

In & around the Benefice....

19th April | Second Sunday of Easter

Our Acting Rector is The Reverend Janet Tebby

Tel: 01933 384628; Email: jtebby@gmail.com

Our Curate is The Reverend Amanda Oliver

Tel: 01604 983003; Email: yhbcurate@gmail.com



Please visit our website for information on worship during the lockdown:

www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk

Easter 2 Reflection: *(John, Chapter 20, Verses 19-end)*

Here we are, one week after Easter Sunday – that great day when we celebrate the resurrection of Christ. The day when we meet Jesus in a new body, still bearing the scars of the past, yet now new, a miracle.

So why do we find the disciples holed up in a single room living in fear? Yes, the Jews were potentially after them, but that had been the case for many weeks prior to Jesus' death, why are they huddled together, scared to go out, living behind a closed locked door?

Are we possibly feeling the same way? Yes, of course we are, and quite rightly so. Covid19 is a huge, world changing pandemic currently affecting most of the planet.

So, first, let us hear and absorb that opening phrase spoken by Jesus,

'Peace be with you' x3

Just as the resurrection was the starting point of a new world for the disciples – so covid19 is the starting point of a new world for us.

What things have already changed in our lives for the better?

How do we now spend our time?

Who do we now speak to regularly?

What do we think about our local farmers and farm shops?

What will it mean to be a church, or a church goer once the restrictions are lifted?

What have I learned about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit?

Jesus breathed on his friends and sent them out in the power of God, and my prayer for us this morning is that we all find the strength to keep calm and keep going, the courage to reach out for help when we need it, the energy to help those who need us and the wisdom to look for...

the 'Peace of God which passes all understanding'

Amen.

Please hold in your prayers this week:

- ◇ Those suffering from, affected by or working to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, including the NHS, council workers, teachers in schools offering childcare for those who work in key jobs.
- ◇ NHS staff caring for Covid-19 patients, that they may have strength and resilience for their task, and be kept safe.
- ◇ Persecuted Christians across the world, especially in North Korea
- ◇ Those in residential care and the housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York, Ann and Colin Dix
- ◇ Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them: Chris Sayles, Tom Stock, Nicholas Vaughan, Freddie Hogan, Diane Claber, Mandy Bates, Sue Parry
- ◇ The recently departed, amongst them Marcia Higgs, and all who grieve at this time

The Collect

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.

Amen

First Reading

Acts 2 : 14a, 22-32

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

‘You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, “I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, “He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.” This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Peter 1: 3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result

in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 20: 19-31

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord**

When it was evening on 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.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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.’ 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.’ 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.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ 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.’ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen**