pierced hands]

Face [with a crown of thorns]

Space [the empty tomb]



‘He offers us peace and breathes new life into us.’

Worship and Ministry: Looking Ahead

We look forward to being able to gradually meet in fellowship together, but we appreciate that for many this feels too soon and that it may do so for a considerable time.

During April, the online recorded worship through YouTube and dersinghamonlineworship.com will continue but will then be transitioned into an adapted form that will still be accessible online.

From Sunday 18th April there will begin, weekly, two distinct styles of worship. At 9:30am in the Dersingham Village Centre there will be a contemporary, accessible worship with particular focus on welcoming children back into the worshipping community.

Also beginning weekly on the 18th April, at 11am, there will be traditional worship accompanied by music played on the organ. On the 18th this will be a service of Holy Communion in St Nicholas Church.

On 25th April, the 11am traditional worship will be held at Anmer church, with a service of Holy Communion from the Prayer Book, and the contemporary worship will again be in the Dersingham Village Centre, starting at 9:30am.

In summary:

18th April	9:30am Contemporary Worship in Dersingham Village Centre
	11am Traditional Worship at St Nicholas Dersingham – Holy Communion
25th April	9:30am Contemporary Worship in Dersingham Village Centre
	11am Traditional Worship at Anmer Church – Prayer Book Holy Communion

The current guidance on singing in worship is tighter than at Christmas and, unfortunately, still means we are not able to participate in congregational singing. Please remember to book in (contact secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk) and to wear face masks for all services.

With my continued prayers,
Rev Mark

Revision to Contemporary Worship

I have revised the planned layout for the contemporary worship. We will not now just have 'bubbles' around tables. Instead, there will be many chairs put out at a social distance for people to choose where to sit, and I hope this will help people feel more of a sense of being together rather than separated. The team and I value and will be asking for insights about how we can develop and improve the Gathering contemporary worship while it is in the Village Centre, while also keeping within the national guidelines at the time.

With my prayers,
Rev Mark



Holy Communion Today, 11th April, at St Nicholas Dersingham

We look forward to welcoming you to today's in-church service of Holy Communion.

If you plan to attend, please contact Pauline Martin to book in (secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk) and please remember to wear your face mask for the service.

*Again Jesus said,
'Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me,
I am sending you.'*

– John 20:21

Bible Bites Easter Treasure Hunt!



Bible bites

We hope you've had fun searching for clues during the Easter Holidays.

A big Thank You to everyone who has helped with the Treasure Hunt.

Tune in next week to find out the answer to the mystery verse!

Ideas for prayer

- + all those affected by coronavirus
- + our NHS workers, care workers and care home residents
- + key workers and those who provide essential services
- + our GPs, surgeries and staff tasked with caring for us and running the vaccination programme
- + people waiting to be called for a job and those going for their jobs
- + for co-operation among nations in dealing with the pandemic
- + our teachers and school staff, and for a safe return to classrooms after the Easter holiday
- + our collective health and welfare
- + our nation and community life; our Government and its advisors
- + for wisdom and patience as we deal with changes to our ways of life
- + our children and young people, their parents and caregivers
- + our young adults; our elderly neighbours and family members

Dersingham Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Dersingham Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is on Wednesday, 14th April at 7pm via Zoom. This is the meeting at which the churchwardens and PCC members are formally elected. Please email Pauline Martin (secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk) for the Zoom access details and the Annual Report for 2020. You can also join the meeting by phone – ask Pauline for details.

Rev Mark

Dersingham Village Voice Magazine

If you'd like to read the Village Voice on your phone, tablet or computer, a downloadable pdf of the February/March edition is available here: [v128.pdf \(dersingham.org.uk\)](#)



We pray for all Christians in countries where they are persecuted for their faith.

UZBEKISTAN

Population 33.2 million. 345,000 Christians (1%)

No religious activities beyond state-run and state-controlled institutions are allowed in this highly authoritarian state. Christians who are members of unregistered churches are viewed as a threat to the government. Believers may have their meetings raided and be arrested or fined for taking part in 'illegal' religious activities. Church leaders are especially targeted because the authorities want to cause a ripple effect of fear and anxiety in their congregations.

Prayer points

- Pray that the new leadership of President Mirziyoyev will bring welcome changes.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to encourage, equip and empower believers.
- Pray for ongoing protection and nourishment of church leaders, who can come under immense pressure.

If you'd like to know more about the situation for Christians in Uzbekistan, do take a look at Open Doors' website and watch list: [Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide - Uzbekistan - Open Doors UK & Ireland](#)

A prayer for Uzbekistan from Open Doors

Heavenly Father, we are acutely aware that to live as a Christian in Uzbekistan can carry enormous challenges and even danger. Encourage, equip and empower believers in the face of pressure and persecution, and may all hostility against them soften. Grant leaders wisdom and discernment as they navigate state restrictions, and keep them in good health and spirits. Keep and protect Your children. Amen.

Thanks to Revd Adrian for providing these prayers for the persecuted church.

An Easter Blessing

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of
the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with
Christ's peace.
Amen.

— Church of England website

Ideas for prayer

- + all who are worried about, or who have lost, their jobs, livelihoods and businesses
- + all who are homeless
- + all who are suffering any injustice – racial, social, economic
- + anyone facing illness or medical treatment
- + all who feel isolated and those who cannot be with their families
- + those who have died
- + all who make our various worship services possible and all who attend
- + all who are visiting the church via our Facebook pages
- + families bereaved at this time and those not able to use the church as they would wish to
- + for wisdom and safety in the easing of restrictions in the months ahead
- + hope, encouragement and peace in all circumstances

Rest in Peace

HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

1921 – 2021

The congregations of the Benefice of Dersingham, Anmer, Ingoldisthorpe and Shernborne remember and honour Prince Philip, thanking him for his lifetime of service to the Queen, Nation and Commonwealth. Our deepest condolences to Queen Elizabeth and the Royal Family at this time of sadness.

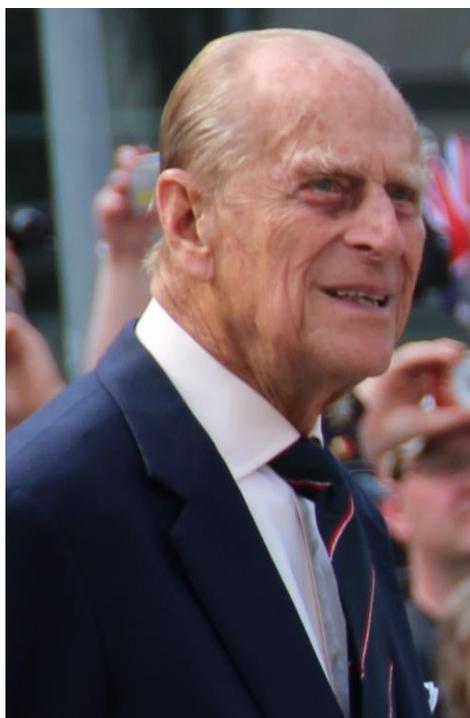


Photo: PolizeiBerlin, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



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Wordsearch – Jesus Appears to his Disciples

Thanks to Carol for this week's puzzle. All the words can be found in John chapter 20 verses 19 to 31.

N	T	W	E	L	V	E	D	E	C	A	E	P	E
N	B	R	S	E	O	R	E	A	C	H	E	L	D
D	E	O	F	L	O	I	U	R	H	D	E	J	D
D	L	E	E	S	O	G	G	I	D	I	S	S	E
E	I	I	V	A	N	R	S	L	U	L	O	D	Y
K	E	N	E	I	S	E	D	G	I	F	T	O	O
C	V	G	N	M	E	C	V	A	E	S	G	O	J
O	I	N	I	W	F	O	N	I	R	H	O	R	R
L	N	I	N	G	L	R	O	I	E	T	V	S	E
O	G	T	G	D	E	D	F	L	H	H	Y	D	V
K	C	B	S	I	O	E	N	F	I	O	D	E	O
L	D	U	F	R	O	D	A	A	D	M	S	V	E
R	F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	I	A	V	R	G
T	A	D	S	E	N	D	I	N	G	S	O	V	G

BELIEVING
 NAILS
 RECORDED
 PEACE
 REACH
 LOCKED
 THOMAS
 SENDING
 LORD
 OVERJOYED
 TWELVE
 DOUBTING
 FORGIVEN
 EVENING
 FIRST
 DOORS

Stopwatch: how quickly can you solve these anagrams?

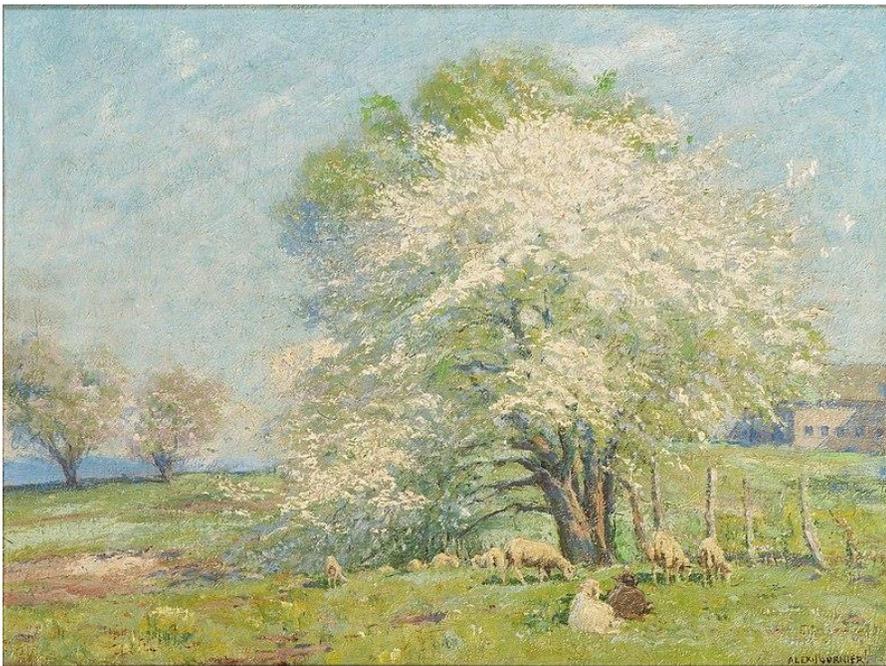
I STOP VIE
 ROODS
 DUNNO NUANCE
 E CAPE
 LIVE BEE

(All are words found in Derek's letter. Answers, last page.)

Where have all the vowels gone?

H__V_NLY
 _NC__R_G_
 S_FT_N
 N_V_G_T_
 PR_T_CT
 _M_N

(All are words found in the Prayer for Uzbekistan. Answers, last page.)



Spring Lambs

Image: Alexis Jean Fournier, 1915, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Spring

BY GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS (1844 – 1889)

Nothing is so beautiful as Spring –

When weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush;
 Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush
 Through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring
 The ear, it strikes like lightnings to hear him sing;
 The glassy peartree leaves and blooms, they brush
 The descending blue; that blue is all in a rush
 With richness; the racing lambs too have fair their fling.

What is all this juice and all this joy?

A strain of the earth's sweet being in the beginning
 In Eden garden. – Have, get, before it cloy,
 Before it cloud, Christ, lord, and sour with sinning,
 Innocent mind and Mayday in girl and boy,
 Most, O maid's child, thy choice and worthy the winning.

Source: Gerard Manley Hopkins: Poems and Prose (Penguin Classics, 1985)

We give thanks for:

- + the Easter Season
- + the Easter holidays from school and time together outside with family and friends
- + our church community and our families and friendships
- + the beauty of springtime and God's creation
- + God's grace, love and forgiveness and his help for our lives
- + progress being made in understanding and treating the coronavirus
- + our scientists, medics and care workers
- + our teachers, key workers and people providing essential services
- + acts of kindness, courage and selflessness
- + the comfort and reassurance of the Holy Spirit
- + that we can take our concerns to Jesus in prayer

Missing letters:

heavenly,
 encourage,
 soften, navigate,
 protect, Amen

Anagrams:

positive, doors,
 unannounced,
 peace, believe

With help from:
anagrammaker.com



www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk
dersinghamonlineworship.com

