

## *This Week you are Asked to Pray For:*

- Those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Irene Foord, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Ian Goodearl, Phillipa King, Jenny King, Beryl Palmer, Sally Zeybek, Laura, the daughter of June Brazier and David Lawrence.
- The recently departed, including Mollie Patricia White, may their souls rest in peace. We pray for Jill and her Father and Brother at this difficult time.
- All parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and those caring for them. For our own country where infection rates are still high, and the health services as they work to cope with the large number of hospital cases.
- For the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman including our linked parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.

## **ADVERTISEMENTS**

### **ECCLESIASTICAL INSURANCE TRUST 130 DONATION OFFER**

If you are renewing your home insurance, would you consider obtaining a quote from Ecclesiastical Insurance? For any policy taken out with them they will donate £130 to St John's Church and there is no limit on the donations they will make. The number to call is 0800 7830 130 and quote TrustP21.

## **ONE CAN TRUST**

The One Can donation box is outside the Church so that we can continue to make our gifts to this worthy cause. Caroline will continue to take what has been collected on our behalf and deliver it to the main collection centre. Thanks very much to everyone who continues to support this cause.

### **Key Contacts:**

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## **PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN**



**Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith**

**Week Commencing  
SUNDAY 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
EASTER DAY**

### **FOCUS ON... EASTER JOY**

Central to the Easter faith of the church is that the bursting of the tomb which God accomplished in Christ assures us that, no matter how difficult and dark and challenging our own life journey may be at times, our Lord is with us in all things and He promises us new life in Him now and for eternity. At the heart of our Easter faith is hope and trust that God is always there for us. This means that, however, challenging our circumstances, there is a "blessed assurance" that God never deserts us no matter how dark and desperate things may become for us. No wonder, then, that the Gospels testify that the first witnesses to the resurrection of Christ were overwhelmed with joy. Indeed, joy is at the heart of the Christian celebration of Easter. Because the resurrection is the most glorious and significant event imaginable! When we contemplate the deep wonders of the universe, it seems clear that the mystery of God extends well beyond the reach of human comprehension. However, we do know what God is like because he has chosen to reveal himself to us in the person of Jesus Christ. And from the teaching and example of Jesus we learn that the nature of God is self-giving, self-emptying, self-sacrificial love. One of the most profound moments in the Gospel Passion narratives occurs when the Roman centurion recognises Jesus to be the "Son of God". It is key to understanding this episode that we recognise that this dawn of revelation occurs precisely at the moment that Jesus has died. But the message of Easter joy is that this is not the end of the story. The Gospels go on to testify that this death was a gateway to a new beginning; and that this promise of new life and new hope is for everyone. This is at the heart of the joyful Gospel message which we are called to proclaim as followers of Jesus Christ. So it is with joy beyond measure that we celebrate the "Good News" of our Easter faith. Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*Canon Tony Bundock*

### ***Weekly Services:***

**SUNDAY**

10:00 am GMT On-line Morning Worship with Hymns on Zoom

**TUESDAY**

9:30 am GMT On-line Celtic Morning Worship on Zoom

## WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

England remains in a third National Lockdown. Current Guidance issued by the Bishop of Oxford is that it is expected, providing the progressive reduction in lockdown measures over the next few months continues as planned, that there can be a return to in-person public worship in step 3 of the relaxation of lockdown restrictions. The previous PCC decision that in-church collective worship will be suspended for the present continues. The PCC will be meeting after Easter to discuss options for resuming in-church worship as hopefully lockdown restrictions are eased.

We will continue to hold an On-line Morning Worship Service with Hymns on Sundays (at 10:00 am GMT for the present). The Tuesday morning service has been replaced with an On-line Celtic Morning Prayer service at 09:30 am GMT. We will also be opening the church for private prayer on two days during the week (Tuesday Morning from 10:00 to 10:30 am and Thursday Evening from 7:00 to 7:30 pm).

### COLLECT FOR EASTER DAY

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity, *Amen*.



### READINGS FOR EASTER DAY

Isaiah Ch. 25 VV. 6 – 9  
Acts Ch. 10 VV. 34 – 43

John Ch. 20 VV. 1 – 18

### PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK (THIS SUNDAY THE INTERCESSIONS WILL BE LED BY MARK ROBERTS)



Lord God, You loved this world so much, that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, every day. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. All for your glory do we pray, Lord, Amen. (Rachel Marie Stone)

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. Amen.

## MORNING WORSHIP EASTER DAY

This Sunday's Online Morning Worship service on Zoom will be broadcast from St. John's. It will be led by Canon Tony with assistance from Graham King, who will read the Gospel of the Passion. The service will start at 10:00 am GMT. Details are being supplied in the email sending out this Pew Sheet.



## THE ST. JOHN'S LENTEN FRONTAL

Although Lent and Holy Week have passed, this Sunday we move to the bottom left-hand corner of the Lenten Array Altar frontal and consider the fifth and final group of symbols relating to Jesus' journey to the Cross; a ladder, a spear and what looks like a ball on the end of a pole. The grouping represents events after Jesus was crucified. The ball on a pole is the sponge on the end of a reed / hyssop branch which was soaked in sour wine and offered to Jesus after he said he was thirsty (Mark Ch. 15 VV. 28 – 30). The spear was used to pierce the side of Our Lord by the soldiers to confirm that he had died. The ladder would have been used to take Jesus down from the Cross (Mark Ch. 15 VV. 33 - 37). With today being Easter Day the Lenten Array, which was taken down at the end of the Maundy Thursday service, has been put away for another year and replaced by our Easter frontal showing the Risen Lord with his hands outstretched in greeting (see above).



Left:

The St. John's Easter Garden which has been created in the churchyard near the West Door. This is part of a series of nine such gardens in an Easter Trail which has been put together by Churches Together in Risborough (CTR) which are loosely based on the Stations of the Cross. The St. John's garden is No. 7 in the trail and represents Jesus being stripped of his garments, with his robe hanging on the Cross.

