

Reflection for Easter Day

Today's gospel reading might seem like an anti-climax for such an important day. It reminds me of the ending to stories by young children where they run out of steam and simply write 'and they all went home for tea!' There is an empty tomb, terror and amazement, and fearful silence.

We should not lose sight of the fact that they were extraordinarily brave for being there at all. Many of Jesus' followers had scattered for their own safety, yet these women have banded together, possibly egging each other on for courage, and go to do the right thing in completing the burial rites for their beloved friend. At best, they faced derision from the soldiers, and possible arrest for identifying so publicly with Jesus.

An alternative ending of Mark's Gospel shows Jesus rebuking his disciples for ignoring the testimony of the women and others, so it seems they overcame their fears of scorn from those they knew well.

Sometimes our fears in sharing our faith can also seem overwhelming even though we know that we do not face imprisonment or death. Yet concern for the approval of our nearest and dearest remains high. How can we discover the boldness of those women and begin to share the best news – that Jesus has risen from the dead to bring healing and reconciliation with God?

Revd Sarah



Do not forget the clocks go forward by one hour at 1am on Sunday morning.



NEXT SUNDAY 07.04.2024 2nd Sunday of Easter
10.30am in the Church

READINGS: OT Acts 4: 32-35
NT 1 JOHN 1-2:2
GOSPEL John 20: 19-31



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St Thomas, Exeter

31st March 2024

Easter Day

10.30am in Church

Today

10.30am in the Church

Hymn Numbers

267 Jesus Christ is risen today

25 Alleluia, alleluia, hearts to heaven and
voices raise

503 Thine be the glory

Wednesday 3rd April

10am Walsingham Mass

Thursday 4th April

9.30-11am St Thomas Tots

10.30-12 noon Knit & Natter, 19 Maple Rd.

Details from Jenny 01392 498725

3-5pm Warm Space in the Hall

Friday 5th April

9.30am Prayers

10am Staff Meeting



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. **Amen**

Acts 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: '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.'

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

Now I should 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 someone 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.

Mark 16: 1-8

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.

Intercessions

Risen Lord

Fill our hearts with Easter joy.

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. **Amen**

NOTICES

Community Larder There will be a collection box in the Church on Sundays for food donations. The need remains great so please be mindful of our wider community.

House Group is a small group of people who meet fortnightly to explore various aspects of our faith. It was started by a curate some 30 years ago and many have enjoyed this opportunity. At present we are on holiday but our next meeting is on 16th April at Helen's home. Helen and Ian can give you more details if you are interested.

Parish Website when we reviewed the website to include more details about the bell ringers we noticed that the last Blog entry was in 2022. We are looking for a small team of people who would be prepared to write something occasionally for this Blog. Please speak to one of the staff team.

Electoral Roll It is now time to revise the parish electoral roll ahead of the APCM in May. Please see Carolyn Bryant if you wish to be added to the roll or if you have moved house or changed any other details in the past year. Forms will be available from Carolyn or Ian. If you have any questions please contact Carolyn after the Sunday morning service or call 07780 707183.