

For Easter Day 12<sup>th</sup> April

## Happy Easter dear Friends,

This is probably your most unusual Easter especially for those of you receiving this letter through your door.

I had contemplated a chocolate egg hunt in the churchyard sometime during the day but social distancing would not have worked – it's usually more like a piranhas' feeding frenzy. We'll have to think of another excuse for celebratory chocolate later in the year.

There can be no Songs of Easter this year either, so no opportunity to sing our favourite Easter hymns and learn why they mean so much to those who chose them. It will be strange at the Vicarage too, where the table is, more often than not, surrounded for Easter lunch with some of you.

This year there will be three of us; some of you will have met Catherine, who now lives with us, and is due to start university this autumn. As you know our boys and their girls are scattered around the globe but, for those of us who can manage the technology, at least there is opportunity to talk to and see one another.

We're glad to know that you're getting phone calls, help with shopping and caring neighbours to help with other practical needs. Please do call the Vicarage on 01480 394378, if you'd like a call back for anything at all.

Sharing the love of God with you this Easter 2020,

Peter & Rosie





## Thought for St James'

Many are working to save lives; in the NHS, essential services like water, food, electricity. For others COVID is having a significant immediate economic impact on their family. Some of you are volunteering to help those in your community; others are managing children at home, little ones who don't understand, or older ones who need home schooling. Teenagers want to be out with friends; those living alone long for a visit from family or friends.

It is understandable to feel loss of control over our lives – our usual routines are replaced by enforced new ones; we are more aware of death and fear for our loved ones.

Imagine 2000 years ago being a follower of Jesus in Holy week.

“What is Jesus doing?”

“Why does he say he will die?”  
“What will happen to us His followers?”

And then His betrayal, arrest, trial and execution by crucifixion as a criminal – pain, suffering and death.

How must the followers of Jesus have felt in the week leading to Easter – loss of control and fear of death?

But the reality is the cross tells us how much God loves us?

“For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son...” (John 3:16)

And the resurrection tells us not to be afraid because in Christ there is life.

“I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me shall live even though he dies! (John 11:25)

This Easter take comfort in God's word; the crucified and risen Son of God knows how we feel and if we listen He continues to speak to us of His Love and His Life. *Allen Foster*

## We believe...

We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

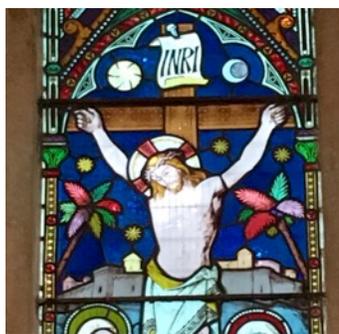
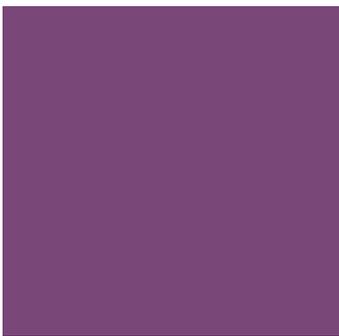
We believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

**On the third day he rose again;** he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Words to remember, we are:

Forgiven and holy people of God,  
who in Christ may stand in righteousness before our Father in heaven  
who by the Holy Spirit, receive assurance of faith,  
and confirmation of the image of Christ in us;  
that we may have perfect freedom and peace;  
and hear again the song of our Father's love. Amen



# Easter Day

## Christ is Risen, He is Risen in deed

What were the disciples looking for on that first Easter morning? They were looking for a corpse. All the details recorded in the first seven verses of John 20 point to the fact that there was no body to be found in the tomb. But, even a body snatcher doesn't leave grave clothes behind - there has to be some other explanation - this is not just the story of a missing body.

Peter and John see in the physical realm, an empty tomb and grave clothes with the head wrappings set aside. Finally they believe what Jesus has been telling them all along - he would rise from the dead - the 'temple' of his body would be rebuilt in three days.

Notice the language of Jesus: not only is his body a 'temple' but so also are ours. *The Temple* in Jerusalem was where the presence of God

touched earth. But when Jesus cried out from the cross "It is finished", the curtain, that separated the presence of God in the Holy of Holies from everyone but the high priest once a year, was torn from top to bottom. That was 60 foot high of material as thick as the palm of a hand! No person could do that - it had to be supernatural.

The point is, as the priests looked into what was once the Holy of Holies, the glory of God's presence had departed.

The place that God dwells is no longer confined to a temple in Jerusalem. God by his Spirit dwells in temple of every human heart that welcomes his presence as Lord and Saviour. ✨



Take a walk in your garden,  
listen to the hum of bees;  
you may be surprised at the number  
of different varieties you can see.



## + Simnel Cake

...just like Mum used to make.

Simnel cake has been eaten since medieval times as both a rich, sweet treat and a symbolic ritual. No Easter in my childhood home would have been complete without Mum's simnel cake, topped with an Easter chick and scorched a little under the grill.

The cake is topped with eleven balls of marzipan to represent eleven disciples of Jesus, and the missing 12<sup>th</sup>, Judas Iscariot – the one who betrayed him.

Simnel cake is a light fruitcake that has been a Easter classic but only lasts a few days when shared by a family of nine!

So called, Simnel cake, after the latin word 'simila' meaning fine, white flour used in the recipe.

We had to wait until tea-time on Easter Day to enjoy our first slice.

