



**St Mary Magdalen Church, Knighton**

**Sunday 12th April & 19th April 2020**

Easter Day & Low Sunday

**Join us in prayer this Sunday morning  
and through the week**

Today we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of new life and hope for all of us. Despite not being able to meet together as a Church we can continue to pray together by using the Coronavirus Prayer (see back page) and these prayers for Easter Day:

*Collect*

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.

*Post Communion*

God of Life,  
who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son  
to the death of the cross,  
and by his glorious resurrection  
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:  
grant us so to die daily to sin,  
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## ***Try Praying—* through the week**

During this week why not give yourself a regular pattern of daily prayer? This will help us to keep a Godly perspective on all that is happening and will reduce our anxiety and stress – and will give us an opportunity to pray regularly for those in need, those who unwell, and all our medical services.

Many people find it helpful to have a special place in the home to pray - a chair in a corner, a seat in the garden perhaps, and to keep together a Bible and various prayer leaflets, as well as a small candle to light or a cross to hold.

You might like to try this as a way of building a pattern of prayer into your day this week:

*Early morning.* a short Bible reading and the prayers in this newsletter, together with the Lords Prayer and asking for God's blessing for this day on those you know are ill or finding isolation particularly hard.

*Midday.* take a moment of thanks before or after your meal - thanking God for his continued provision for us, and for those people who make up the farming, food production and retail chain and ensure our food supply is secure.

*Evening.* as the day winds down, thank God for those in medical and care services who have worked so selflessly today and ask him to bless them with rest and a sense of hope. Remember those you have contacted or seen at a distance today. Thank God for his faithfulness and love shown to all of us in the past, and perfectly in Jesus himself.

Whatever you do, do take the opportunity of our enforced stillness to establish a pattern of prayer and time with God that will help to sustain you now, and perhaps can continue into our 'normal' daily lives when we move out of this Coronavirus 'season'.

*Adrian*

## **Keeping in touch and sharing worship together remotely.**

As I write it looks as if we still have many weeks of 'lock-down' still to endure. It has become even more important therefore to keep in touch with each other and to ensure that we remain positive and hopeful, encouraging each other and helping out wherever and however we can.

The Ministry Team have worked hard to keep in touch by phone with all those we thought might find isolation particularly challenging for one reason or another. Covering a group of over 150 people is not easy though and we need everyone to play their part. I'm grateful to those who have phoned others, delivered newsletters and taken Palm Crosses - however new guidance means that hand delivery should now be replaced with postal delivery unless absolutely essential.

If you know of someone who needs support then do please let Adrian, Matthew or the others on the Ministry Team know - and do what you can yourself,, as a kind word from a friend is probably more valuable than a call from the vicar! If you know of someone who is not receiving their newsletter by email or delivery then again please do let Adrian or Matthew know - Data Protection rules mean we can only get in touch with people who gave their explicit consent last year by returning a signed contact form, and we know that several people didn't!

If at all possible please let us have an email address .... it is so much easier to send you news and encouragement quickly and efficiently this way. If you have a computer but don't have an email address, and would like some help to get one then again please let us know. Do also check our website [stmarysknighton.co.uk](http://stmarysknighton.co.uk) and our Facebook page regularly for all the reflections and encouragements we are posting there. Here you will also find information about ways that we can continue to worship together via the internet during our separation.

Continued overleaf...

I hope that the reflections and worship during Holy Week were a help to you. On Easter Day itself you might like to follow the service provided by Canterbury Cathedral by our own Cathedral at 10.30am

[www.canterbury-cathedral.org/holy-week-and-easter-2020/](http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/holy-week-and-easter-2020/)

[www.leicestercathedral.org/online-services](http://www.leicestercathedral.org/online-services)

Alternatively you can go back in time to 2018 and watch the Easter day service from Sheffield Cathedral here:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=al7zzV3UTWk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=al7zzV3UTWk)

If you feel out of touch, would like a prayer or need to talk, then please just phone - our numbers are all at the end of the newsletter.

Until we do talk can I wish you on behalf of all the Ministry Team a happy and blessed Easter celebration.

best wishes

*Adrian*

## **Listening to God's Word**

Our Bible reading for this Sunday is: **John 20.1-18**

**20** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!'

<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped round Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the

dead.)<sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

<sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.<sup>13</sup> They asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?'

'They have taken my Lord away,' she said, 'and I don't know where they have put him.'<sup>14</sup> At this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus..<sup>15</sup> He asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?'

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.'

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned towards him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (which means 'Teacher').

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' "

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord!' And she told them that he had said these things to her.

## **Easter Day Reflection by the Revd Adrian Jones**

***'Things will never be the same again.'***

One of the many things I learnt from Bishop Tim Stevens, whilst his Chaplain, was to hold to a favourite phrase of his : *"The future is God's specialist subject" ....* It was particularly poignant as he faced the terminal illness of his daughter, but even then he would say with confidence, *"The future is God's specialist subject."*

Whilst the past can be comforting, the future can feel frightening, unfamiliar, unpredictable, and perhaps uncontrollable.

By the morning of the third day since the death of Jesus, his friends must have been exhausted with emotion, constantly watching their backs, lost in despair, their hopes drained away - could they even think beyond the present day and how to get through it?

But John describes for us how that all changed. As the church that bears her name, let's focus on the experience of Mary Magdalen.

In the first light of dawn Mary saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb of Jesus – shocked and confused she ran back to safety to tell Peter and John.

At the tomb the two disciples had the first stirrings of a new faith and a sense that a new future was possible ...but again, it was retreat for the two men, back home to think it through, to try to make some sense out of it.

“But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb...” Consumed by sorrow, she didn't know what to do., and in her confusion Mary failed to recognise the significance even of the two angels.

When she said 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him' she showed her fear that 'they' were plotting, scheming evil, to attack or hurt Jesus, and it kept her mind closed to what might be.

Even when she saw Jesus standing there, her *sorrow*, her *confusion*, her *fear*, all stopped her from truly seeing Jesus, the hope of the future.

And then in verse 16 comes the turning point, the moment of change ...the moment of *Mary's* resurrection. “Jesus said to her 'Mary!' and she moved to embrace him ...her *fear* having been transformed into *courage*., and her *confusion* into *faith*. And when Jesus said to her 'Go to my brothers....' her *sorrow* was transformed into *purpose* ...

So, let me encourage you on this strangest of Easter Days, as sorrow, fear and confusion surround us: **the future is God's specialist subject.**

Our current experience is hard, and there is much yet to endure but, along with Mary and through the resurrection of Jesus, we can be profoundly changed and prepared for *a new future*..... a future of hope and expectation and of renewed life and growth together.

Our future will be very different from the past, but equally special in God's hands. As a Church and as individuals and families, God holds out to us a renewed resurrection life, *shaped* by our present experience but not *limited* by it.

Jesus calls our name ... he calls us to step forward towards him with courage, faith and purpose.

The future is God's specialist subject - in Christ a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open.

Amen



**FRUIT & VEG** We've just been informed of a pop-up fruit and vegetable stall, located in the car park of the Aberdale pub at the bottom of Shakerdale Road. There is a wide selection of fruit and veg on sale. Social distancing is being maintained effectively. Unfortunately they only take cash. They will be there until 3.00 p.m or possibly a little later, depends on stocks! They hope to be there every Friday while the crisis lasts - as long as they can get supplies.

### **Staying Connected-Social Media, Facebook**

We are looking at new ways to best engage our congregation and wider community. Facebook is a very effective 'platform' to share news, images, events and even live services. Both St Mary's and St Guthlac's now have Facebook pages which you are encouraged to 'like and follow'. Please have a look at the attached guidance (attached with the newsletter) on how to set up a Facebook account and join our Church page. Any problems, please email or phone Matthew who is happy to help.

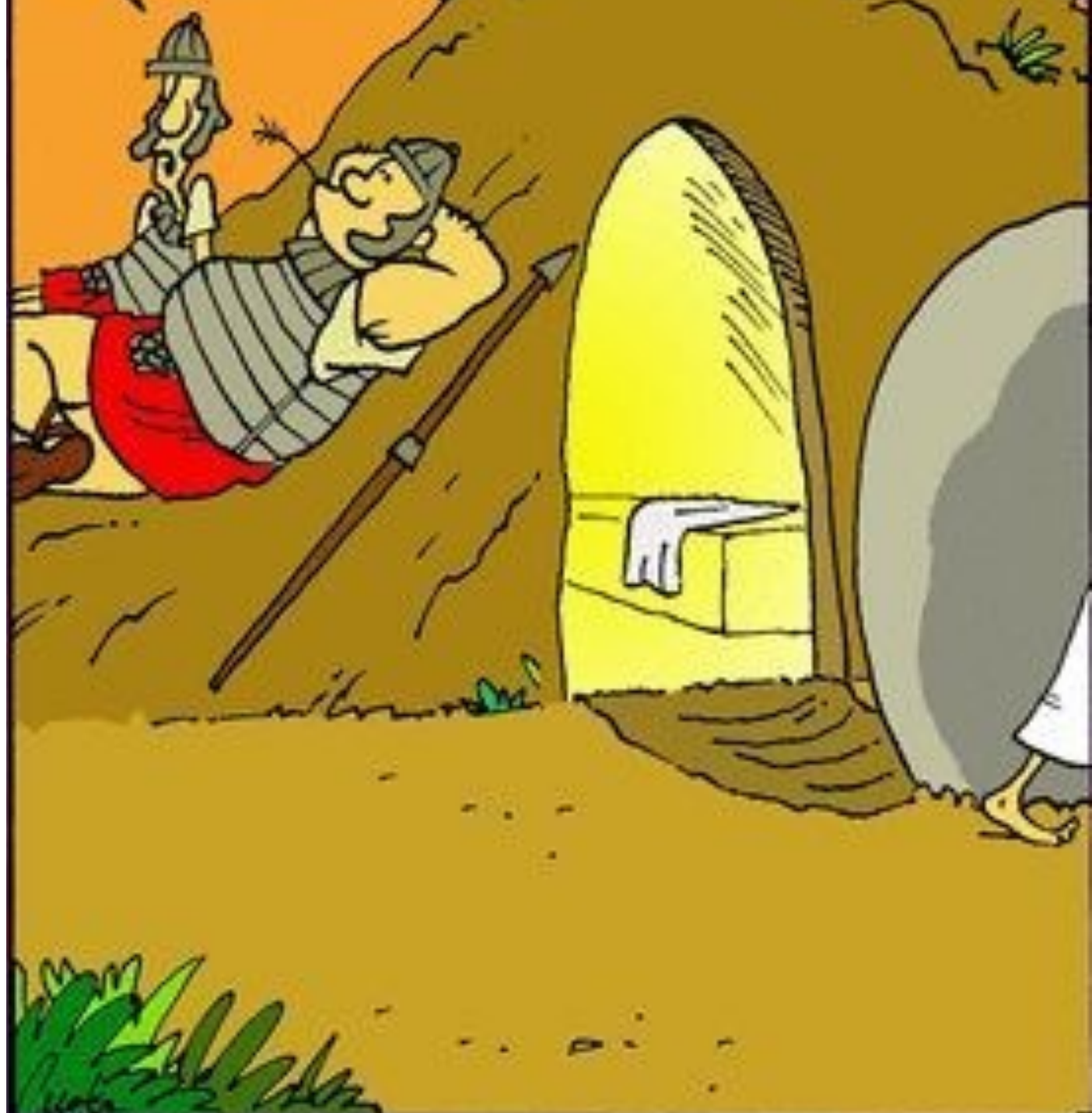
**JIGSAWS-** The local community have kindly donated a significant number of jigsaw puzzles for people to use who may be isolated and in need of jigsaw stimulation. The puzzles have all been left to decontaminate for at least 5 days and then bagged up. Contact Matthew for a delivery or collection.

Please send items for inclusion in the diary or notice sheet to James Gutteridge by **Thursday 12.00 noon**. Contact James on [office@knightonparish.co.uk](mailto:office@knightonparish.co.uk) or 0116 2702705.





Waddya mean?  
That wasn't **YOU**  
who just said  
"Good morning"?



# InSPIREd

## The campaign to save our spire

### InSpired - our appeal for the spire

InSpired – a progress report

As we have previously reported, thanks to your efforts and generosity, the amount raised by the end of February was £33,400.

Sadly, but inevitably, the Coronavirus pandemic has put our exciting programme of events and outreach to the community on hold, but rest assured that when we all emerge from enforced hibernation, we will bring them back, and they will surely be all the more welcome.

*Nigel Siesage*



**ENVELOPES OR STANDING ORDER** 😊 😊 😊

Have you considered paying by monthly standing order instead of envelopes?

If you would like to do this, please contact Lorna Pollard :

by telephone 0116 2704272  
or e mail at [stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com)

**CHEQUES FOR ST MARY'S** Please make cheques for St Mary's payable to **Knighton PCC**.

### Contact details:

**Vicar: Adrian Jones** 0116 270 4268 or 07584 954414

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**Churchwarden: Rosalind Matthew**

**Parish Administrator: James Gutteridge** 0116 270 2705

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The Parish Office is currently closed to the public. Sorry for any inconvenience and thank you for your understanding.

### PLANNED GIVING SCHEME

Regular giving is an integral part of our church life supporting our day to day costs, ministry and mission.

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A good way to achieve this is through a weekly envelope or a monthly bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. Scheme details can be obtained from Lorna Pollard, Planned Giving Scheme Secretary: telephone 0116 2704272 or e mail: [stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysknighton.giving@gmail.com). If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

**During the current Coronavirus pandemic please put aside your weekly offerings ready to bring to church when things return to something like normal. The costs of the church are largely unchanged even though we cannot meet, so your regular giving is extremely important to our collective 'health' and the mission of God here.**

**Please pray.....** "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5.16-18)

**Give thanks:** for all medical staff in our hospitals, health centres, research centres and GP practices.

### **A prayer for the Coronavirus outbreak**

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy,  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Amen.

**Praying for the Parish :** This week please pray for the pupils and staff at: **Overdale Infants School, Overdale Junior School, The Lancaster Academy, Sir Jonathan North Community College, Leicester High School for Girls, Leicester Islamic Academy.**

We pray for all those who are unwell at the moment, whether in body, mind or spirit, and all those with troubling investigations and diagnoses. In particular we pray for **Ed Groves, Gary Joynes, Trevor Gutteridge, all those with the symptoms of Coronavirus infection,** and all those on our parish 'Continuing Prayer' list. May they know the power of God's healing love at work in their lives today.

Give thanks for those who have been healed and restored.

We remember those who have died recently and pray for their families and friends.: **Alastair Barnett,, Jennifer Charles, Rose Golland**