

# Good-News Desk!

The Magazine of Tylers Green Methodist Church



Minister:  
Rev. Vida Foday

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EASTER April 2021



[When Mary Magdalene went to the tomb that first Easter morning, the last thing she expected was to find it empty, having witnessed Jesus crucified on Good Friday. That day, according to John's gospel, she did not come to receive, she came to give – and there's no nobler human aspiration. Service prompted by duty is the hallmark of true discipleship. That is why God calls us to love, expecting nothing in return, to give to those who'll never thank us; to forgive those who refuse to reciprocate.](#)

In Jesus' day when a carpenter completed a job, it was customary for him to wash his hands, dry them on a linen cloth, fold it, and leave it on top of his work. That cloth was his trademark; whoever inspected it knew the work was finished. On Easter

Sunday, John tells us in chapter 20: 6-8 (NIV), “Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally, the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went inside. He saw and believed.”

The story of the empty tomb in John's Gospel is all too familiar to most of us. Hearing it again can be like watching repeats of a much-loved programme or film on the TV or listening to a favourite piece of music. We delight in the familiarity of the storyline or the tune. The implication of John's story is that we are called not simply to be hearers or readers but to be participants. Our role as Christians in the Resurrection story is not simply to tell the story but to help others enter into it – for the resurrection is God's “yes” to all that Jesus did in the power of the Spirit during his earthly ministry, despite the apparent “no” of the cross.

On Easter Sunday, we would have thankfully completed the journey through the season of Lent with all its challenges of discipleship to Jesus. Some of us may have given up things not for the sake of proving we could do them, but as signs of our submission to God's will and way through Jesus.

Having truly submitted ourselves to the Holy Spirit's driving, we then need to be ready to act - to rejoice in and proclaim the Resurrection of Jesus, the King of God's kingdom, in our lives and with our lips on Easter day – that Christ is risen!

Let us celebrate our risen Lord! The Lord of life who cannot be held by death. Jesus is alive for all time and LOVE has won the victory over sin and death.

Jesus Christ is risen. He is risen Indeed!

*Jesus lives! For us, he died:  
Hence may we, to Jesus living,  
Pure in heart and act abide  
Praise to him and glory giving:  
Alleluia!*

*H&P 198 v4 (C.F. Gellert (1715-69))*

I wish you all a Happy Easter! With love and every blessing  
Vida

## Preacher News

Linda Lovell from The Lantern Church (Marlow Bottom) has completed her local preacher training and will move to 'Full Plan' as from the next quarter. A recognition service has yet to be arranged.

Meanwhile, Richard Alexander from Flackwell Heath MC, who began preacher training many years ago is starting his training again and is now 'on trial'. Richard is taking the service at Tylers Green on 11th April.

Finally, recently we sent a greetings card on behalf of our church to Rev Angela Singleton on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Angela has taken the decision to cease preaching because of her failing eyesight. We thank her for the two years she was 'looking after us' at TG, for the Maundy Thursday suppers and leading Bible studies. We thank her for all these wonderful times and for the special blessing she wrote especially for us at Tylers Green:

### **A Blessing For My Friends at Tylers Green Methodist Church**



**May the warm comfort of  
May the encouraging ener-**

**God surround you.  
gy of God fill you.**

**May the strong arms of God hold you.  
May the loving presence of God inspire you.  
May the eternal spirit of Jesus lead you on.**

**AMEN**

**Angela Singleton, August 2010**

## **Easter Sunday at 10.45 am**

If you plan to be with us on Easter Sunday please note that social distancing still applies. There is to be no singing. Sit only on the chairs marked by an orange carrier bag (unless you come from the same household). It looks as if we may get a congregation close to the 19 or so we can seat under the regulations but if all spaces are taken, we can probably accommodate an overflow in the entrance hall.

## Verse 1 of an Easter Hymn—Singing the Faith 309

See, what a morning, gloriously bright  
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem  
Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light  
As the angels announce, "Christ is risen!"

Keith Getty

### A different Easter but still with hope

*"So many people right across the country are anxious about employment, anxious about food, isolated from loved ones and feel that the future looks dark."* These are words from the Archbishop of Canterbury's sermon on Easter Day 2020. Who would have thought that we are experiencing the same uncertainties this Easter!

Yet the Easter story remains one of hope overcoming darkness and despair. The women arrived at the tomb on Easter morning with mixed emotions, as they came to anoint Jesus' body (Mark 16:1). They were confused, as they tried to make sense of Jesus' death. Their hopes were dashed with an uncertain future. In the current pandemic, we too are left asking: *Where is God in all this?* Yet the young man at the tomb tells them not be alarmed: *"You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him."* (6).

The women had forgotten Jesus' promise to the disciples that He would die and rise from the dead. Jesus' resurrection is also the sure foundation of hope for us in the present crisis. He turns our confusion and fear into joy and wonder! We can trust Jesus' plan for the future of our world and lives, despite the fact that things can't return to the way they were: *"There needs to be a resurrection of our common life, a new normal, something that links to the old, but is different and more beautiful."* (Justin Welby).

Several years ago, a notice appeared on the vestry noticeboard of a church in Hampshire, after a Holy Week performance of Stainer's 'Crucifixion'. The choirmaster wrote "The Crucifixion – well done, everyone!"

Later that day, someone had added, "The Resurrection – well done, God!"

# **Jesus' appearances after His Resurrection**

The following list of witnesses may help you put all those references in order....

Mary Magdalene - Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18

Other women at the tomb - Matthew 28:8-10

Peter in Jerusalem - Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5

The two travellers on the road - Mark 16:12,13

10 disciples behind closed doors - Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19

11 disciples WITH Thomas - John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5

7 disciples while fishing - John 21:1-14

11 disciples on the mountain - Matthew 28:16-20

A crowd of 500 - 1 Corinthians 15:6

Jesus' brother James - 1 Corinthians 15:7

Those who saw the Ascension - Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8

## **Prayer List**

### **We ask your prayers for**

Denis and Chris Oxby and their granddaughter Eva

Gladys and Ray White

Helen Panchen

Chris and Margaret Hallam

Mike and Rosemary Gillham

All those adjusting to life back at school

## **Thought for the month**

**Whenever the Church returns to Jesus and begins to take him seriously, there is always a resurrection.**

*T R Glover*

**Covid rules apply**

**APRIL SERVICES**

**Covid rules apply**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Preacher</b>	<b>Steward</b>
4th Easter Sunday	Peter Green	Geraldine
11th	Richard Alexander	Geraldine
18th	Peter Stevens	Toyin
25th HC	Rev Vida Foday	Toyin
2nd May	Rev Nigel Thompson	Chris Oxby

### **Methodist Church stands in solidarity with Myanmar**

The Methodist Church in Britain is standing in solidarity with its partners in Myanmar following the coup that occurred in the country at the start of February. Since the coup, there have been violent scenes in the country, with protesters being fired upon and a growing number of deaths.

The Myanmar Council of Churches has called for prayer and support in a statement of request that has been sent to churches around the world. The statement calls upon us to pray for justice and peace in Myanmar, requests the release of those detained by the military regime, action on the control of Covid-19 and an end to the use of force and discrimination.

The Revd Conrad Hicks, Director of Global Relationships at the Methodist Church in Britain and former minister in our Circuit commented, "We stand in wholehearted solidarity and prayer with our partner, the Myanmar Council of Churches, and wish to reiterate their call for an end to the violence and discord within the country."

### *And finally ...*

A minister was planning an Easter pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was aghast when she found it would cost her £50 an hour to rent a boat on the Sea of Galilee. She protested to the travel agent that the cost was ridiculous. 'That might be true,' replied the travel agent, 'but you have to take into account that the Sea of Galilee is water on which our Lord himself walked.'

'Well, at £50 an hour for a boat,' she replied, 'I am not surprised!'

# CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Minister: Rev. Vida Foday— 📞 562788

Worship Leaders: Geraldine Nelson and Chris Oxby

Senior Church Steward: Peter Stevens\*— 📞 815256

### Church Stewards:

Toyin Akinwale— 📞 817792

Martin Hellewell— 📞 816168

Geraldine Nelson\* – 📞 815631

Chris Oxby\* – 📞 814982

### Communion Stewards:

Angela Davis — 📞 928535

Rosemary Newman — 📞 461492

Jenny Crayford — 📞 812546

Church Treasurer : Geraldine Nelson - 📞 815631

Church Council Secretary: Sue Horley - 📞 812088

Room Bookings: Geraldine Nelson – 📞 815631

Pastoral/First Steps: Rosemary Newman— 📞 461492 and Christine Stevens - 📞 815256

Property : Peter Stevens— 📞 815256

Property matters: For the moment speak to Peter or Geraldine.

## Online Good-News Desk

Items and information for the May Good-News Desk should reach Peter Stevens by 20 April 2021. Please email [psredkite@googlemail.com](mailto:psredkite@googlemail.com) or 📞 815256

**Note: Some items in Good-News Desk are included by subscription to Parish Pump—the resource site for Church Newsletters.**

## AN EASTER PRAYER

Dear generous, loving Father,

How can we thank you for the precious gift of your Son Jesus, for His life of obedience and servanthood, for His choosing to die that agonising death on a cruel cross, so that we can be forgiven, and most of all for His death-defeating resurrection on the first Easter morning and the gift of His Spirit to those who put their trust in Him?

We can't possibly thank you adequately Lord, but we want to try! Thank you, thank you Father, that Jesus, our Servant-King is alive, Lord of heaven and earth - and yet still serving us, so that we too can live and serve.

Help us to be your Easter people and live lives of faithful witness to the living Lord, empowered by your Holy Spirit, building in all that we think, say or do for your kingdom to come. Hallelu-

jah!

Amen.

*By Daphne Kitching*