

The Lighthouse



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Sunday, 4 April 2021
Issue 53

Easter Day

Scripture Reading: John chapter 20 verses 1–18.

‘Empty tomb and full of faith.’

Dear Friends, ‘The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed.’ Rejoice this Eastertime that Jesus has risen. Here is the keystone fact of the Gospel. Jesus rose from the dead. Of course, not everyone believes this. Members of my wider family circle would say that religion is for wimps. I am often sent aggressive atheistic comments by email about the existence of God, Jesus and Christian values. These things are described as false security, an inner feeling from within myself for my own glorification. I prefer to take the Billy Graham route. Someone asked him to prove God’s existence; his reply was that God seemed perfectly well when he said his prayers this morning!

So, did Jesus rise from the dead? That begs a secondary question, Did Jesus really die? These questions were around on that first Easter day too.

Mary weeps in the garden. ‘They have taken away my Lord.’ John 20 v13

The two disciples on the Emmaus road talked with the risen Jesus, ‘but did not recognise him.’ Luke 24 v25

Peter and John go into the tomb, but ‘they did not understand from Scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead.’ John 20 v9

Thomas the doubter wanted hands on evidence that Jesus was alive. John 20 v24

There are doubts that people raise about the resurrection, doubts about the highly emotional state of the disciples after the death of Jesus and whether or not they were victims of hallucination. Some doubters would say that the disciples wanted to see Jesus again so much that they thought they saw him. However, St Paul records in 1 Corinthians 15 v6 that 500 people saw Jesus at the same time. That isn’t hallucination, that is a verifiable fact. There is also the evidence that Thomas could actually see and feel the wounds in his master’s body.



A pair of stained-glass windows in a local Norfolk church – St Maurice’s at Briningham, near Holt – depicts the resurrection and ascension of Christ. The portrayal of Jesus’s gentle, triumphant face is remarkable.

Photo: David from Colorado Springs, United States, CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons

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[Letter]

There is the ongoing doubt for some people whether the body of Jesus was stolen from the tomb. If the body was stolen by the authorities, all they had to do was produce it, and the Christian faith would be dead and buried! If the disciples stole the body of Jesus, why would they go on to preach a known lie, to the point of imprisonment and in some cases death?

So far, we are seeing external evidence for the resurrection of Jesus. The real proof is internal evidence. Have you met with the risen Jesus by faith? There is an old Christian song – I'm talking about 60/70 years ago. It includes the words, 'Jesus walks with me, and talks with me along life's narrow way.' It leads us at this Eastertime in 2021 to the thought that we are like the two people on the Emmaus road on the evening of Easter Day, but now Jesus comes alongside and talks with us. The challenge of the Christian faith is whether we recognise him or not. The old Christian song concludes, 'You ask me how I know he lives – he lives within my heart.' What is your internal evidence that Jesus is alive?

All joy at this Eastertime. Yours, Derek the Cleric.

Hands – Face – Space – Fresh air.



Transitioning Ministry and Worship

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. Easter Sunday at 10am will be the first service in church. On 11th April there will be one service of Holy Communion in St Nicholas, also at 10am.

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. This means we need to adapt services to be able to offer worship; we all hope this guidance changes soon. Please remember to book in (contact secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk) and to wear face masks for all services.

Looking Ahead

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. This will be based with people sitting at round tables in 'bubbles'. 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.

The week after, 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:

Easter Day	10am Holy Communion
11th April	10am Holy Communion
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

With my continued prayers,

Rev Mark

*Jesus said to her, "Mary."
She turned toward him and cried
out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!"
(which means "Teacher").*

*Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me,
for I have not yet ascended to the
Father. Go instead to my
brothers and tell them, 'I am
ascending to my Father and your
Father, to my God and your God.'"*

*Mary Magdalene went to the
disciples with the news: "I have seen
the Lord!" And she told them that he
had said these things to her.*

– John 20:16–18

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 safety in the reopening of schools
- + for a restful Easter break for all of us
- + 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!



Bible bites

We invite you to a free Easter Treasure Hunt around Dersingham from Saturday 3rd until Saturday 10th April 2021.

The answers from each clue in order will make a bible verse. Every entry will get a prize for taking part. The map will show where the clues are – mostly in shop or business windows. It's an opportunity for families to get out and explore during the Easter holidays.

We hope you enjoy! Access info:
<https://dersinghamonlineworship.com/?p=901>

Thank you.
Rev Mark

Spring Harvest

Spring Harvest's annual Easter Break festival goes online again this year. It begins today and runs until 8th April. To find out more and to subscribe for access, visit their website at [Spring Harvest | Homepage](#).



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

MAURITANIA

Population 4.8 million. 10,800 Christians (0.2%).

The restrictive environment in Mauritania makes it impossible for Christians to gather openly. This is especially true for converts from Islam, who face enormous pressure from their families and communities. In Mauritania's tribal culture, leaving Islam is not only seen as religious betrayal but also as a betrayal of the tribe and family. Openly expressing the Christian faith is even risky for foreign nationals, as it could be regarded as an attempt to convert others to Christianity, which can lead to prosecution.

Prayer points

- Pray that Mauritanian Christians will find ways to meet despite the dangers.
- Pray that believers will be able to share their faith without being prosecuted.
- Pray for strength and wisdom for Open Doors partners as they support the church in North Africa.

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

A prayer for Mauritania from Open Doors

Dear God, thank You for the small but faithful church in Mauritania. Give those who've made the bold decision to follow You the strength to stand firm and serve You. May they shine brightly, leading others to You, too. Protect Christian women from forced or unhealthy marriages, and place them in families and communities where they will not just survive, but thrive. Amen.

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

An Easter Prayer

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and
fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.
— from *Common Worship*

We give thanks for:

- + Easter
- + God's presence in our lives
- + our church community and our families and friendships
- + progress being made in treating coronavirus
- + God's grace, love and forgiveness
- + God's word and help for our own situations
- + acts of kindness, courage and selflessness
- + the comfort and reassurance of the Holy Spirit
- + that we can take our worries to Jesus in prayer
- + spring and time spent outside in nature
- + the continuing success of the vaccines rollout



Wordsearch – The Empty Tomb

Thanks to Carol for this week's puzzle. All the words can be found in John chapter 20 verses 1 to 18.

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

WOMAN
CRYING
EARLY
INSIDE
GARDENER
DISCIPLES
MARY
RUNNING
CLOTH
RABBONI
TOMB
STONE
PETER
LINEN
BELIEVED
ANGELS

Photocopier

The Dersingham PCC are looking for a potential new site for the photocopier. Do you have a warm area where it could be based? It doesn't mean you need to do the copying, but perhaps you could enable someone else to come and do it.

To offer an idea of the size of space required, it is equivalent to a dining room table (roughly), with some space to store paper. If you might be able to help, please do contact either Thomas Wheeler or myself.

Thank you.
Rev Mark

Stopwatch: how quickly can you solve these anagrams?

RIB DUE
SEA MUM
GO SINCERE
A VEIL
RINSE

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

Spring Springing Up!



Remember the seedlings from first day of Lent? Here they all are, six weeks later, living in the greenhouse and soon to be moving to pots of their own. –lw



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

*Anagrams:
buried,
Emmaus,
recognise,
alive, risen*

*With help from:
anagrammaker.com*

This week's lovely weather was such a blessing!

People have been outside, enjoying gardens, picnics, walks, the beach and lots of fresh air.

Suddenly there is blossom on the trees. Have you seen the beautiful magnolias currently in bloom around the benefice?

Here's some plum blossom, just opening now! –lw

