

The Marden Vale Team Ministry
Christ Church, Derry Hill – St. John the Baptist, Foxham – St. Martin, Bremhill
Sunday 19th April – Second Sunday of Easter

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



Dear Friends,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and that you managed to enjoy the sunshine over the Easter weekend.

Today is the second Sunday of Easter and the gospel reading takes us back to the upper room where we find the disciples behind closed (and locked) doors as they try to make sense of recent events. There is a real sense of fear...and then Jesus appears in their midst: "Peace be with you." How much we too need to hear these words and be assured of God's presence with us in our own 'lockdown'.

We also hear the account of Thomas' encounter with Jesus. You have heard me say before that I don't like the somewhat negative connotations associated with 'Doubting Thomas'. I always maintain that Thomas simply asks really good questions. Questions don't have to be clever or complicated to be good questions. Often, it's the simple question which goes to the heart of things. Doubt, not certainty, goes hand in hand with faith. In these times, I hope we will all be asking lots of questions about how we live, how things were before, and how things might be in the future; about our faith, what we believe and why we believe.

*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.*

Today's service in the Marden Vale Team at 10am
<https://youtu.be/uF6nveuh2g> An act of worship led by members of the Marden Vale Team.

If you are able, please look at the website
www.mardenvale.org.uk
and Derry Hill's Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/christchurchdh/posts/>

Contact Linda on 01249 817926 or email
lindac@mardenvale.org.uk

An online service will also be available on [the Church of England's website](#) at 9am.

Sunday Worship is on BBC Radio 4 at 8.10am.

Sunday Worship from St. David's Cathedral is on BBC1 at 10.15am

Songs of Praise from Strawberry Field, Liverpool is on BBC1 at 1.15pm

Prayer Join with the Church of England Daily Prayer by visiting our website: www.mardenvale.org.uk and clicking on 'Pray' on the top line.

In the coming week please also pray for:

- all who are affected by coronavirus, for all who work on the frontline to keep us safe, to help the sick, to keep us fed...
- Lucy Ayles (YWAM) as she leads & teaches at Discipleship Training School
- the work of Christian Aid, particularly health care in Sierra Leone
- our brothers and sisters in Sudan & South Sudan; in Yemen
- all who are sick, awaiting diagnosis, those in hospital. Especially we pray for: **Mark Steele, Christine Gundry, Mark Jennings, Lynne Cottrell, Rob Simons, Len Jones, Jacob Maloy, Paul Crayford, David Bates, Jennifer Pope, Helen Lewis, Jackson Goodship, Jane Jordan, Angela Barker, Liz Kinch, Doreen Williams, Bill Norman, Brenda Beint, Peter Lansdell and Sonia Strange.**
- All who have recently died, the bereaved, & all whose anniversary of death falls at this time. We remember especially Alan Wilcox, Barbara Sampson (Carol's mum) and Bob Straker-Cook.
- **Anglican Cycle of Prayer** Pray for the Church of Ireland

The readings for the second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

‘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.

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.

John 20:19-end

When it was evening on that day, 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.