



# South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

14<sup>th</sup> April 2024

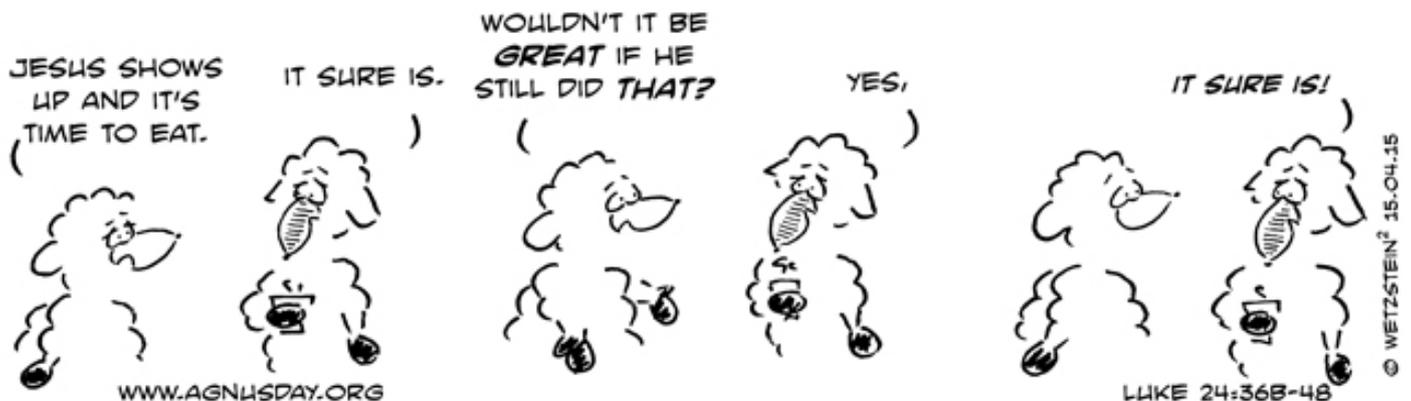
## 3rd Sunday of Easter

Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well (and dry.) Despite the rain – and the winds and more rain – there are real signs of Spring. The buds and blossom, the birdsong, the Rectory Garden starting to look like I'm getting ready for a first cut of silage, there are lots of signs of the season in nature. Another sign is the St Martin's Spring Fair (or possibly Fayre?) which is on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month. Draw prizes and donations and offers of help to the office please!

Sunday's Gospel reading shows us a very young community – days old in the time of Luke's account of the disciples. They are going to become churches, but they are not there yet. Jesus, in his appearance to the disciples and Peter as he addresses the people in Acts are both offering instruction and advice on how to live together, on the truth of Jesus life and death and resurrection and what that would mean for them. Interestingly, neither Jesus nor Peter have anything to say about Spring Fairs or raffles. Rather, they focus on the importance of witnessing and of repentance.

Witnessing; to Jesus' life and resurrection, to the difference that God's love has made in our lives, being a witness matters. Telling the story, passing it on, helping others to understand and to start their own journey of faith – these are part of what it means to be a Christian. They need to be built into our lives, both as individuals and as a church, as integral to our schedule as the Spring Fair. And as prepared for, maybe requiring as much publicity and preparation. How should we best prepare ourselves to witness this Spring? What do we need – and what will we bring?

With every blessing, Anne  
07864938898  
rector@stmartinshereford.org.uk



## Family and Community News

### Jumble Sale for Dinedor Church Funds

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 12noon-2pm - St. Martin's Church Hall

### Spring Fair at St. Martin's

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April - 12noon-2pm

Stalls, Raffle, Refreshments and Fun!

#### ***Toastie and Warm at St Martin's***

On Tuesday afternoons the Narthex at St Martin's is a busy and welcoming space.

From 1pm there is a Bible Study group, all welcome.

From 2pm there is a coffee afternoon, full of conversations and information, with chocolate biscuits and, usually, home-made cakes. Everyone is welcome to come along to any – or all – parts of the afternoon.

#### **Catching up with friends – or making new ones! *Young at Heart***

First Thursday of each month – Lunch at the Wye Inn (contact the office so that we can book a table)

Third Thursday of each month at 2pm – Meeting in St. Martin's Church – talks, games, refreshments and friendship – everyone welcome!

*Making Room* is a new initiative based at St Martin's which, whilst it will not offer any formal professional mental health treatment, will offer a safe space to express any worries you may have. *Making Room* is intended for people of working age, and is about making room to have safe discussions about our mental wellness, making room to support one another, making room for mindfulness and to start or share any hobbies and interests and making room to offer hope. If you are interested in joining us please contact us and we can discuss plans further. If you wish to volunteer equally please do get in touch. *Rev'd Lauren Bell* [curate@stmartinshereford.org.uk](mailto:curate@stmartinshereford.org.uk) 07429 862444

#### **Services at Belmont Community Centre**

If you live in or near Belmont and find the journey to St Martin's difficult, or if Sunday mornings are not easy for you, you might like to join us for Friday Communion at Belmont Community Centre.

We celebrate a said service of Holy Communion at 12:30pm on the Second and Fourth Fridays of each month, following FoodShare. Everyone is very welcome to this service. The hall has level access and good ventilation – and if the weather is good we celebrate outside.

**The next services at Belmont are: 12.30pm Holy Communion – 26<sup>th</sup> April, 10<sup>th</sup> May**

**Bonus Ball Scheme** The next payment for the bonus ball scheme is due at the beginning of April, for the period April to September 2024. If you do not pay by standing order, could you please your £26 for each ball you have to the office by cash or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to St Martin with St Francis Roof Account. Alternatively, you can pay directly to the account, sort code 30-80-55, account number 42121368. There are numbers available if you wish to increase your chances of winning and to raise more money for the church. Please contact the office or myself.

Many thanks for your support, *Sue Cockroft*

## For our Prayers

### ***Those who are ill or in need of your prayers, including:***

Gill	James	Joan	Paul	Sheila	Ann W	Brenda B
Sue	Brooke	Christina	Betty	Mandy	Hazel	

### ***Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:***

Marlene B..	Kjay..	Barbara	Joe	Grace	Hugo
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***Anglican Communion:*** The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia - Most Revd Don Tamihere (Aotearoa); Most Revd Sione Ulu'ilakepa (Polynesia).

***Hereford:*** Leominster Deanery: Rural Dean – Mark Long; Lay Co-Chair – Lydia Davies; Sub-Warden of Readers – Culain Morris. Link with Weissenburg (Nuremberg). In the Leominster Deanery: LLM: Joanna Beavan; Licensed Lay-Workers: Kathy Bland, David Bland, Des Hall.

***Porvoo:*** England: Derby, Bishop Libby Lane, Bishop Malcolm Macnaughton; Ireland: Clogher, Bishop Ian Ellis; Denmark: Aalborg, Bishop Thomas Reinholdt Rasmussen.

***South Wye:*** Please pray for those living in Golden Post and Beattie Avenue

### ***The Wider View:***

We pray for the Wilhelm-Löhe-Schule and the Hans Sachs Gymnasium in Nuremberg and their many contacts, past and present, with schools in our Diocese; and for the growing number of schools which are linked through Coventry's International Cross of Nails (ICON) fellowship.

Monday is Microvolunteering Day, which seeks to encourage those who are hesitant about big commitments to see that there are still good and useful things they can do. Microvolunteering is described as “bite-sized, on-demand, no commitment actions that benefit a worthy cause.” Pray for all who do give of their time and ability to help others or make a difference within their community.

Tuesday is World Voice Day, dedicated to the power of the human voice, but also raising awareness of vocal problems and issues. Pray we may use the power of speech with care and consideration.

Wednesday is World Haemophilia Day. Pray for a better awareness of haemophilia, von Willebrand disease and other inherited bleeding disorders. Increased awareness leads to better diagnosis; pray also for the millions who remain without access to care and treatment.

Friday is national Early Years Teacher Day. Give thanks for nursery provision in our schools, and for all who teach reception children. Those who take responsibility for a child's very first years in education play a vital role in forming an eagerness to learn.

Alphege, remembered on Friday, was a hermit, then Abbot of Bath, before his humility and piety led to his being made Bishop of Winchester and then Archbishop of Canterbury. As Archbishop he was captured by Danish invaders and held to ransom. He refused to allow a ransom to be paid for his life, and so was killed (on 19th April, 1012) by his captors, in an act of drunken rage.

Pray for those who provide and maintain sports facilities in our towns and villages, and especially for those who teach and coach young people, and encourage them in looking after their own fitness and learning new skills. Pray for those who care for our village and community halls, all of them very dependent on the time and skills offered by volunteers. Pray also for the regular users of these facilities.

Pray for sheep farming families as the lambing season draws towards its close, a time of shared stress and hard work, and of immense highs and lows, especially in this year of such difficult weather.

**Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio  
For the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**South Wye Services Through the Week:**

8pm Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin’s Facebook page

**Sunday**

9:30am Holy Communion at St. Martin’s

11.15am Family Service at St. Peter’s

**Thursday**

10am Said Communion in St. Martin’s Lady Chapel

The 9.30am service will be streamed on St. Martin’s Facebook page and will be available on the St. Martin’s and the St. Peter’s Facebook pages and the St. Martin’s YouTube channel later in the day.

**Diocese of Hereford**

Diocese of Hereford Facebook: Sunday Service 10am.

Diocese Freephone Prayerline: Dial 0800 304 7052 to hear a prayer.

**Church of England**

National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

**TV and Radio on Sunday;**

BBC H&W 8am Sunday Worship.

Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Worship- Peace Be With You

BBC 1 1.15pm Songs of Praise- Laura’s Faith and Music

**Prayer for the day:**

The Church of England website has audio and text of the Prayer for the Day.

**Prayer for the Nation**

The Archbishops continue to invite all to call on God in Prayer. We invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. Find more details at [churchengland.org/resources/prayer-nation](http://churchengland.org/resources/prayer-nation)

**Collect for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

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.

**Readings for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

### **Acts 3: 12-19**

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. 'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

### **Psalm 4**

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; you set me at liberty when I was in trouble; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
- 3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not; commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?' Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

### **1 John 3: 1-7**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he<sup>is</sup> revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

### **Luke 24: 36b-48**

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

## Bible Study based on Acts 3: 12-19

### Bible notes

Words and actions belong closely together in Acts. Speaking God's Word with boldness is accompanied by signs and wonders. The action comes first as Peter heals a lame man, 'in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk' (3:6). Now, as the crowd runs towards them in astonishment, Peter explains what has happened. When Peter 'took him by the right hand and raised him up' (3:7) the lame man was given 'perfect health' through Jesus. This is the new life that began with Jesus' resurrection. Jesus is the author, or pioneer, of this risen life, and the same title is used of Jesus in connection with his death and resurrection in Hebrews 2:10 and 12:2.

Peter accuses the crowd of Jesus' murder, 'You killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead'. He doesn't choose here to mention his own shameful part in the story, falling asleep when asked to pray with Jesus in his agony (Luke 22:45-46), weeping bitterly after denying three times that he knew Jesus (22:62). But Jesus had said to him, 'When once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers' (22:32).

Now he urges the crowd to repentance with similar words, 'Turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out'. In Jesus' suffering, to which he contributed; in Jesus' resurrection, to which he witnesses; and in the repentance that he proclaims, Peter sees the fulfilment of the loving promises of God. This echoes the words of the risen Jesus to the disciples in today's Gospel, 'Thus it is written'.

### Reflection

*Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.* Peter said he would die with Jesus but denied knowing him. The resurrection first seemed to the disciples to be an idle tale. Understandably, when the risen Jesus appeared and invited them to touch his tortured body, their reaction combined disbelief and terror, wonder and joy. They saw the consequences of their own failings in the same moment they apprehended the forgiveness available to them. The psychologist Steve Taylor has interviewed many who, like these disciples in a time of crisis, have experienced 'awakenings' to love, compassion, and new aspects of reality. He calls this 'transformation through turmoil'.

### Questions for reflection



- When in your life has a mistake become an opportunity?
- How do/should we treat others who make mistakes?
- How might this approach to mistakes be received by people outside the church?

**Sudoku (Easier!)**

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3	7	9	2	8	4	6	1	5
1	6	2	5	3	7	4	8	9
5	4	8	1	6	9	3	7	2
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**Trickier!**

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Wordsearch based on 1 John 3:1-7

T S T I M M O C R K H O K S C  
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