

# The Lighthouse



 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Norwich

Sunday, 18 April 2021  
Issue 55

## Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture Reading: Luke chapter 24 verses 36b–48

‘Media vita in morte sumus.’

‘In the midst of life, we are in death.’

Dear Friends,

The reading today is set on the evening of Easter Day. The disciples are frightened and unsure about the resurrection [verse 37]. They are troubled. They needed reassurance that Jesus is alive [verses 38 onwards]. Maybe you need reassurance too? These long lockdown days can cause us to doubt. Some are grieving, hurting, and unsure. Take comfort from Psalm 46 v1: ‘God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.’ We can feel unsure, whoever we are, including Her Majesty the Queen and her family. May they too, like us, have peace and certainty in their hearts as they face these difficult days, and in particular Prince Philip’s funeral day.

The Times newspaper in the second leading article on April 12th ran the headline, ‘A Fitting Farewell.’ The point being made was that Prince Philip would have appreciated the simple and pared-down funeral arrangements. In life Prince Philip arrived at the core point of an argument quicker than most. He didn’t do fussy. The Times added that ‘One could almost hear him saying, with familiar abruptness, “Just put me in a box and get on with it.”’

They did put him in a box, and respectfully we stopped or at least slowed down and paid respect to a man we did not fully know. Maybe we did think we knew him, but he was much more than a series of gaffes.

He was put in a box once before. As a one-year-old refugee lying where fruit should have been, saved by a British warship, fleeing from home. He would not find another home until his marriage. Once asked what language he spoke at home, he had replied, ‘What do you mean, “at home”?’ We should not have known him. He did not seek our attention. His marriage to his Lilibet made all the difference. His father had died, his mother sectioned. He was a man without roots. A man at sea. But Lilibet meant home, a root to wrap around. He would tell his mother-in-law, ‘Lilibet was the only thing in this world which was absolutely real to me.’

So why is this man real to us? We never knew him, he never phoned us, he was never likely to ‘pop round’. But Lilibet knew him, and we know her. She is – to many of us – more than just a person. People have opinions. She does not. People have



Photo: Nationaal Archief, CCo, via Wikimedia Commons

*[Letter continues, next page]*

[Letter]

emotions. She does not. She sits apart from us and yet is in service to us. And for it, most of us revere her. Prince Philip on the other hand had opinions, some would say too many! He showed his emotions, but he was hardly apart from us. He engaged in conversations, made the underdog feel important, brought out inner qualities in people to achieve great things. That is why we know him and he is real to us.

Maybe you will allow me to reflect on the two occasions when I have met Prince Philip? Firstly, on Merseyside, when Prince Philip, as the Chairman of the Playing Fields Association, opened a Community Hall in New Ferry, very urban, with many social needs, where I was Rector. I stood on the stage of the new hall as Prince Philip declared the hall open, alongside Gyles Brandreth who wore a red jumper with a bright green frog pattern. The frog on the jumper contrasted well as he stood next to the real Prince, and all the schoolchildren in the new hall loved it. The Prince was in a very jolly mood, and had all the children involved and answering his questions.

How different to the quieter service of 1662 Morning Prayer at Hillington in 2012. I had not taken a service from the 1662 Prayer Book since 1980, so it was a learning curve already. Then I had an email from the Rector of Sandringham, two days before the service, to say that Prince Philip might attend. He did, and brought with him guests from the House, including the Countess of Wessex. Prince Philip was so very sincere on both occasions. You could see him thinking ahead; he had the ability to draw people in, and to include them, raising self-worth and a sense of belonging. On both occasions he seemed very much at home.

There is another box. It is cradle shaped. 'Tell of his birth at Bethlehem, not in a royal house or hall, but in a stable, dark and dim: the Word made flesh, a light for all.' The gospel news is that Jesus came to his own home, and to meet with us.

God bless. With every blessing, Derek the Cleric.

## Changes to Worship for 18th April

In light of the sad death of HRH Prince Philip, there will be changes to the plans for this Sunday.

There will now be one service in the benefice at 10am in St Nicholas Church Dersingham. The service will be an adapted form of Morning Prayer with a particular focus on the life and contributions made by the Duke of Edinburgh.

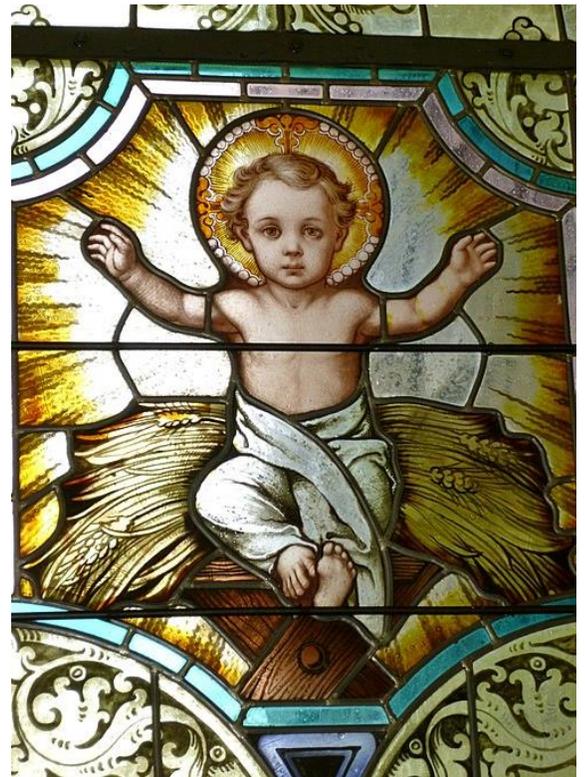
There will also be a special recorded service this Sunday, also with a feature and focus on the Duke of Edinburgh's life and faith, and his influence on so many people.

Please note: the planned contemporary service in the Village Centre won't now start this week but will instead start the following Sunday, 25th April, at 9:30am.

The 11am service will still be at Anmer on 25th, Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer.

Please remember to book in and to wear face masks for all services (contact [secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk)).

With my prayers,  
Rev Mark



*Christ Child chapel window in Tulfes, Tyrol*

Photo: Werudolf, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

Hands

Space

Face

Fresh Air

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*In this moment of sorrow, the Lord is in our midst  
and consoles us with his word:*

*No eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,  
what God has prepared for those who love him.*

*Blessed are the sorrowful; they shall be comforted.*

–Church of England Prayers  
for the Nation and the Royal Family  
at this time of mourning

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*The Lake at Sandringham House*

Photo: Andrew Bone from Weymouth, England, CC BY 2.0, via Wikimedia Commons

### **A Prayer**

Remember, O Lord,  
your servant Philip,  
who has gone before us with  
the sign of faith and now rests  
in the sleep of peace.

According to your promises,  
grant to him and to all  
who rest in Christ,  
refreshment,  
light and peace;

through the same Christ  
our Lord. Amen.

– Church of England

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*Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”*

–Luke 24:36

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## 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



## Bible Bites Easter Treasure Hunt!

Did you find all the words?

The answer was a paraphrase of Luke 24:5–6:

**The two angels said ‘Jesus isn’t here. He has been raised from the dead.’**

Looking at the analytics, lots of people used the website page and many families enjoyed taking part. We look to do another treasure hunt in the near future. –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

## We give thanks for:

- + the Easter Season
- + our church community, 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
- + Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip and their lives of service to the nation and Commonwealth



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

#### LAOS

**Population 7.1 million. 199,000 Christians (2.8%)**

Christian activities are heavily monitored by the communist authorities, including those of registered churches. Especially in rural areas, house churches are forced to meet underground as they are considered 'illegal gatherings'. Life is especially difficult for converts to the Christian faith, who are at risk of persecution from their family and the local authorities. This can involve damage to property, confiscation of possessions and fines. Women can also face the danger of rape and sexual harassment.

#### Prayer points

- Give thanks for the growth of the church in Laos.
- Pray that believers under pressure to recant their faith will have strength to stand firm.
- Ask god to meet the needs of families and churches of pastors imprisoned for their faith.

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

#### A prayer for Laos from Open Doors

Lord Jesus, give Your people strength to endure persecution, and grace to love and forgive their persecutors. May local and national authorities see Christians not as a threat but as valuable members of society. Continue to open the eyes of Laotians to the life-giving faith of their Christian neighbours. May Your kingdom come in Laos. Amen.

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

Stopwatch: how quickly can you solve these anagrams?

**SCEPTRE**  
**FREE EGE**  
**FENCED FIRE**  
**KNIGHT IN**  
**LONG BEING**

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

#### 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

# Wordsearch – Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Thanks to Carol for this week's puzzle. All the words can be found in Luke chapter 24 verses 36 to 48.

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

FISH  
 REPENTANCE  
 UNDERSTAND  
 DOUBTS  
 FEET  
 HANDS  
 MOSES  
 PEACE  
 STARTLED  
 PSALMS  
 FORGIVENESS  
 FULFILLED  
 PROPHETS  
 BELIEVE  
 WITNESSES

Anagrams:

*respect, refugee,  
 difference,  
 thinking,  
 belonging*

*With help from:  
 anagrammaker.com*

## Music in Country Churches

This much-loved concert series returns to St Nicholas Dersingham for two concerts in July.

The dates are Tuesday, 27th July and Wednesday, 28th July.

Apollo 5 will be singing on the first night and the English Chamber Orchestra Strings will play on the Wednesday. Tickets available in June. Stay tuned! –Rev Mark



[www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk](http://www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk)  
[dersinghamonlineworship.com](http://dersinghamonlineworship.com)

