

News and Prayer Update for 12th April

Rostherne with Bollington, St John High Legh and St Paul Over Tabley

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Do You Need To Talk To Someone? Call any of the above, we have other people who are also experienced in listening who are willing to help, so **please do call, we are here for you.** All conversations are in strict confidence.



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READINGS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

New Testament Reading: 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.'

Gospel Reading: Matthew 28: 1 – 10

¹After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

² And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.

⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

⁵ But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.'

⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.

¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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<https://youtu.be/cCmQozXoJvU>

EASTER DAY HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

All Alleluia! Christ is risen:
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Almighty God,
through the rising of your Son from the grave,
You broke the power of the grave,
You broke the power of death
and condemned death itself to die.
Help us now to celebrate this great triumph
that it may also become a model for our daily living. Amen.

Lighting of Easter candle.

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ from death to life.
Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power
of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has
done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over
death and live with him for ever.

The Easter Candle is lit.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
Banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

All The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn **HYMN: Jesus Christ Is risen Today**

Jesus Christ is risen today, *Alleluia*,
our triumphant holy day, *Alleluia*,
who did once, upon the cross, *Alleluia*,
suffer to redeem our loss. *Alleluia*.

Hymns of praise then let us sing *Alleluia*,
unto Christ our heavenly King, *Alleluia*,
who endured the cross and grave, *Alleluia*,
sinners to redeem and save. *Alleluia*.

But the pains that he endured *Alleluia*,
our salvation have procured; *Alleluia*,
now above the sky he's King, *Alleluia*,
where the angels ever sing *Alleluia*.

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Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you

All **And also with you.**

All **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The confession Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confess our sins with a sincere and true heart.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you, through our own fault, in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are heartily sorry, and repent of all our sins. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The 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.

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The Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.
I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.
All Alleluia

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*
All Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

The Peace The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All And also with you.

The Communion

The Lord is here.
All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
to give you thanks, holy Father
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.
For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world.
By his death he has destroyed death,
and by his rising to life again he has restored to us
everlasting life.

Therefore, we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of
sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

All

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Therefore, Father,
proclaiming his saving death and resurrection
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate with this bread and this cup
his one perfect sacrifice.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise.
and grant that we who eat this bread
and drink this cup
may be renewed by your Spirit and grow into
his likeness.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
by whom, and with whom and in whom,
all honour and glory be yours, Father,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer - Traditional

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Post Communion Prayer

God 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.

The Blessing

The God of peace.
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and
the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

Easter this year is very different to what we are accustomed. A few weeks ago the ministry team sat down and planned in meticulous detail what each of us would do during the days of Holy Week and today, on Easter Sunday. In a very short time, all those carefully laid plans were swept aside and we have had to adapt to a new way of being church. Along with other ministers of all denominations I have had to learn new skills so that our congregations can participate in worship from their homes. This Easter Sunday, Christians around the world expected to gather and celebrate as usual, rejoice in the words of the angel to the two Marys, "I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised."

The other words of the angel, "Do not be afraid", are also important to all of at this time when people are urged to stay in their homes to ease the pressure on the NHS, when people around the world are dying in the hundreds and thousands, and in this country at least, those who are mourning the loss of loved ones are deprived of the traditional vehicle of a funeral to express their grief. The two Marys came to the tomb on that Easter morning full of fear, anxiety and uncertainty about the future. Their familiar world had been turned upside down by the crucifixion of Jesus. Many of us come to this Easter Sunday in a similar frame of mind, our world having been turned upside down by the coronavirus. Families have lost loved ones, people have lost their jobs or been furloughed by their employers, schools are closed for the foreseeable future, and some are worried that they may lose their homes. Many people believe they have good reason to be afraid. This Easter how then can we

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rejoice as usual and share in the joy of Mary Magdalene and the other Mary as they ran to tell the other disciples the good news told to them the angel that Jesus had risen, and they had met him?

The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Hebrews that 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever'. Although the world around us has changed, Jesus has not, and neither has the relevance of his resurrection. We may be sitting in front of our computer screens or using our mobile devices instead of sitting together in church, but the resurrection of Jesus is still the core of our faith because it reassures us that whatever our circumstances, the love of Jesus for us continues, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Prayer for the week from #LiveLent Daily Reflections

For each perfect gift of thine,
To our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of Earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

*From "For the beauty of the earth"
By F S Pierpoint (1835-1917)*

Collect for Easter Sunday:

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.

Please continue to pray for :

- The Government, as they lead the country at this time
- The scientists who are trying to develop vaccines, etc.
- Those who are ill
- Those at the forefront of treating those who are ill
- Those who are at the forefront of caring for the vulnerable
- Those who are alone and face months of isolation
- Those who are anxious about their jobs and/or finances
- The families and friends of those who have died

Our Clergy, as they seek to provide support for those in their Church Families and Parishes at this time.

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STORYTELLING SERVICE

United Benefice Storytelling Service for Easter Day 12 April 2020

I Danced in the Morning

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bf93gp-HafA>

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Refrain: Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance, and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John -
they came with me and the dance went on.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cure the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped, and they hung me on high,
and left me there on the cross to die.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black –
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance, and I still go on.

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Sydney Carter

Today's Story is - The Easter Cross

<https://youtu.be/nvHAV3i8zfy>

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God's Not Dead

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYcleoHMGSQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkwJLwwOGIA>

God's not dead, No! He is alive,
God's not dead, No! He is alive,
God's not dead, No! He is alive.
I know he's living in me.

I feel him in my hands
I feel him in my feet
Feel him in the air.
Feel him everywhere.
Feel him in the church.
Feel him in the street
and I know he's living in me.

Jesus is Greater than the Greatest Heroes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1mlNnh3Uzc>

Jesus is greater than the greatest hero,
Jesus is closer than the closest friend,
He came from heaven and he died to save us,
To show us love that never ends.

Son of God, and the Lord of glory,
He's the light, follow in his way,
He's the truth, that you can believe in,
And He's alive He's living today.

Closing prayer.

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

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Ideas for Craft

Make an Easter Garden (either miniature in tray or old biscuit tin; or outside in your own garden; or using art and craft materials.

Draw a cross shape from paper or card stick bright coloured paper, ribbons, wool or other materials onto it. Write 'He is Risen' at the top of the page.

There are lots of Easter Craft ideas online. Just search and choose!

Don't forget to take photographs of what you have been doing and send them to us: pmrobinson51@gmail.com.

NOTICES

Magazine

There will be a pdf magazine and all information will be on the websites as well.

We need pieces for the magazine to go to your usual Editor as quickly as possible.

Have you any photographs, poems, stories, thoughts to share? Perhaps you have set up a small area for prayer in your home. Maybe you have been helped by someone and would like to say thank you. Perhaps you have written a prayer or made up a new recipe. Let us know what you have been doing so we can encourage one another. All ages are welcome to contribute.

Email Addresses

We need the email addresses of people you know who aren't on our list. We will make a temporary circulation list for the present circumstances. Ask your neighbours and other people you know in the Parishes if they would like to receive the magazine or this weekly News & Prayer Update.

Join the Prayer Chain:

Our Reader, Chris Stanisstreet has organised a **Prayer Chain** which is done by email and telephone. The idea behind this, is that when a specific prayer request is made, it is passed on by group e-mail to the people on the list who then pray for the particular situation.

If you would like to receive prayer requests or would like to make a prayer request, please let her know.

Chris Stanisstreet Tel: 01925 755559; Mobile 07918 981 723;

Email: stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk

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Access to other services:

While self-isolating or in the current situation of cancelled services it is still possible to access services using the radio or internet, eg:

- Daily Service on Radio 4 long wave at 9.45am Monday to Friday
- Sunday Worship on Radio 4 at 8.10am on Sunday morning
- Church of England website www.churchofengland.org – On Easter Day there will be a streamed service at 9.00am with the Archbishop of Canterbury. There are also links to other services as well as relevant prayers and reflections. You can watch this later as well.
- Premier Christian Radio (on-line station), website: www.premierchristianradio.com

A Message about Giving for Our Regular Congregation

If you are able to continue to give please consider helping us by contacting our Treasurers and arranging to set up a (possibly monthly) direct debit or make a bacs payment directly into the church bank account. (It is possible to send a cheque but it means that someone will have to pay it into the bank.) If you already give by direct debit or standing order, we hope you will be able to continue to do this. We still have to meet the costs of running the churches although we do not want people to give what they cannot afford or have not got. So if you find your income is affected, and you are unable to afford to give normally please do not worry about giving to the church for the time being.

St Mary's Treasurer: Mr Christopher Tetlow Tel: 0161 928 2137

St John's Treasurer: Nick Whimpany Tel: 07905 741969

Holy Trinity Treasurer: Mrs Hilary Girardier: Tel: 01925 754 717

St Paul's Treasurer: Judy Hancock Tel: 01565 733246

Christian Aid Collection

If you have been using the Count Your Blessings material during Lent and have collected money for Christian Aid, please pay this online if possible. Otherwise count it up and send in a cheque or, just put your collection to one side and pay it in when daily life returns to a more normal pattern or bring it to church then.

Morning and Night Prayer

Here are some suggestions for more Psalms and Bible readings to use with Morning and Night Prayer:

Morning Prayer Easter Week

Monday 13 April: Psalm 111; Exodus 12: 1-14; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11.

Tuesday 14 April: Psalm 112; Exodus 12: 14-32; 1 Corinthians 15: 12-19.

Wednesday 15 April: Psalm 113; Exodus 12: 37 – end; 1 Corinthians 15: 20-28.

Thursday 16 April: Psalm 114; Exodus 13: 1-16; 1 Corinthians 15: 29-34.

Friday 17 April: Psalm 115; Exodus 13:17-14:14. 1 Corinthians 15: 35-50.

Saturday 18 April: Psalm 116; Exodus 14:15-end; 1 Corinthians 15: 51-end.

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Night Prayer Easter Season

Psalm 104:1, 21 – 33

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul. ♦
O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!
- 21 You appointed the moon to mark the seasons, ♦
and the sun knows the time for its setting.
- 22 You make darkness that it may be night, ♦
in which all the beasts of the forest creep forth.
- 23 The lions roar for their prey ♦
and seek their food from God.
- 24 The sun rises and they are gone ♦
to lay themselves down in their dens.
- 25 People go forth to their work ♦
and to their labour until the evening.
- 26 O Lord, how manifold are your works! ♦
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
- 27 There is the sea, spread far and wide, ♦
and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great.
- 28 There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan ♦
which you have made to play in the deep.
- 29 All of these look to you ♦
to give them their food in due season.
- 30 When you give it them, they gather it; ♦
you open your hand and they are filled with good.
- 31 When you hide your face they are troubled; ♦
when you take away their breath,
they die and return again to the dust.
- 32 When you send forth your spirit, they are created, ♦
and you renew the face of the earth.
- 33 May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; ♦
may the Lord rejoice in his works;

Short Reading

The servants of the Lamb shall see the face of God, whose name will be on their foreheads. There will be no more night; they will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 22:4,5

If you would like to join with us, we are saying Morning Prayer at 9.00am Monday to Saturday and Night Prayer at 9.00pm Monday to Saturday. Whenever you are able, why not say it at the same time as we do, then we will be joining together in prayer and worship.

If anyone does not yet have access to the "Worship at Home" booklet containing the Order of Service for Morning Prayer or Night Prayer, please contact the Vicarage, as there are large print copies and ordinary size ones that can be posted out or versions that can be e-mailed.

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Bishop Keith is encouraging us all to join together as a diocese every Sunday at 8pm by placing a lit candle in one of our windows and praying for the diocese and our nation.

Coffee and Chat

We are hoping to do this quite regularly but haven't finalised the times yet. If you would like to join us for a chat over the internet while you drink your coffee, please contact Patricia by email and she will send you the link.

pmrobinson51@gmail.com