

A reason to rejoice



Heather Smith *reflects on* John 20:1-18

After living through the long week leading up to the crucifixion, today we celebrate Christ's resurrection. The future looks bright and positive and we can, and should, spend some time in simple rejoicing. We can affirm that life is good in the same way as when we celebrate a baptism. Although nobody expects the newly baptised to experience the rest of their lives as a fairytale, we believe that a baptism provides a solid foundation based on spiritual birth and for that reason we want to celebrate. The resurrection is the greater foundation that makes all this possible. It affirms life – death cannot overcome it.

John does not say whether Peter and the other disciple rejoiced. He tells us simply that they saw that the tomb was empty and believed. Having seen it, they returned to their houses. They did not yet understand the scripture about Christ's resurrection, but all the same, they believed. Not understanding what it meant, they were perhaps too bemused to think of rejoicing. But we have the advantage of knowing how the story unfolds. Perhaps we do not yet understand what it means for us this Easter – for with God there is always the new and unexpected – but we can return home, rejoice in this affirmation of life and wait for God to reveal what comes next, just as God did for the disciples. ☺

Life-giving God, you underpin everything that we do and everything that we are. Give us your everlasting joy today and direct our lives, as we seek to live out the resurrection in all we do. Amen.

National Pet Month

Passing time

by Gillian Cooper

Our pets make us aware of the swift passage of time. Pets have shorter lifespans than us. Pets die, as many children with hamsters painfully learn. Even long-lived dogs and cats die before us. The joy of our life with them is tinged with the sadness of this knowledge.

Today we celebrate the resurrection. We rejoice that there is more for us beyond death. Is the same true for our pets? I would like to think so, though we cannot know. But resurrection does not alter the fact that our precious life on earth is short, a truth we prefer to forget. Jonathan Wittenberg ends his wonderful book *Things My Dog Has Taught Me* with the words: "And I know, I must not waste it: this fragile gift of fleeting time for wonder, companionship and love." By reminding us of mortality, our pets encourage us to make the most of every moment, in the light of eternity. ☺

Lesser-known Bible characters

Hosea

by Caroline Fletcher

Hosea was a prophet who lived more than seven hundred years before Christ in Israel's northern kingdom. His prophecies are recorded in the Old Testament book of Hosea. He warned people to stop worshipping idols or God would destroy the nation. Unfortunately, nobody listened and the Assyrians invaded, taking many captives.

Although Hosea proclaimed God's judgement, his personal circumstances showed him much about God's love, revealing that God did not punish his people lightly. The pain Hosea felt when his wife was repeatedly unfaithful, helped him understand God's pain over Israel's unfaithfulness: Israel had rejected and hurt God, just as his wife had rejected and hurt him. Yet despite this, God could not stop loving Israel and punishing them was heart-breaking: Hosea describes God crying, "How can I give you up, Ephraim (Israel)?"

Hosea shows us a God who, despite our faithlessness, just keeps on loving us. ☺

“I know that my redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.

Job 19:25

Bible Readings

Easter Scripture

Acts 10. 34-43

Gentiles Hear the Good News

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Gospel Reading

John 20. 1-18

The Resurrection of Jesus

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him. 'When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Christian Scripture

1 Corinthians 15. 19-26

If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.



Despite the flames, the raging heat and collapsing spire, in the midst of the smoke and the rubble, the cross and altar survived.

What symbolism this Holy Week, what a message of hope in the Resurrection to us all. Resurgam!

Psalm

Psalm 118

A Song of Victory

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

Let Israel say,

'His steadfast love endures for ever.

The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

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

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

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it

What's On



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Our Vision for the Parish of Three Saints

Our desire is to deepen our spiritual awareness and relationship with God so that we can serve our communities more effectively as His hands and feet, and also to develop our sacred spaces to make them welcoming, flexible and suited to the broad ranging needs of our communities.

(Taken from The Parish Profile 2018)

The 2018 APCM

(Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

will take place on **Sunday 28th April 2019**,
immediately after the 10am service
at **St Christopher's, Lympsham.**

Who can attend?

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)

All persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll of this parish and persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors are welcome to attend.

APCM

All persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll of this parish are welcome to attend.

First meeting of the 2019/20 PCC

PCC members only.

Please see the church noticeboards for the agenda and further details.

Easter Teas

**Sunday 21st and Monday 22nd
April**

2.00 - 4.30pm

St Michael's
Church, Brent
Knoll



Everyone Welcome

Please Note that Friday is
"The Vicar's day of rest".
Thank you for your understanding.



Big Brekkie

Come to our Big Brekkie!

Ready to change the world over breakfast?
We will be serving delicious bacon baps after the 10am worship, while raising money to fight poverty and help save lives.

On Sunday 12th May at 11.15 am.
At St Mary's Church, East Brent.

Bacon Baps - £3.50
Tea and coffee - free
Everyone is Welcome.

christian aid week 12-18 MAY

Bottles needed please!



For the TPOTS May Fayre - 18th May.

Any bottle - Any shape - Any size!
For example - wine, olive oil, bubble bath etc

Bottles must be full, sealed and in date.

Please leave in the porch at Woodlands anytime or at the Church Office Mon and Wed 10-1pm.

Thank you.



The Parish of Three Saints May Fayre
Saturday 18th May 11 - 4pm

- ☀ Festival of flowers competition.
- ☀ Vegetable racing competition.
- ☀ Local artisan crafts.
- ☀ Cake and food stalls.
- ☀ Cream teas yummy.
- ☀ BBQ and Westcroft cider.
- ☀ Maypole dancing.

Fun games and activities for the whole family.
Flower competition can be fresh, sugar, paper, textile, clay etc.
Make your own racing vegetable and race it at the fayre.
Venue: Woodlands House, Hill Lane Brent Knoll TA9 4DF.
Free entrance and friendly dogs welcome.
Competition forms are available from the village shop and the deadline for entry is 15th May. All proceeds to the Parish of Three Saints.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all Creation; through your goodness we have this money to offer..... to do your work in the world.

During our worship an offering will be collected. If you wish to join with our offering there is a yellow envelope nearby for your contribution or you can, of course, simply add your donation to the bag that will be passed along the pew during our offertory hymn. Many of our Church Family make a regular contribution to the running and work of the Parish by Standing Order. If this is something you would like to find out more about, please see one of the Stewards or a Churchwarden.

