

In & around the Benefice....

18th April | The Third Sunday of Easter

Our Rector is The Reverend Morna Simpson
Tel: 01604 319902; Email: revmorna@gmail.com
Our Associate Priest 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
Our Benefice Reader is Liz Taylor, Email: liztyardley@aol.com



@BeneficeYardley

www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.org



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



Note our new website!!

TODAY'S SERVICES:

8.00am BCP Communion St Mary the Virgin, Whiston with Rev Morna
10.00am Holy Communion St Mary's, Grendon with Rev Amanda
10.00am Zoom Church with Rev Morna, Join Zoom Meeting with computer or tablet:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83038656228?pwd=aTRDSXZmUVF4SDBZbjlaQzBKKeC90dz09>
with Meeting ID: 830 3865 6228 and Passcode: 205508
or by telephone on **0131 460 1196** with Meeting ID: 830 3865 6228 and Passcode: 205508
Please do bring bread and wine if you would like to remember Jesus by breaking bread.

Dial-a-Sermon is back this Sunday on **01604 263361** where you will be able to hear from Rev Morna

MIDWEEK SERVICE:

21st April 9.30am Holy Communion St Mary's, Grendon with Rev Morna

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICES:

25th April 10.00am Holy Communion St Mary Magdalene, Castle Ashby with Rev Morna
25th April 10.00am Zoom Church with Rev Amanda

Please hold in your prayers this week:

- Our village communities as people begin to venture out
- Those who are lonely, fearful or anxious
- All who have been, and continue to be, affected by COVID-19
- Children, teachers and staff returning to school
- Schools in our benefice (Grendon C of E, Denton and Yardley Hastings Primary Schools)
- Young people struggling with mental health
- 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 Wendy Wilkes, Ruth Kightley, and all who grieve at this time

REFLECTION

“Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures...”

I was quite a spiritual child and remember being fascinated by Jesus - that is the Jesus I read about in my Children's Bible. I poured over the stories after I could read and spent many a warm afternoon lying on the floor, or the wrong way on the sofa (with my legs sticking up the back of the sofa and my body on the seat of the sofa and my head dangling down...for some reason I could always think better in that slightly upside-down position!) day dreaming about being one of the disciples. I imagined my way into being one who walked with Jesus, the real Jesus who walked on the earth! I was always a little reticent towards the end of the stories of Jesus though, the bit where Jesus died, and the disciples were bereft. In my young mind that was the worst bit about the story of Jesus - that was the part when a little light went out in my heart. Looking back, I'm not sure I understood the resurrection part of the story; I couldn't quite find my way through Jesus' death to the miracle of resurrection.

In my childishness I could not get beyond death being the end, and as I pray over our gospel passage for this Sunday, I wonder whether the disciples were of a similar mind. Even the presence of Jesus in front of them led them to wonder whether he was a ghost. They did not have the experience or words to lead them to the conclusion that Jesus had been resurrected and they were wary. I therefore love the scene in my mind's eye of Jesus 'opening their minds to understand the scriptures'. How long did they spend listening to him? Where were they? Did they feel able to ask questions when they still did not understand? What were their reactions or responses when the 'Eureka!' moment came? Did they laugh, or cry? Ultimately, what was it really like to sit with Jesus and listen as he explained the scriptures, showing what his death had really been about and how did it transform the disciples?

I find myself asking the same question of myself - now that I have moved away from my childish understanding, how has Jesus' resurrection transformed me? If I am to live the good news, what needs to be left behind, and what can I take with me, in full understanding that God may further shape and mould me? How about you? These seem to be really pertinent questions as we begin to venture to meet those we may not have seen for months in gardens, in the hope that we are beginning the journey of moving away from restrictions. How do we do that well as the Body of Christ in our villages?

Every blessing,

Morna

The Collect

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh
hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

Amen

First reading

Acts 3: 12-19

Peter addressed the people,

‘You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.’

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 John 3: 1 - 7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 24: 36-48

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

While the eleven and their companions were talking about what they had heard, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen

What Can I join in with in our Benefice?

Sunday	Morning Prayer @8:30am	Services at 8.00am & 10.00am Zoom church at 10.00am	Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Monday	Morning Prayer @8:30am		Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Tuesday	Morning Prayer @8:30am		Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Wednesday	Morning Prayer @8:30am	Midweek communion @ 9.30am at St Mary's, Grendon	Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Thursday	Morning Prayer @8:30am		Evening Prayer @5:30pm

Morning or Evening Prayer - all welcome to join, please email Rev Morna for a Zoom link revmorna@gmail.com

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