

**All Saints Church, Kempston
St James's Church, Biddenham**

Virtual Church News

11 April 2021

2nd Sunday of Easter



Welcome to Virtual Church News. Hard copies will be circulated to those without access to email/social media. If you know of anyone without email who you think would benefit from a hard copy, please email stjameschurchbiddenham@gmail.com or call Jacqui on 356993.

A Reading for the Week

Acts 4.32-35

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there was no needy person among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Message from Canon Nicola McIntosh

The message this week is a slightly different one. Eric is taking as much of a break as possible this week so we thought it was a good idea, that, as I occasionally pop up at All Saints (when were able to meet) and pop up in the virtual services it was about time I introduced myself. So here goes with a lightning tour of the life of Nicola.

I was brought up in rural Suffolk and left a rather difficult home life at 17 to work in London as a nanny. I had two happy years with a delightful family with whom I am still in contact all these years later. From there I went on to work for the Children's Society working with families where the children were all very vulnerable. It was incredibly rewarding work and one which I thought would lead to a life in social work...but in the ways of God things didn't work out quite how I had planned.

I came to faith in my late teens and in my early 20s people began to try to persuade me that I had a calling to the church. "But I have a secondment to qualify as a Social worker" was my response. That funding though, suddenly, was taken away as the Children's Society hit financial problems. So the nagging friends voices got even louder.

At that point, the only option for women was to

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh

Our hearts reach out at this time to Her Majesty the Queen, and the Royal family, following the death of the Duke of Edinburgh. Our gratitude to him for his service to this nation and the Commonwealth. He was dearly loved, and will be remembered with affection.

Services in Church

Our 9.30am Sunday services in church will recommence from Sunday 18th April at St James's and Sunday 25th April at All Saints.

become a Deaconess which I thought sounded the frumpiest thing ever!! But God thought differently and at 25 after many rounds of interviews... hoping at each stage my friends had got it wrong, I begun a five year training programme which ended with me getting married to Ian, who I met at college, and ordained Deacon in 1990.

Four years later I was Priested when the Church finally admitted women into the Priesthood.

From there I have done parish work, Vocations advisor, Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands, more parish work and then nearly nine years of Chaplaincy at Bedford hospital (and had our two boys who are now 27 and 25). In July 2020 I left the Chaplaincy and that's when the Bishop suggested I help Eric out a bit.

In November, though, I was rung by one of the Execs at the hospital asking if I would come back in a new role of Well Being Listener for staff. This is three days a week but very full on whilst there,

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Volunteer Vacancy

We are looking for a new Barn Bookings Officer to look after the bookings for the Church Barn at St James's when it re-opens.

This is an unpaid, part time, voluntary role. It can be carried out from your home and at times to suit you.

If you would be interested in finding out more, please contact Jacqui on 0778 6886 710.

as you could imagine. In Mid April I also begin work at Willen Hospice in MK to be their Spiritual care lead for a short term contract.

I became an honorary Canon at St. Albans Cathedral in May 2018 I think in recognition for my work in Chaplaincy and long service in the Church of England.

Ian may be known to some of you as he has in the past taken services in the churches. He works for the National Church as Head of Formation, which I hasten to add isn't anything to do with line dancing or the Red Arrows but rather the selection and training of Priests. He worked at Church House in London but for the last year, of course, has worked remotely from home.

So that's us in a nutshell, I look forward to being able to meet more of you in person once we are able to safely open our churches again and to be a proper part of All Saints and St James.

With my prayers and best wishes at this Easter season when we celebrate the glorious resurrection with its unlocking of death and the tentative unlocking of our lives into what feels like a new landscape and a new way of being.

May God Bless you and keep you.

Nicola

Let us pray...

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 Study Groups

If you are interested in joining a bible study group please contact John Lambert by email at john.c.lambert@gmail.com

Easter Craft Packs

Here are some of the end results!



QUIZ

Saturday 17th April 7:30 to 9 p.m.

The Friends of St James, Biddenham

Our second online Zoom quiz with a Spring flavour! Suitable for all the family.

Free entry – but donations welcome to The Friends of St James at GoFundMe: www.gofundme.com/stjamespringquiz

To register and for participation details, email John Barkas at: stjamesquiz@mail.com (alternatively phone Peter Leverkus on 01234 353662)

The FOSJ is a registered charity raising funds for the fabric of St James' Church and barn

Prayer Group

Join our prayer group at 8pm on the 1st/3rd Thursdays of the month via Zoom. Everyone welcome.

Contact John Lambert for login details or if you have any prayer requests.
John.c.lambert@gmail.com



Electoral Rolls/Annual Meetings

Electoral Roll revisions and Annual Meetings are coming up soon.

If you would like to be on the Electoral Roll (church membership list) or would like to find out more about becoming more involved in church life please speak to Eric or a Church Warden.

Further details about the Annual Meetings, will be included next week.

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to everyone who took part in our Easter Egg Hunt in Biddenham over the Easter weekend. We had 21 houses displaying eggs and there seemed to be a steady stream of families hunting for them throughout the weekend. We hope you all had fun!



All Age Reading

John 20 v 19-31

It was late that Sunday evening, and the disciples were gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities. Then Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said. After saying this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy at seeing the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive people's sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

One of the twelve disciples, Thomas (called the Twin), was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

Thomas said to them, "Unless I see the scars of the nails in his hands and put my finger on those scars and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later the disciples were together again indoors, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; then stretch out your hand and put it in my side. Stop your doubting, and believe!"

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

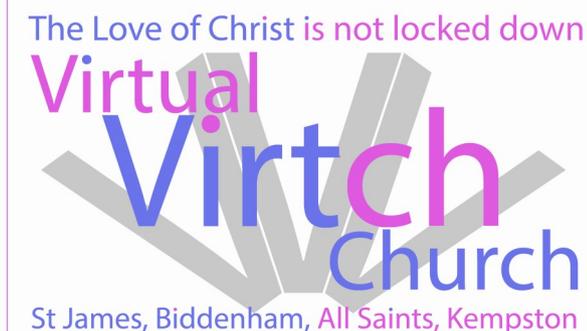
Jesus said to him, "Do you believe because you see me? How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

In his disciples presence Jesus performed many other miracles which are not written down in this book. But these have been written in order that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through your faith in him you may have life.

Good News Bible version.

Virtch (Online Church)

Zoom services are held at 11am on Sunday and 6pm on Wednesday. Simply go to Zoom and enter meeting ID 998 074 6039.



The All Age Bit!

This week we are looking at the story of Jesus appearing to his disciples (see left). The disciples were scared - they had locked themselves away as they thought they might be arrested or even killed for being friends of Jesus. But Jesus didn't need the doors to be open, he appeared among them. The disciples were filled with joy and excitement!

Can you think of a time in your life when you were scared? What did you do to help yourself be brave?

Activities

The final part of our reading today looks at why John wrote his book - he wanted to share the stories of who Jesus was and of Jesus' miracles so that others would know more about God's love for them. Can you tell the story of Jesus and Easter in your own words - you could write it out and illustrate it, create a piece of artwork, build it from Lego, or simply tell the story to someone else.

Try to learn the following verse together:

He died in our place to take away our sins, and not only our sins but the sins of all people. 1 John 2 v2.

You could perhaps come up with some actions to help you remember it or write the verse down and decorate it - why not put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week. You could also think of all the good things that God has given you this week.

Songs

We want to see Jesus lifted high

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLJmRPvhgdo>

I believe in Jesus

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHRFZTX_fYc

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the story of Jesus visiting the disciples. Even though we may be like the disciples, locked indoors and feeling scared help us know the same joy that they found by coming close to you.

Thank you for the task you gave to the disciples and that you give to us, to share the Good News about Jesus' death and resurrection with others.

We pray for all those in the world who are feeling scared and trapped that they would come to know your joy. Amen.

Resources from Together at Home.

For more free resources visit tath.co.uk.

Suggested Music for this week

Thou whose almighty word

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJuqdlVH8VY>

Christ is Risen

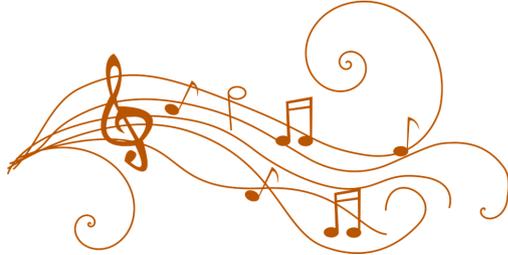
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMX9CNgRJCM>

It was finished upon that cross

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUGQNYm44hk>

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u36vD2leaA8>



Church Services etc. on TV/Radio

If you don't have access to the internet, try tuning in to the following:

Sunday 11 April

- 8.00am Three Counties Radio - weekly service.
- 8.10am BBC Radio 4 - Sunday Worship.
- 10.30am BBC 1 - Sunday Morning Stories.
- 1.15pm BBC 1 - Songs of Praise.
- 3.00pm BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong.

Wednesday 14 April

- 3.30pm BBC Radio 3 - Choral Evensong.



Daily Hope

Music, prayers, reflections and full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a free telephone line. **0800 804 8044** Available 24 hours a day.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. Join in from 13 to 23 May to deepen your own relationship with Jesus Christ, pray for five friends or family to come to faith in Jesus and to pray for the empowerment of the Spirit to be effective in your witness. For more details and to order a free prayer journal and other resources go to thykingdomcome.global

Time to Pray

Time to Pray App and Podcast presents everything you need for prayer. Available as an app (with integrated audio) or as a podcast. Listen and subscribe at <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/time-pray-app-and-podcast> or download the app from your usual app store.

Rev Eric Lomax Contact Details

Tel: 01234 328452

Mob: 07805 879537

Email: Rev.ejlomax@gmail.com

Community Support Groups

Do you need support? We can help with shopping and companionship (via regular phone calls). Can you volunteer to help? Let us know if you are DBS checked (for any organisation). It doesn't matter if you

Biddenham:

If you need support, ring 01234 815393 (daytime only) or email help@biddenham.org.uk with your name/phone number/address.

If you can volunteer, please email help@biddenham.org.uk

Kempston:

If you need support or can volunteer to help, contact:

Rev Eric Lomax: 328452 or 07805 879537

Alison/Brenda Walker: 851597

Alan/Anita Lowe: 857212 or 07751 659695