



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

7th April 2024

2nd Sunday of Easter

Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well and have been able to enjoy some of the lovely sunny moments that have brightened the last few days.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Holy Week and Easter services. Both churches were beautifully decorated for Easter Sunday and through the week people gave time and energy in lots of ways, especially with hospitality and welcome. And now, after the planning and printing and footwashing and firelighting, it's all done. The euphoria of Sunday morning followed inevitably by a wave of tiredness and wondering about what happens next. Which probably is also an echo of how the original disciples might have felt.

Our Gospel reading for Sunday starts right in the middle of this come-down. The disciples were gathered behind locked doors, frightened and confused, but suddenly learned that locks and shutters can't keep Jesus out. Tiredness and confusion and fear cannot keep Jesus out – a useful lesson then and now.

And when he turns up, they rejoice and he offers them peace and the Holy Spirit – and a mission. There are things to do, there are people out there who need to know God's forgiveness and love and it's up to the disciples to help them. Sitting around in locked rooms is all very well, but it's not the point – it's time to get up and get out there. Another useful lesson.

As usual, we have a slight advantage over the disciples here. We know what happens next. Just as our experience of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday cannot ever be completely free of the knowledge that Easter is coming, so we know, as they could not, that Pentecost is on the way. They could not know, as we do, that that small huddle of frightened people would become a world wide church of millions.

It's tempting to retreat back into ourselves – or even to get a bit grumbly and tetchy with one another, as Thomas does – but our call is outside the door. There is a world out there waiting to know God's love and forgiveness and we have been called to show them. What will that mean for us? Jesus is risen – and it's time for us to get up too!

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

Family and Community News

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 the 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 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 – 12th & 26th April

Jumble Sale for Dinedor Church Funds

Saturday 13th April 12noon-2pm

St. Martin's Church Hall

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 pay 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:

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

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Marlene B. Kjay. 'Joe'

Anglican Communion: The Episcopal Anglican Province of Alexandria - Most Revd Samy Fawzy.

Hereford: Pray for all that inspires, enables and resources our ministry with children, young people and families; pray too for our church schools, and for all that helps develop effective and fruitful links between church and school.

Porvoo: Sweden: Uppsala; Wales: Llandaff.

South Wye: Please pray for those in our community living with life restricting or life altering conditions.

The Wider View:

Sporadic measles outbreaks in various of Tanzania since 2022 have led to an intensive national vaccination campaign targeting children between ages of one and four years, supported by the WHO. Some eight million children have received vaccination, but there is still mistrust of vaccination in some areas. Pray that all children may receive the healthcare and protection they need.

The Second Sunday of Easter is known as Low Sunday, perhaps as a simple contrast with Easter Day itself as the high day of the Christian year, but perhaps also from the Latin laudes, "Let us praise". May our Easter praise resonate in all we are and do.

Sunday is also World Health Day, which this year has the theme "My health, my right," chosen to champion the right of people everywhere to access quality health services, education, and information, and to have safe drinking water, clean air, good nutrition and good housing and working conditions. Pray for the many millions in our world who do not have access to essential healthcare.

On the (transferred) feast of the Annunciation (Monday), pray for the work and witness of the Mothers' Union here and around the world.

Tuesday commemorates Dietrich Bonhoeffer, whose opposition to the Nazi regime prompts prayer for all those whose faith leads them to stand against oppression and discrimination, and in support of those who are marginalised, often at great personal risk or cost.

Pray for all who are receiving treatment for bowel cancer, and for all who are working to combat this disease. Bowel Cancer UK's "Active for April" campaign this month aims to raise both funds and awareness. Pray for campaigns and information to help ensure awareness and early diagnosis.

William Law, remembered on Wednesday, was unable to swear allegiance to King George I, and therefore lost his position at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. His spiritual writings, especially 'A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life' greatly influenced the leaders of the great Evangelical Revival of the 18th Century. He emphasised thankfulness to God as the basis from which all our Christian work and witness should spring - pray for that spirit of thankfulness within every part of our Church today.

Our schools start their summer term this week. Pray for all who teach and all who learn, and especially for those who will be studying now for important exams. Pray for all who teach and translate the scriptures, and especially for the work of bringing the Bible to young eyes and ears in creative ways.

Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio For the week beginning 7th 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 Holy Communion 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- Rwanda Stories

BBC 1 1.15pm Songs of Praise- Mind, Body and Soul

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 churchfengland.org/resources/prayer-nation

Collect for 2nd Sunday of Easter

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

Readings for 2nd Sunday of Easter

Psalm 133

¹ How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

² It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

³ It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life for evermore.

1 John 1: 1- 2:2

¹ We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— ³ we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷ but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

² My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Acts 4: 32-35

³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.



John 20: 19-end

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Bible Study based on Acts 4: 32-35

Bible notes

After Peter and John are threatened by the authorities and told 'not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus' (4:18), the believers pray that they may speak with boldness while 'signs and wonders are performed' in the name of Jesus. They were again 'filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness' (4:30-31).

This second outpouring of the Holy Spirit, in response to prayer, encourages us to think of Pentecost not only as a past event but also a present experience for a people of prayer. The first outpouring in Acts is particularly associated with evangelism (2:41,47), and this second outpouring is associated with the generous sharing in today's passage that follows on immediately. Noted by many early Christian writers, there is a strong connection established here between evangelism, speaking with boldness, and healing, performing signs and wonders. This is not surprising given the squalor in which so many people lived. Poverty and disability, pollution and sickness, social exclusion and malnutrition, unemployment and mental affliction are interlinked.

This is the important social context of the wondrous signs of the healing power of God. They are securely rooted in the common life of the apostolic community. The preaching of God's word is accompanied by the embodiment of God's generosity. So, isolation gives way to time together, hunger is satisfied by shared meals, and basic needs are met by the distribution of possessions.

Reflection *Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.*

A family was moving into a new home. The husband went down with bronchitis. The wife was overwhelmed with the unpacking, the needs of two boys under five, a sick cat, piles of washing and getting meals. The local church stepped in with food and practical help. The washing was taken away and was returned clean and ironed. They immediately felt loved and welcomed. Hospitality isn't just food; it is love in action, in any and every way required. What might this mean in practice, and in this place, for us?

Questions for reflection



- In what practical ways does your church community show God's love and generosity to others?
- What challenges come with sharing?
- What needs could your church help to meet in the local community?

Sudoku (Easier!)

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Wordsearch based on Psalm 133

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| KINDRED | COLLAR | LIVE | SONG | OIL | EVERMORE |