

# PEWS NEWS EMAIL DOCUMENT

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# *Stalham and Smallburgh Benefices*

## PEWS NEWS

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## Easter 2

**Read more about the Rev'd Helen Lynch who will be our new Rector.  
See page 7 and photo on page 8.**



Not yet "first fruits", but a step in that direction.  
Pear blossom a week or two ahead of apple blossom as usual.

*Photos : Richard Reid*

### **The Ministry Team**

**Rector:**

**Assistant Curate:** Rev. Andrew Bevan, The Saplings, New Road, Catfield, NR29 5BQ 582358

**Readers:**

Jeanette Boardman, Rosalida, Church Street, Happisburgh NR12 0PN Tel: 07920487116

Martyn Egerton, High Walls, Workhouse Road, Smallburgh NR12 9NL Tel: 536081

Betty Lacey, 3, The Lea, Cooper Road, North Walsham NR28 9DN Tel: 409749

Mary Shepherd, 13, St Mary's Road, Stalham NR12 9DU Tel: 581879

**Assistant Priests (retired):**

Rev. Richard Jackson, The Croft, Camping Field Lane, Stalham, NR12 9DT Tel: 581389

Rev. Jeanette Crafer, 'Whispers', Chapel Rd, Sea Palling NR12 0UQ Tel: 598590

Rev. Sue Egerton, High Walls, Workhouse Road, Smallburgh NR12 9NL Tel: 536081

### **Services this Sunday - 24th April - Easter 2**

9.15am	Morning Prayer at Holy Trinity Ingham
9.15am	Holy Communion at St Michael's Sutton
10.30am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Stalham
11.00am	Morning Prayer at St Nicholas' Dilham

### **Services next Sunday - 1st May - Easter 3**

9.15am	Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Ingham
10.15am	Morning Prayer at St Michael's Sutton
10.30am	Morning Prayer at St Mary's Stalham
11.00am	Holy Communion at St Peter's Smallburgh

### **Next week's readings - Sunday 1st May - Easter 3**

**Acts 9.1-20, Psalm 30, Revelation 5.11-14, John 21.1-19**

#### **Live streaming - technical issues**

**Every effort will be made to stream the service this Sunday - at 10.30am from St Mary's Stalham, but technical issues may render this impossible. In any case, the service will be uploaded to You Tube as soon as possible.**  
**[www.stalhambenefice.org.uk](http://www.stalhambenefice.org.uk)**

Jane Bird tells us that Sea Palling Village Hall are having a silent auction on Saturday April 30th, with proceeds to the upkeep of the Village Hall.

Viewing is from 1.30 pm, and bidding from 2pm to 3pm, the closing bid at 3pm.

*While purists would have us confine notices to events within the limits of our Benefice, several members of our congregation live in Sea Palling, so the editorial conscience is clear.*

### **This week's birthdays**

Philip Prince, Stalham, 24th April

Stephen Vaughan, 25th April

**Very best wishes to you both.**

## Whither Pews News?

The use of the limited space available in Pews News requires the exercise of judgment. Once the minimum of content - service details, Collect and Readings, and essential contacts - has been accommodated, any remaining space can be used for the printing of notices and of publicity for events within the Benefice. The practicalities of printing dictate that space comes in units of two pages, so that a typical issue can consist either of a single folded A4 sheet, making four pages, two sheets, making eight pages, or a halfway house of six pages made up of a folded sheet plus an A5 insert. In recent weeks, responding to the varying lengths of readings, and to the varying volume of requests to publish notices, all three formats have been used, but the editor endeavours to adhere to a standard, set by the Ministry Team at the beginning of this year, of one sheet plus an insert, making six pages in all. An economy measure of colour on front and back pages only was imposed, and even colour was eschewed in Lent out of respect for the season.

This week the essential material could not easily be accommodated in four pages, so the editor, needing to fill six, emailed some regular contributors, using the bcc device to protect their identities, inviting further material. There was an immediate response from one recipient strongly advocating a return to a “pre-pandemic” format, pointing out correctly that the format inherited by the present editor, and subsequently modified by the Ministry Team, was a provisional and temporary one that, in the writer’s opinion, could and should be abandoned with church congregations returning to “normal” worship.

The editor is open to change, but subject to these considerations :

- (a) the existence of those (who at present include himself, though that is by the by) who are unable for health or mobility reasons to attend church regularly or at all, and rely on Pews News and the streamed services,
- (b) it is widely acknowledged that few if any aspects of our personal, social and business lives will revert to a pre-pandemic “normal”, whatever that was, and
- (c) our new incumbent may well wish to make changes, and these should not perhaps be pre-empted by radical change now.

These are matters for the church community as a whole, through the Ministry Team. The views of any one individual are to be respected, but need not and should not be binding. Other readers may wish to offer their own views, either through contributions to these pages, or direct to the Ministry Team, whose instructions your editor will carry out to the best of his ability. Alternatively he is ready to stand down in favour of a successor who can better command your support.

Richard.

*For the record, two pages of A5 cost 1p to print, with an additional cost per sheet of paper of roughly 0.7p. For the standard print run of 67 copies plus 6 large print copies, this amounts to a total additional cost to the Benefice of about £1.25 for each extra two pages. This editor feels that Pews News, like the BBC in the words of its founder, Lord Reith, should “educate, entertain and inform”. Others may disagree. Is there a debate to be had - perhaps with our eventual new incumbent?*

**Collect and Readings,  
Easter 2 - 24.04.2022  
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 5.27-32**

<sup>27</sup>When the temple police had brought the apostles, they made them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, <sup>28</sup>‘We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.’ <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.’

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 118.14-29**

**Refrain:     *This is the day that the  
Lord has made. We will  
rejoice and be glad in it.***

14 The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.

15 Joyful shouts of salvation sound from the tents of the righteous:

16 ‘The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds; the right hand of the Lord raises up; the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.’

17 I shall not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord.

18 The Lord has punished me sorely, but he has not given me over to death.

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

21 I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me and have become my salvation.

22 The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Come, O Lord, and save us we pray. Come, Lord, send us now prosperity.

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord.

27 The Lord is God; he has given us light; link the pilgrims with cords right to the horns of the altar.

28 You are my God and I will thank you; you are my God and I will exalt you.

29 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever.

**Refrain:     *This is the day that the  
Lord has made. We will  
rejoice and be glad in it.***

**Second Reading** Revelation 1.4-8

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. <sup>8</sup>'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

**Thanks be to God.****Gospel Reading** John 20.19-31

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John*

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>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.' <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'

<sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>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.' <sup>26</sup>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.' <sup>27</sup>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.' <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' <sup>29</sup>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.'

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>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.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Geoffrey Dixon, when he sent his April writings feared that his submission for St Mark's Eve was too frivolous, so he wrote the Easter Rising piece, which certainly deserves an airing. I think the St Mark's Eve legend is delightful. Enjoy! Richard.*

### St Mark's Eve.

Young ladies who wish to know the name of their future husband can lie on their backs on their beds on St Agnes Eve, 20<sup>th</sup> January, or run round the church three times on the eve of St Valentine, 14<sup>th</sup> February.

On St Mark's Eve, on April 24<sup>th</sup>, a real challenge. Three young ladies must get together, make a cake in complete silence, as the clock strikes midnight, each break a piece of the cake and walk backwards upstairs to bed, still in complete silence.

She should see either the shadow of her future husband or hear him knock at the door!

Perhaps it is just as well old superstitions have been forgotten, or is it?

### The Easter Rising.

The tension caused by Irish Republicans, who had wanted an independent Ireland for many years, came to a head on Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup> 1919, when they seized the General Post Office in Dublin. They were led by Patrick Pease and Tom Clarke who had formed a Citizens' Army. The British army and police were called in to repel them and much violence ensued lasting for a week. In the process 493 people were killed including 260 civilians, 140 police and military and 67 rebels, and 14 of the leaders including Pease and Clarke, were executed. There were over 2000 injured.

Can violence ever be justified?

## **Tuesday Coffee & Cake**

**Every Tuesday, 9.30am to midday**

**St Mary's Stalham.**



Are you a knitter? Would you like to learn, or refresh your skills, or just enjoy knitting with other people over a cup of tea?

Dawn and Sue will be bringing their knitting and expertise along to St Mary's on Tuesday mornings between 9.30am and 11.30am and would be delighted for others to join them.

Experienced knitters and complete novices all very welcome!



## **The Rev'd. Helen Lynch - our new Rector**

It was announced in church on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April that the Rev'd Helen Lynch will be our new Rector. I am sure that we are all looking forward to welcoming Helen into her Ministry amongst us. Details of her installation as Rector will be announced in due course. Please continue to pray for Helen and her family as they prepare to move to Stalham, that they will be held in God's Grace and encouraged in His Mission.

Rev'd Andrew Bevan. Assistant Curate.

Helen has sent us this short biography, with a photo that appears on page 8

Dear sisters and brothers,

I am very pleased to have been appointed as the new Rector of the Benefice of Stalham and the Benefice of Smallburgh, and am looking forward to getting to know you all and hear what God's up to in this beautiful part of Norfolk. It might be nice for you to know a little bit about me before I get there.

I am a Norfolk dumpling, having grown up in South Norfolk in a village near Wymondham. I lived most of my life in that area until I was selected for training for ordained ministry. I moved with my family to Cuddesdon, a little village in Oxfordshire for two years whilst studying at theological college. I was ordained in 2018 and have been curate in Great Yarmouth for the past four years. Before I started training I was raising a family, I have four children who are now beginning to fly the nest. Alongside that I did a lot of work with NCT, a charity which works with new parents.

I am a big fan of board games, especially modern ones, my current favourite is Waggle Dance. I play the piano and trumpet, not as well as I once did, but I find it relaxing - probably more so than anyone listening would! I very much enjoy walking - day to day with my dog Frodo, but also longer walks when I get the chance.

Please pray for me and the family as we get ready for the move, as I am praying for you. I look forward to meeting you all.

Helen

**Churchwardens**

- Stalham: Sonia Coupe, Shalom, Camping Field Lane, Stalham NR12 9DZ. 581400  
Mary Shepherd, 13, St Mary's Road, Stalham NR12 9DU Tel: 581879
- Sutton: Mavis Smith, Sunny View, The Green, Hickling. NR12 0XR Tel : 597009  
Ruth Hudson, 34, Laxfield Road, Sutton NR12 9QP 584244
- Ingham: Bunty McClean, Wayside Cottage, Sydney Street, Ingham NR12 9TQ 583481
- Dilham: Iain Warner, The Old Rectory, Dilham, NR28 9QB 536170
- Honing: Peter Williams, The Old Hall, Crostwight NR28 9PA 651116  
Sir William Cubitt, Park Farm, Honing NR28 9QJ 535984
- Smallburgh: Geoffrey Dixon, 6, School Lane, Smallburgh NR12 9NG 536088  
Margaret Wyatt, The Cottage, The Hill, Smallburgh NR12 9AD 536268



We look forward to welcoming the Rev'd Helen Lynch as our new Rector.  
Please see page 7 for more about Helen.

# Holy Communion - for the service from St Mary's Stalham – streamed if possible - 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – Easter 2

## Welcome and Notices

Hymn - *please see Appendix 2*

Alleluia, Christ is risen

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

## Prayer of Preparation

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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Confession

*These responses may be used:*

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

*One of the following two prayers may be used:*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
**We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.**  
**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**  
**who died for us, forgive us all that is past**  
**and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,**  
**to the glory of your name. Amen.**

*Or*

Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned

in thought, word and deed.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. **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. **Amen.**

## Gloria in Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

## 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**

## Bible Readings

*The readings and the Psalm, if used, can be found in  
Pews News. At the end of each reading*

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

*When the Gospel is announced*

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

*At the end*

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

### **Reflection**

*This week's reflection can be found in Appendix 3*

### **The Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from  
heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the  
Virgin Mary and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and  
the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and  
glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic  
Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

### **Prayers**

*This week's prayers can be found in Appendix 4  
Other prayers may be used.*

*At the end*

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*The president may introduce the Peace with a suitable  
sentence, and then says*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*Hymn - please see Appendix 2*

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

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

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

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

*The president praises God for his mighty acts and all  
respond*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

*The president recalls the Last Supper,  
and one of these four acclamations may be used*

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

(or)

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

(or)

Christ is the bread of life:  
**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,  
until you come in glory.**

(or)

Jesus Christ is Lord:  
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

*The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology,  
to which all respond boldly Amen.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### **Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### **The Agnus Dei**

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.

### **Giving of Communion**

*One of these prayers may be used:*

**We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the  
crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his  
body and our souls washed through his most**

**precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in  
him, and he in us. Amen.**

*Or*

**Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean,  
our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit  
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.  
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse and feed us  
with the precious body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

*One of these prayers may be used:*

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

*Or*

Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn - please see Appendix 2*

### **The Blessing**

#### **The Dismissal**

Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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**Hymns - Sunday 24 March 2022**  
**Easter 2**

*Opening Hymn*

- 1 This is the day the Lord has made,  
 he calls the hours his own:  
 let heav'n rejoice, let earth be glad,  
 and praise surround his throne.
- 2 Today he rose and left the dead,  
 and Satan's empire fell;  
 today the saints his triumphs spread,  
 and all his wonders tell.
- 3 Hosanna to th'anointed King,  
 to David's holy Son!  
 Make haste to help us, Lord, and bring  
 salvation from thy throne.
- 4 Blest be the Lord: let us proclaim  
 his messages of grace;  
 who comes, in God his father's name,  
 to save our sinful race.
- 5 Hosanna in the highest strains  
 the Church on earth can raise;  
 the highest heav'ns in which he reigns  
 shall give him nobler praise.

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748) alt.*

*Second Hymn*

- 1 Jesus, stand among us  
 in thy risen pow'r;  
 let this time of worship  
 be a hallowed hour.
- 2 Breathe the Holy Spirit  
 into ev'ry heart;  
 bid the fears and sorrows  
 from each soul depart.
- 3 Thus with quickened footsteps  
 we'll pursue our way,  
 watching for the dawning  
 of eternal day.

*William Pennefather (1816-1873)*

*Final Hymn*

- 1 To God be the glory! great things he hath done;  
 so loved he the world that he gave us his Son;  
 who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
 and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Refrain*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!*  
*let the earth hear his voice;*  
*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord!*  
*let the people rejoice:*  
*O come to the Father,*  
*through Jesus the Son,*  
*and give him the glory;*  
*great things he hath done!*

- 2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!  
 to ev'ry believer the promise of God;  
 the vilest offender who truly believes,  
 that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Refrain*

- 3 Great things he hath taught us, great things he  
 hath done,  
 and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
 but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
 our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

*Refrain*

*Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915)*

### Reflection for Sunday 27th March 2022, Easter 2, written by Sue Egerton

Poor old 'doubting' Thomas, he gets a bit of a bad press doesn't he?

Well, particularly in this era of fake news and biased reporting of any event, I can relate to Thomas. I too, like to actually see or hear for myself something incredible happening, rather than just accepting what someone else says. A bit like actually seeing the 'northern lights' and not just hearing from those who report seeing them. Or hearing for myself the sound of wind blowing through the trees, not just the weather report which says it's going to be windy!

We've just heard that Thomas' friends say to him 'We have seen the Lord'.

Just imagine how he feels. He's just seen his best friend betrayed and barbarically killed and buried and then heard the stories of the women at the tomb who tell that Jesus is risen; Mary even met him!

Thomas may remember some of Jesus' words to all the disciples;- about tearing down the temple and raising it again on the third day; but he's never really understood what Jesus was on about. And now, his friends are telling him this incredible story about Jesus coming to meet them as they were together in a locked room. So, when the other disciples tell him 'We have seen the Lord', Thomas' reply is '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.'

Maybe, as a twin, Thomas was used to mistaken identity and needed reassurance that what the other disciples told him had happened, really **had** happened.

We don't know why he wasn't with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them and I imagine he's pretty fed up about it. He's missed something incredible. And then there's a whole week of nothing going on. During this time, the remarkable thing is that Thomas is still with the others, worshipping and praying, eating and sleeping. He does appear to have believed them in some way and, together with them, he's waiting for what happens next. Maybe he feels something along the lines of 'I'll be able to take this in properly only when I see it for myself.'

So Thomas doesn't sulk and stamp his feet because he's been left out, he commits to staying with the disciples until faith leads to sight. It turns out to take a week, but he sticks it out. This behaviour reminds us of the commitment he displayed when Jesus was about to walk into danger by going to Lazarus' tomb, Thomas said: 'Let us go also, that we may die with him'. That level of allegiance and faith would not be abandoned easily, especially when people he trusts are reporting that Jesus has appeared to them alive. Maybe he simply needs time to 'get his head round it' and until then he's carried by their testimony.

He spends this week thinking about the implications of what his friends told him and what he learnt from Jesus so that, when Jesus does appear to him and offers the opportunity to see and feel his hands and side, Thomas is able to respond with a glorious affirmation of his faith, 'My Lord and my God'.

Thomas makes the most positive and instantaneous response of any of those that Jesus revealed himself to.

We are all commissioned as the disciples were some 2000 years ago to share the good news of God's love with every one we meet. And we can all experience Jesus everyday in those we meet when we share a greeting, a handshake (or elbow bump), a kind word, reassurance, love. After all, as a sixteenth century St Theresa of Avila recognised:-

'Christ has no body now but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.'

Just as doubting and questioning didn't separate Thomas from his faith and belief in Jesus, so our doubts and questions don't separate us from our faith and belief in Jesus. Instead, by simply taking that bit longer to explore our faith, we can be like Thomas and echo him as we say 'My Lord and my God'.

**The Intercessions for  
Sunday 24th March 2022,  
Easter 2  
are written by Martyn Egerton**

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.  
That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of  
his glorious and life-giving resurrection and  
that we may walk with Him this day and all  
the days to come.

We pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find  
fresh strength in the good news of Easter. That  
the Christians of Ukraine and in other war torn  
lands may be ever aware of your love for  
them.

We pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That we may be granted humility to be subject to  
one another in Christian love and in doing so  
respond with love to the people we meet.

We pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That there may be provision for those who lack  
water, food, work or shelter in our own land  
and all areas of our world and that the plight  
of refugees is never forgotten in our hearts.

We pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That by his power, wars cease through all the  
world. That the leaders of nations will be  
inspired and driven to search relentlessly for  
peace

We pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That he may reveal the light of his presence to  
the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort  
and strengthen them.

We pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit  
upon his people, so that we may bear faithful  
witness to his resurrection,

We pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,  
you have delivered us from the power of  
darkness and brought us into the kingdom of  
your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us  
to life, so his continual presence in us may raise  
us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

We make our prayers in the name of Christ, who  
loves us as a mother loves her children.... *Amen*