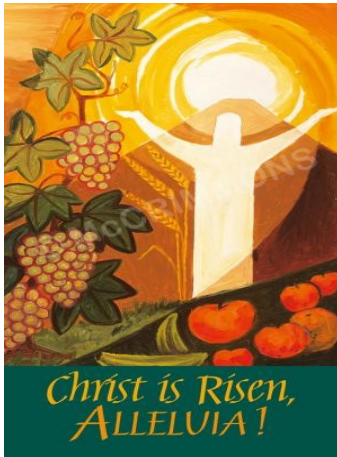


Thoughts and Prayers for the Week

Sunday 17th April 2022



Easter Day

God of glory,
by the raising of you Son
you have broken the chains
of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ
Amen.



Readings for the Week:

Acts 10: 34-43

Psalms 118: 14-24

1 Corinthians 15: 19-26

John 20: 1-18

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

The first Easter began with disbelief, bewilderment and fear at the empty tomb. It ended with astonishment and thanksgiving. Despite all the miracles the disciples had witnessed, despite the warnings.... that he'd be killed, then raised on the third day.... not one of them expected to see him again. Their hopes and faith died with Jesus. In fear and disarray, they spent the night in the upper room where they'd celebrated Passover. At least, the men did.

It's striking that the resurrection is first discovered by three women who had watched the crucifixion from a distance: Mary Magdalene, Mary, mother of James the younger, and Salome, mother of disciples James and John. Out of devotion and practicality they go to the tomb at dawn to finish the job of burying their Lord.

Embalming the body had to wait till daybreak. They'd bought the spices the previous evening, the shops being open for Sabbath: preparations proving that even Jesus's closest disciples were not expecting the resurrection, so wouldn't have invented the story.

But, if the women believed he was going to rise, why buy spices to embalm his body? And why worry about moving the stone? If Jesus had not risen the stone would have posed an impossible obstacle. However, we interpret the resurrection, the women's reactions are proof enough that it happened.

God's intervention restored the disciples' faith. Without the resurrection they would never have had the courage to utter another word in public about Jesus, let alone proclaim, as Peter does, speaking on behalf of the witnesses (Acts 10.42): "He rose and is Lord of the living and the dead." This same Peter who, when challenged outside the courtroom, had denied all knowledge.

Paul's argument (1 Cor 15.16-17) is conclusive. "If Christ has not been raised our faith is in vain." Deny the



resurrection and our faith has no basis. Christians are called to believe in the power and love of God to bring good out of evil, life out of death, hope out of despair. We are defined by how truly we enact this and share it with others.

~Michael Pennington~

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Meanwhile, in Ukraine life goes on..... 'In Sophia's Square, Kyiv, gardeners are planting purple pansies to bring spring colour to the city. "War is war, but flowers still need to be planted" said one of the gardeners.' The Times, 8.4.22



Goodness is stronger than evil

Love is stronger than hate

Light is stronger than darkness

Life is stronger than death

Victory is ours, through Him that loved us.

Amen

~Abp. Desmond Tutu~

Let us continue to support and strengthen each other

- ◇ Daily, by saying The Lord’s Prayer together, morning and evening
- ◇ Lighting a candle at home 10.00am on Sunday if we are unable to come to church

Our Services:

17th Apr 2022 Easter Day	6.30 am Lighting the Easter Candle	Topcroft Church
	9:30am Eucharist	Woodton Church
	9.30am Family Service and The Easter Story	Hempnall Church
	11:00 am Eucharist	Fritton Church
	11:00 am Family Service and The Easter Story	Topcroft Church
	11:00 am Family Service and The Easter Story	Hardwick Church
24th Apr 2022 2nd Sunday of Easter	10:00am Group Easter Eucharist	Bedingham Church
	6:00pm Easter Evening Service	Via Zoom

This week we pray for:

- ◇ In the morning: the day and its tasks; the world and its needs; the Church and her life
- ◇ The people of God, that they may proclaim the risen Lord
- ◇ God’s creation, that the peoples of the earth may meet their responsibility to care
- ◇ Those in despair and darkness, that they may find the hope and light of Christ
- ◇ Those in fear of death, that they may find faith through the resurrection
- ◇ Prisoners and captives
- ◇ In the evening: peace; individuals and their needs

Food Bank

Items for our Food Bank are still needed; we are very grateful to all who continue to contribute during this difficult time.

Our next collections will be on:

Sunday 1st May 2022. Any items can be left at Hempnall Church Office Mon-Thu, 9am-12:30pm.

Please phone before arrival - 498157

- URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS**
- FRUIT JUICE ***URGENT***
- TINNED TOMATOES
- LONG LIFE MICROWAVEABLE SPONGE PUDDINGS
- SMALL JAR COFFEE
- PASTA SAUCE
- COOKING SAUCE TO GO WITH RICE

WE REMEMBER:

Martin, Molly, Dennis, Ian, Vievenne

Hempnall: Lesley and family,
Phillip, Sophie

Bedingham/Woodton:
Sheila, Hilary, Peter, Liz, Anne, Chris

Topcroft: Gerald, Jane

LONG TERM CARE:

Bedingham /Woodton:
Dennis, Shirley, Jacob

Fritton/Morningthorpe: Beryl



RECENTLY DIED:

John Styles, Jonathan MacRae

Please ring us if you need:

Liz Billett -Team Vicar 07891 854219

Group Office: Mon-Thurs 9am-12.30pm

01508 498157

Email: hempnallgroup.office@btinternet.com