



**St John the Divine Church,
Selsdon
Sunday 4th April 2021
EASTER DAY**

Welcome

Welcome back to St John's it is so lovely to have the congregation back in the church. We hope that you enjoy today's service whether you are in the church or in the comfort of your own home. We thank all those who have helped keep the services running over the past few months.

Today the service will be taken by Revd Stephen Wright and Revd Michael Skinner

PLEASE TAKE THIS LEAFLET HOME WITH YOU

Opening Prayer

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 Prayer

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

First Reading:

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. '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.'

Acts 10:34-43

Gospel

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. 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 around 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.

John 20.1-18

For your prayers: Read by Anne Skinner

We pray for God's love to surround:

Tano Grima, Margaret Rapp, Robin Sullivan

We pray for those who have died recently:

Peter Brice

We pray for loved ones on the anniversary of their death:

4th April Elizabeth Kewn (1977)

Margaret Simmons (1981)

Michael McKenzie (2006)

5th April Colin Nockolds (2019)

6th April Maurice Lishman (1941)

Pamela Jordan (2019)

7th April Edith Snow (1960)

Peter Holton (2001)

Rasaratnam Srikantha (2005)

8th April Christina Hodd (2018)

Marion Hall (2019)

9th April Gertrude Polley (1982)

Nora Barnes (1973)

James Lemondine (1984)

Edith Marie Stiffle (2010)

10th April Florence Pascoe (1994)

Cecile Charles (2020)

If you'd like prayer either for yourself or for another, please email rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com And if you would like to include the name of a loved one among the list of the departed on the anniversary of their death, please email Amanda on the above email.

Please give NOTICES for inclusion in the weekly service sheet to Amanda bookingsstjohns@gmail.com preferably by e-mail, or in writing. It would be helpful to receive this before * Tuesday * each week.

If you'd like to discuss arranging a baptism (christening), a wedding or a funeral, please call

Tel: 0208 6572343 or email rectorstjohnschurch@gmail.com

The Parish Office

Will be open Mon- Thur 9am -2pm

Tel: 0208 6

mobile number 07958 682103

email bookingsstjohns@gmail.com

St John's Website address is:

www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk

To find our Facebook page simply (Google) search

St John the Divine Selsdon

Sunday Services at 10 am

Could we remind everyone of the following:

Coronavirus is highly infectious. Older people and those with underlying health problems are at increased risk of severe illness and potentially death It is critical that we follow strict rules if we wish the church to remain open

- 1 Everyone must wear a mask properly unless they have a compelling reason not to do so and must sanitise on entry to and departure from church**
- 2 Spacing is critical, please do not huddle together and please keep 2m apart unless you are in a bubble, sit on chairs which have a green square on them**
- 3 Leave church in a measured way, not in a scrum and do not stand at the back of the church talking to others**
- 4 Windows need to be open, as does the back door**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO KEEP THE CHURCH OPEN AND
PROTECTING OUR CONGREGATION**

**We are collecting for the Bishop of Southwark's Lent Call.
Please see our website for more details www.stjohnsselsdon.org.uk**

You can make your donation down the drain at the back of church.

THE BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK'S LENT CALL 2021

In the last year so much has changed and we have all become much more aware of the fragility our lives and our communities. The footballer, Marcus Rashford, has helped to raise everyone's awareness of the need to ensure that our children are adequately fed during school holidays. But it is not just schoolchildren who are at risk. Whole families are in need of help, as well as couples and individuals. That is why the diocese is focusing the Bishop's Lent Call this year on food insecurity, both here in the Diocese and in our Link Dioceses.

Father Michael's Diary

RECALLED TO LIFE

Recalled to life" might be a suitable motto for us today as we approach both Easter and the ending of the coronavirus restrictions. But it's not only a motto it's also a challenge. Also "recalled to life" might not be the best way of describing the resurrection. Resurrection is not a recalling to life but the gift of an entirely new sort of life altogether which totally transcended life as we know it. It is this sheer unlikeness of resurrection anything we might know that gives to the resurrection stories their unworldly, you might almost say spooky, atmosphere.

Here was something totally new, totally unexpected, totally outside human experience. But not outside human expectation. The resurrection of Jesus far exceeded earlier speculations. Through resurrection we shall come to share the eternal life of the Godhead, we shall live eternally and never die. We are not so much recalled to life as called to eternal life. Yet in many ways the restrictions from which we are now starting to emerge do resemble a return to life from death. One feature of death is isolation, we must face death alone, and alone go into that silence: cut off from family and friends and from life itself. Something very similar has befallen many people over the last year. Lots of us have not seen most of our relatives for over a year, particularly if they live any distance away. There have been some small outdoor gatherings of friends, but most people have had to spend most of the time alone or with their partner and immediate family. The toll this has taken on our mental health is only now beginning to be recognised.



As, please God, all these onerous restrictions will be coming to an end we shall emerge from a sort of death ... into what.? And this where the concept of a recall to life challenges us. Is a recall to life enough. Is it enough for us to go back to the way things were. The toll the pandemic has taken has shown up how many things are wrong in our society, the death rate of socio-economically poor and BAME communities is much higher than for other parts of society. The huge growth in the use of food banks shows how much poverty there is, how far from an equitable distribution of resources we are. Our impoverished health and social care services have been stretched to the limit and sometime beyond. In a rich country like this that should never have happened. And then there is the way the whole pandemic has been managed right across Government. Only time will tell, if we ever get an official enquiry, just how many mistakes were made, how many decisions delayed, how many resources wasted.

But of course, there is an upside to all this. We have rediscovered the community, we have found that for many people working from home is a more than acceptable alternative to the daily commute. Churches have learned to live stream and record services which in some cases has vastly increased the number of worshippers. We have also learned how holding meetings by Zoom and Teams has saved time and money in travelling and increased attendance. In grappling with the Pandemic, we have had glimpses of a better world. Are we going to let all this go? Or are we prepared to be resurrected.?

READINGS AND PRAYERS

4 April EASTER DAY – Mark 16.1-8 – Thanksgiving for the Resurrection

5 April MONDAY IN EASTER WEEK – Matthew 28.8-15 – for faith in the Risen Jesus

6 April TUESDAY IN EASTER WEEK – John 20.11-18 – for all in sorrow and despair

7 April WEDNESDAY IN EASTER WEEK - Luke 24.13-35 – for the fellowship of the church

8 April THURSDAY IN EASTER WEEK – Luke 24.35-48 – that we may meet Christ in the Eucharist.

9 April FRIDAY IN EASTER WEEK – John 21.1-14 – that we may meet Jesus in our daily lives.

10 April SATURDAY IN EASTER WEEK – Mark 16.9-15 – for courage to declare the Resurrection faith.

Singing hymns and spiritual songs...



A weekly roundup from Ian Brentnall

Christ is risen: He is risen indeed, Alleluya! This is known as the Paschal Greeting we use during the season of Easter, reminding us of the words of the angel spoken to Mary, mother of our Lord and Mary Madelaine at the empty tomb. We may feel that the joy of our Easter celebration in church is somewhat muted this year – no hymns, no choir and no warm embrace or handshake at the Peace. We might be forgiven for feeling sad at how much seems to be missing from our worship.

One thing I always miss during Lent is use of the word “Alleluya” in any part of the liturgy or in our hymns. That exuberant shout of praise figures as part of many Easter hymns and I always love that moment when the first Alleluya is sung as part of our Easter celebrations. We probably each have our own favourite Easter hymns, one of my favourites is “Alleluya! Alleluya! Hearts to heaven and voices raise”. The author was Christopher Wordsworth (1807 – 1885), nephew of the famous poet. Wordsworth was educated at Winchester and Cambridge and undertook several distinguished roles, culminating in his being consecrated as bishop of Lincoln in 1869. He was a noted author on a variety of subjects and wrote several hymns which we still use today. The tune we usually use to this one is “Lux eoi” by Sir Arthur Sullivan, half of that infamous collaboration Gilbert and Sullivan. Although best known for the G&S operas, Sullivan was a prodigiously gifted musician who in his younger days was regarded on the continent as being comparable in talent to Brahms.

So, although we can’t sing Alleluya, we can nevertheless with the greatest joy join loudly and enthusiastically in the response:

He is risen indeed:

ALLELUYA!!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Hearts to heaven and voices raise:

sing to God a hymn of gladness,

sing to God a hymn of praise.

He, who on the cross a victim,

for the world's salvation bled,

Jesus Christ, the King of glory,

now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ, the first fruits
of the holy harvest field,

which will all its full abundance

at his second coming yield:

then the golden ears of harvest

will their heads before him wave,

ripened by his glorious sunshine

from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen!
Shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain and dew and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia! to the Saviour
who has gained the victory;
Alleluia! to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity:
Alleluia, alleluia!
to the Triune Majesty.



Diary Dates

Sunday 11th April
Second Sunday of Easter



Plant Sale

SUNDAY 23RD MAY 2021

AFTER THE 10 AM SERVICE

With this in mind, please sow an extra seed or two, or
pot up any spare plants from your garden.

Maybe make an extra pot or two of marmalade or put an extra cake in
the freezer to sell on the day. Thank you.

Keep the date free
Sunday 25th April
for our APCM
To be held in the church

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