

In & around the Benefice....

4th April | Easter Sunday



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@BeneficeYardley

www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.org



<https://www.facebook.com/YardleyHastingsBenefice>

Note our new website!!

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES IN OUR CHURCHES

St Mary's, Grendon	6.00am
St Mary the Virgin, Whiston	8.00am
St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby	10.00am
St Margaret's, Denton	10.00am
St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings	10.00am

Space will be limited due to social-distancing requirements so please contact a churchwarden to reserve your place.

Our **Easter Holy Ground** service can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/Gkq2VvkfNh4>

Our **Sunday sermon** can be listened to via 'Dial-a-Sermon' on **01604 263361**.

This is the cost of a normal local call from either your landline or mobile.

There will be a short welcome message - wait on the line for a moment and you will hear from Liz, our Benefice Reader, this week with the Gospel reading followed by the sermon.

SERVICES FOR APRIL:

11th April	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Margaret's, Denton
18th April	8.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary the Virgin, Whiston
18th April	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Grendon
25th April	10.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby

Zoom services will continue every Sunday at 10.00am

Please note: there will be no Morning and Evening Prayer while Rev Morna is on leave from Monday 5th April until Sunday 11th April

This will resume on Monday 12th April

Please hold in your prayers this week:

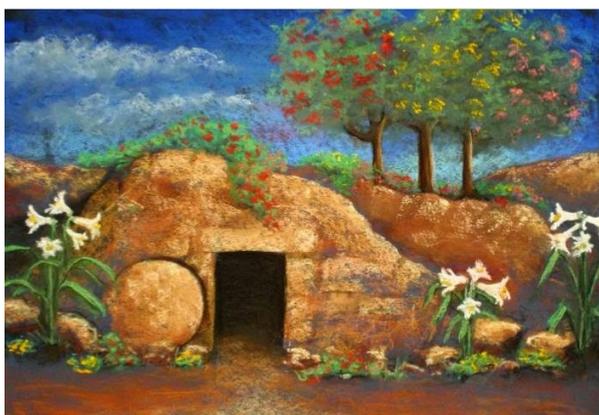
- Each of our village communities in lockdown
- All who are lonely, fearful and anxious
- All who are ill in body, mind or spirit
- All those who are affected by COVID-19 in any way
- Pubs and other businesses in our area who may be finding these times difficult
- Our schools (Grendon C of E Primary School, Denton Primary School and Yardley Hastings Primary School), their Headteachers, teachers, staff and pupils
- Young people struggling with doing schooling in challenging conditions
- The parents within our benefice, trying to work from home whilst teaching their children and keeping the home running
- The government and wider MPs as they lead our nation through these complex times
- The mass protests in Myanmar following the military coup, for all who have lost their lives in the protest, or whose lives are in danger.
- Those who are in residential care or housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York, Ann and Colin Dix
- Those struggling in body, mind or spirit, among them: John Payne (Yardley Hastings URC), Jenny Payne, Judith Keggin, Jane Cave, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Jo Cawley, Michelle Wright, Peter Vaughan and family
- The recently departed, amongst them Sue Good, Patricia Fraiel, Pauline De Bell, Joyce Moore (Denton) and Tom Stock, and all who grieve at this time

Crafting Lent:

Threads and reflections around the Lenten journey.

At the final Crafting Lent session we decorated eggs to make hanging decorations, whilst thinking about the significance of eggs as a symbol of new life. As we emerge from the darkness of Lent we celebrate the new beginnings that Easter represents in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Many thanks to Deborah, Janet and Liz for all your hard work in organising and implementing this group and to all the ladies who took part.



Remember to visit the Easter gardens at our churches/villages and see all the hard work that has been put into creating them.

Thank you to all those involved!

What Can I join in with in our Benefice?

Sunday	Live services (see front page)	Holy Ground pre-recorded service
Monday		
Tuesday	Book club @7.30pm	
Wednesday	Coffee Morning @9:30am	
Thursday		

No Morning or Evening Prayer this week as Rev Morna is on leave - Resumes on Monday 12th April

Church coffee catch-up is on **Wednesday 7th April at 9.30am** please use these details to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84215993516?pwd=VXNZNmFlid3dDSTF6YjBmT3B3eTYwZz09>

Meeting ID: 842 1599 3516, Passcode: 553657

and by telephone **0131 460 1196** using Meeting ID: 842 1599 3516 and Passcode: 553657

Book Club is on Tuesday 6th April at 7.30pm

We will meet to discuss the books we have been reading in book club this month:

"*The Sealwoman's Gift*" by Sally Magnusson or "*The Thursday Murder Club*" by Richard Osman

Liz will be facilitating while Morna takes a well earned break.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83410482973?pwd=OVlzdIRjSnczSjRDaUFVdmhpY1Radz09>

Meeting ID: 834 1048 2973, Passcode: 548999

What Can I join in with further afield?

A virtual prayer walk from Turvey Abbey <https://youtu.be/Y37XaiKi6A8>

Services at Peterborough Cathedral - for more information please click here:

<https://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/services.aspx>

Church of England Church Online - for more information please click here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online>

The Church of England's free phone line with hymns, reflections and prayers - call 0800 804 8044

Listen and sing along to the hymn for the day - <https://www.rscm.org.uk/our-resources/hftd/>

Download the Daily Prayer app or Time to Pray app from your App Store which gives you services of prayer with set readings for the day.

BBC Radio 4 Prayer for the Day - Listen each day via the BBC Sounds App, here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000r3q5> or listen live on BBC Radio 4 at 5:43 each morning.

BBC Radio 4 Daily Service - Listen each day via the BBC Sounds App or listen live on BBC Radio 4 at 9:45 each weekday morning.

BBC Radio 2 Pause for Thought - Listen each weekday on the BBC Sounds App, here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p015nm0y/clips> or live on BBC Radio 2 at 9:20am.

BBC Radio 2 Good Morning Sunday - Listen each Sunday on the BBC Sounds App, here

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006wqvh> or live on BBC Radio 2 each Sunday at 6:50am.

Songs of Praise - Watch on BBC Two at 1:15 each Sunday, or catch up on iPlayer.

Something Interesting to Read or Listen to?

If you haven't discovered it yet, please take a look at Rev Morna's blog, which she's aiming to keep up to date with a mixture of photographs, reflections and poems: <https://teaandtheology.org>

On Being (<https://onbeing.org/>) is full of interesting things to read or listen to with interviews from so many marvellous minds.

Poetry Unbound (<https://onbeing.org/series/poetry-unbound/>) is a series of podcasts with Padraig O Tuama reading and exploring a poem - they are wonderful and Rev Morna highly recommends them to you.

Great is Their Faithfulness by the World Vision Choir: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRXR2O_JBU&list=RDMM&start_radio=1

***Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!***

For someone who very much thinks in pictures, the two responses to Jesus' empty tomb in our gospel reading are really interesting, not least because I have been focusing on slow-shutter and long exposure photography over the last few weeks! For any who are keen photographers the slower the shutter, the longer the lens has to 'see' what is being photographed. If everything within the photo frame is static the length of time that the lens has to 'see' the scene will not make a significant difference. Where the scene includes movement though, the lens records that in a way that often blurs the movement aspect of the image but keeps the static aspects in tact.



In my minds eye, I see the empty tomb as the main body of the image, with a darkness within the tomb which stops me from really seeing details in there. To the side of the entrance to the tomb I see Mary Magdalene on the ground, staring at the tomb, clearly distressed with tears rolling down her face. Her grief is tangible, the emotion in her eyes indescribable. Off to the other side of the tomb there are two blurred figures, just about distinguishable as people but distorted by their movement as they run from the tomb to tell the others.

As I look at this image in my minds eye, the sense of disbelief and confusion is great. It is the responses though, which interest me. Mary sees and alerts others before she returns to the site and stays, trying to make sense of what she sees, taking in every single detail in case she has missed something. Peter and the other disciple are barely there, the speed with which they scan and surmise is great, and before there is time to notice their presence they are gone. As they go the stillness returns to this Holy place, the peace comes into focus, even though that makes little sense. Mary continues to cry and her distress remains evident, but as the wider scene settles, these tears do not quite fit with that sense of stillness and peace...and then there is an interruption, an interruption which Mary does not recognise, despite her presence.

Who do you most identify with in this scene? Mary who stays and seeks to understand perhaps? Or Peter and the other disciple who see and yet are gone almost as quickly as they arrived? Before lockdown life for me was busy, with a lot of frenetic activity, always seeking to make the most of every moment...then it all came to an abrupt halt. As I recalibrated to lockdown life I noticed more of the world around me - the birdsong continues to be a real blessing which I would have failed to hear and appreciate had it not been for lockdown. I think it did slow all of us down and, initially at least, offer the gift of time back to many. As the year has progressed though, I see myself falling into the same frenetic habits, experiencing aspects of life more as Peter and the other disciple. I don't want this to be my normal anymore though. I seek to be more like Mary Magdalene, who alerts others, but then goes back to make sure I have seen everything, and sometimes to wait in faith - even if that appears hopeless. It is a ministry of noticing that I am writing of: noticing the world around us, noticing the people around us, noticing changes in one another, noticing each others pain...and responding to all that we notice as God guides us.

In this new hope of the resurrection will you join me in this ministry of noticing, of seeking to see one another as God sees? The first step is about slowing down, and the rest just happens...

Every blessing,

M

The Collect

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

First reading

Acts 10: 34-43

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

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 20: 1-18

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

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. 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.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 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. 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.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 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.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). 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." ' 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.

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

Alternative Gospel Reading

Mark 16: 1-8

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

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

Post Communion Prayer

God of 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