



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

Easter Day - 20th April 2025

Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

One of the occupational hazards of the ministry – and something that we have in common with church organists, according to John – is that the mere sight of an unexpected hearse can bring on a real moment of panic. Even on holiday, miles from home, that shiny black vehicle, the flowers and the coffin, spark an immediate response of “Oh No! I’ve forgotten a funeral!!!!” It’s a horrible feeling and the reaction doesn’t seem to get any less over the years.

We have similar responses occasionally when a group of smartly dressed people arrive in the churchyard or walk across the carpark – “Oh no – have we missed a funeral booking?” and there was a panic-y moment this last week when a couple of ladies came into the office asking about their friend’s funeral. They had driven quite a way, expecting the funeral to be at St Martin’s – and it wasn’t – but for a minute we doubted ourselves, checking emails and paperwork and asking one another if we were really sure! We use language like ‘heart-sinking’ for those sorts of moments because they describe a real physical feeling. They take a bit of getting over, the memory sits in our bodies and we feel unsettled for a while.

When we talk about the first Easter morning, we often speak about how it must have felt. How did it feel for Mary, for Peter, for the other disciple? We talk about their emotions – bewilderment, shock, excitement, joy – but I have been wondering this week about their physical reactions. After all, the resurrection is a physical act, it’s not actually about feelings. It’s about a physically dead human being not physically dead anymore. About the power of God overcoming actual physical human death. The very facts that inspire the huge emotions of Easter-tide are about physical change happening to a physical human body in this physical world.

The world in which we live and move and fret about forgotten funerals is practical and physical, as is the world described in the Gospels. In the Easter story told in John’s Gospel, people run and bend and talk and weep. Their confusion and sorrow and joy are happening to them in the midst of their real lives – real lives that will never be the same again because the resurrection has changed their world forever.

This Easter will find each of us dealing with different emotions and situations in our lives. We may be dealing with pain or grief, joy, excitement, bewilderment, worry or despair. We may feel any or all of these emotions in our bodies, they may show in our faces or our words. Whatever the emotions and



feelings we bring to Easter, I pray that each of us may know the practical truth of the resurrection. That the real world in which we live is changed forever because Jesus Christ rose from the dead. That we can live our real lives in the knowledge that God’s love prevails, love demonstrated practically in Jesus’ physical life and death and resurrection.

With every blessing, Anne
07864938898

rector@stmartinshereford.org.uk

Family and Community News

With every blessing to you all for a blessed Easter, from all the Team

Bonus Ball Scheme

The next payment for the bonus ball scheme is due at the beginning of April, for the period April to September 2025. 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

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.

FoodShare distributions will continue as normal over the Bank Holidays. The parish office will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday. There will be no Bible Study meeting on Tuesday 22nd. On-line Night Prayer will restart on Thursday 24th.

Catching up with friends – or making new ones!

Young at Heart - First Thursday of each month – Lunch together in the church hall. Please email or phone Home Instead to book. 01432 804000 or info.hereford@homeinstead.co.uk

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

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 – 25th April & 9th & 23rd May

For our Prayers

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

| | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------|----------|---------|
| Brenda Baylis | Maureen Gerard | Irene F | Margaret | Charlie |
| Sue | Ian | Nathan | Win | Shelley |
| Irene Goodman | Irene Mussell | Mike | Evie | Katie |

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

| | | | | |
|----------|----------|--------------|--------|---------|
| Mike A.. | Eileen.. | Peter.. | Rita.. | Alice.. |
| Doris. | Phyllis. | Mavis Adams. | Susan | |

Anglican Communion:

The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia.

Hereford:

Leominster Deanery: For the Rural Dean, Lay Co-Chair, and the Deanery Leadership Team. Link with Weissenburg (Nuremberg). Local Ministry- For commissioned lay ministers in the Leominster Deanery.

Porvoo:

England: Derby; Ireland: Clogher; Denmark: Aalborg.

South Wye:

Please pray for families through the Easter holidays

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.

Pray for visitors to our churches at Easter and through the Bank Holiday week, and that they may feel welcomed, affirmed and refreshed.

Pray on Easter Day that the glory of the Resurrection may touch our hearts afresh, reminding us that with God nothing is impossible or without hope, and inspiring us to praise and service.

Wednesday is St George's Day: pray we may be proud of our heritage, and that this may be expressed in a generous spirit that honours the rights and freedoms of all.

Friday commemorates Mark the Apostle, writer of the shortest of our Gospels, with a refreshing directness and a sense of urgency. Pray for all our use of the Bible, and for study groups, etc, in our churches.

This week is World Malaria Day, focusing attention on one of the major killer diseases of our world.

Global travel and climate change may impact on malaria (and several other diseases) by allowing the spread of species of mosquito into new areas. Pray for the continued investment and sustained political commitment that will be needed for malaria to be prevented and controlled.

Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio For the week beginning 20^h April Easter Day

South Wye Services Through the Week:

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

Sunday

5.30am Dawn Vigil for Easter Day

9:30am Holy Communion for Easter Day at St. Martin's

11.15am Holy Communion for Easter Day 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.

Church of England

National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

TV and Radio on Sunday;

Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Worship- Easter Live- from Canterbury Cathedral

BBC 1 1.15pm Songs of Praise- Easter Sunday

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

Collect for Easter Day

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.

Readings for Easter Day

Acts 10: 34-43

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ 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; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ 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. ⁴² 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. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

² Let Israel say,
'His steadfast love endures for ever.'

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
'The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

¹⁶ the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.'

¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

¹⁸ The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

1 Corinthians 15: 19-26

¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

John 20: 1-18

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Bible Study on John 20: 1-18

Bible notes

Mary Magdalene is named in the first three Gospels as among the women who discover the empty tomb. In John's Gospel, she alone rises early to find that 'they have taken the Lord out of the tomb' (v.2). In the other Gospels the men are not involved until later. In Matthew (28:9-10), Mary Magdalene and 'the other Mary' meet the risen Jesus, who commissions them to tell his brothers to meet him in Galilee. In Mark (16:7-8), they and Salome are similarly commissioned, 'but they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid'. And in Luke 24:1-12 (the alternative Gospel reading for today), the larger group of women do tell the male apostles that Jesus is risen, but they are not believed. It is not surprising, given the traumatic loss of the Lord they loved and the shocking discovery that his body was not there for them to anoint, that there are different versions and visions of the extraordinary events of that first Easter.

In John's version, there is a more complex interweaving of male and female characters. Mary Magdalene immediately runs to share her news that the body is missing with Peter and the beloved disciple. They run to the tomb and move things on by going inside to find the discarded linen wrappings. The beloved disciple begins to believe, perhaps at this stage beginning to see that God has acted in some way. It is not yet belief in the resurrection, since we are explicitly told, 'for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead' (v.9). And indeed they return to their homes without a word either to Mary or to each other.

But Mary stays by the tomb, explaining her weeping to the strangers sitting there. In that moment of sharing her grief she turns to encounter the risen Jesus, who by recognising her for who she is, 'Mary', enables her to respond, 'Rabbouni' (v.16). The process of interaction between the women and men in the story, 'Do you see what I see?', continues as Mary announces to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord' (v.18).

Reflection *Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.* Three people in this story have very different reactions to the dramatic events. John rushes to get there first – but stops at the threshold, unable to understand what he can see. Peter rushes straight in as always, which encourages John to follow him, but then they both just go home. Mary, on the other hand, has grieved and watched and waited, and so becomes the first to meet the risen Jesus. The disciples wanted to withdraw away from all the danger and pain; Mary just wanted to be close to Jesus. She knew where to look but even then she didn't recognise him at first. Which type

of person are we, as we look for Jesus in our world today? Do we rush to look but don't see at first? Do we march boldly in but don't always wait for a response? Or do we wait and look and eventually see?

Questions for reflection *You may wish to use these questions and the picture to help you think about or discuss issues arising from this week's Bible passage.*

- What can you see in this image?
- Can you recall a time when your eyes deceived you, or you were completely mistaken? What did you learn?
- How might the events at Easter change the way we view the world around us?



Sudoku

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| 7 | | 5 | | | | | |
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| 7 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 4 |
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Sudoku (Trickier)

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| | | 4 | | | | | | |
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| 6 | | 7 | | 9 | | 5 | | |
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| 8 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 1 |
| 6 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 4 |
| 4 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 9 |
| 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| 5 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 3 |
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| 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 4 |
| 8 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 1 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
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| 4 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 8 |
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| 7 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 5 |
| 9 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 9 |

Wordsearch based on Acts 10: 34-43

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

BEGAN
TREE
BAPTISM
NATION
TESTIFY

FEARS
TRULY
DAY
POWER
FORGIVENESS

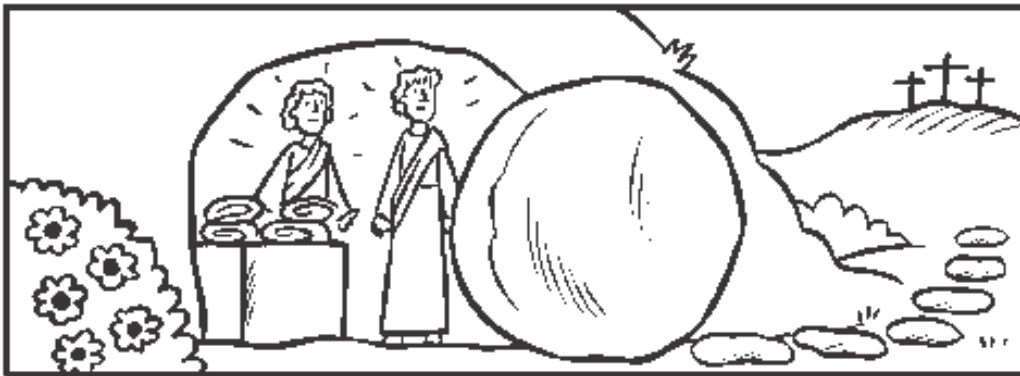
HEALING
MESSAGE
EVERY
ROSE
PARTIALITY

SPEAK
THIRD
ANOINTED
SPREAD
PREACHING

RIGHT
SHOWS
APPEAR
GOOD

'I have seen the Lord.'

John 20.18 (NRSV)



A dot-to-dot puzzle of the word 'ANGELS' where the letters are formed by small black dots.

In the above picture you can find:

one s _____ four r _____ o _ c _____

two a _____ five f _____

three c _____ six s _____ s _____

Fill in the answers to the questions. If you are right a word will appear downwards in the shaded squares.

M Mary's other name.

g Mary mistook Jesus for a _____.

e What Mary was doing when Jesus spoke to her.

s This was removed from the tomb.

l The wrappings were made of _____.

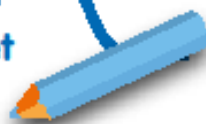
J One of the two disciples.

a Two of them were inside the tomb.

This all happened, just as the day was _____.

Magdalen, gardener, weeping, stone, linen, John, angels

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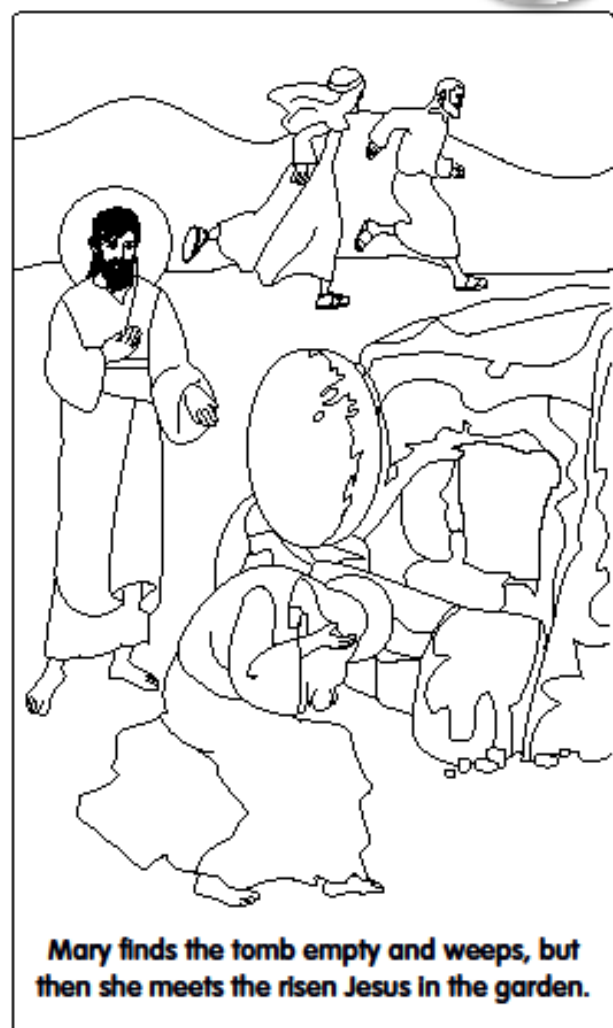


Today's Bible reading

John 20.1-18

Mary Magdalene and two disciples discover the empty tomb. Mary weeps in the garden, then meets the risen Lord Jesus.

How do you react to good news?



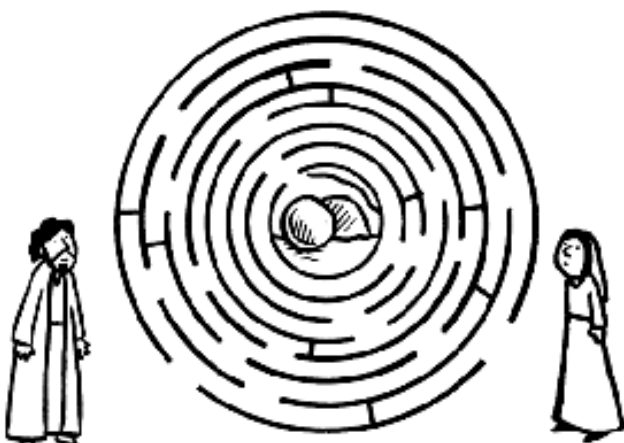
Mary finds the tomb empty and weeps, but then she meets the risen Jesus in the garden.

PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
help us to tell people that you are alive.
May we be your witnesses
in the world.
Amen.

Activity 1

Can you help Mary find her way to the tomb and then out again to find Jesus and tell the others?



Activity 2

Find the words from the story in the word search.

| | | | | | | | | | |
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| p | g | q | r | u | b | r | z | e | o |
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| n | r | t | p | o | t | d | n | e | r |
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| c | r | y | i | n | g | g | s | t | w |
| t | v | m | a | r | y | w | r | g | m |

Mary
tomb
stone
Peter
John
cloths
crying
angels
gardener
Jesus

Live in faith

Look for signs of new life around you this week, e.g. a tree full of leaves, spring flowers, birds with food in their beaks, lambs, a baby.

Check it out

The First Easter, Lois Rock & Sophie Allsopp, Lion Children's Books.