

This Week you are Asked to Pray For:

- Those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Irene Foord, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Ian Goodearl, Phillipa King, Jenny King, Beryl Palmer, Sally Zeybek, Laura, the daughter of June Brazier and David Lawrence.
- The recently departed, including Mollie Patricia White and HRH Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh, may their souls rest in peace. We pray for Jill and her father and brother, and the Queen and the Royal Family at this difficult time.
- All parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and those caring for them. For our own country where infection rates are still high, and the health services as they work to cope with the large number of hospital cases.
- For the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman including our linked parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.

ADVERTISEMENTS

ECCLESIASTICAL INSURANCE TRUST 130 DONATION OFFER

If you are renewing your home insurance, would you consider obtaining a quote from Ecclesiastical Insurance? For any policy taken out with them they will donate £130 to St John's Church and there is no limit on the donations they will make. The number to call is 0800 7830 130 and quote TrustP21.

ONE CAN TRUST

The One Can donation box is outside the Church so that we can continue to make our gifts to this worthy cause. Caroline will continue to take what has been collected on our behalf and deliver it to the main collection centre. Thanks very much to everyone who continues to support this cause.

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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

**Week Commencing
SUNDAY 11th April 2021
2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

FOCUS ON... ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

According to Chapter 20 of St. John's Gospel, St. Thomas the Apostle was not present when the Risen Lord Jesus first appeared to the Apostles in the Upper Room and was very sceptical of their account of what had taken place. A week later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples and this time Thomas was present. We are told that Jesus said to them "peace be with you". And then he gave Thomas the opportunity to feel for himself the marks and scars of Crucifixion. And Thomas responded with the acclamation "My Lord and My God". Jesus then said to Thomas "have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." And so, St. John is telling his readers that the followers of Jesus do not need to be given physical scientific proof of the resurrection in order to have faith and trust that Jesus is indeed risen and that he is Lord both of the dead and the living. What matters most of all in the story of the resurrection appearance to St. Thomas the Apostle is not so much his very human response of doubt and questioning but his confession of faith and trust in his Lord and ours. Clearly, for Thomas the Apostle, this encounter was a life-changing experience. Traditionally, Thomas is said to have travelled well beyond the Roman Empire to preach the Gospel, travelling as far as Kerala in present-day India. He is said to have baptized several people there, founding what are to this day known as "Saint Thomas Christians". Plainly, Jesus loved Thomas, just as he loves us. He did not love him any less because he asked questions. And he did not wait for Thomas to express faith before he met his need. Just as Jesus stepped through the locked doors, so he stepped through the wall of Thomas's doubt. Let us be like Thomas: honest before God and others, open to questioning faith and seeking truth, and ready to bow down in worship of the God who meets us just where we are. Alleluia!

Canon Tony Bundock

Weekly Services:

SUNDAY

10:00 am GMT On-line Morning Worship with Hymns on Zoom

TUESDAY

9:30 am GMT On-line Celtic Morning Worship on Zoom

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

England has now started to come out of the third National Lockdown. Current Guidance issued by the Bishop of Oxford is providing the progressive reduction in lockdown measures over the next few months continues as planned, it is expected that there can be a return to regular in-person public worship in step 3 of the relaxation of lockdown restrictions. The previous PCC decision that in-church collective worship will be suspended for the present continues. The PCC will be meeting this coming week to discuss options for resuming in-church worship as hopefully lockdown restrictions are eased.

Until further notice, we will continue to hold an On-line Morning Worship Service with Hymns on Sundays (at 10:00 am GMT for the present). The Tuesday morning service has been replaced with an On-line Celtic Morning Prayer service at 09:30 am GMT. We will also be opening the church for private prayer on two days during the week (Tuesday Morning from 10:00 to 10:30 am and Thursday Evening from 7:00 to 7:30 pm).

COLLECT FOR 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, *Amen*.



READINGS FOR EASTER 2

Exodus Ch. 14 VV. 10 – 31 & Ch. 15 VV.
20 – 21
Acts. Ch. 4 VV. 32 – 35
John Ch. 20 VV. 19 – 31

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

(THIS SUNDAY THE INTERCESSIONS WILL BE LED BY JAMES NISBET)



Thank you Lord for the blessing of hope that the Easter message has given us in these troubled times. Help us to use our faith in Christ to strengthen the love shown to others in our community and beyond. Let that eternal love bond and unite everyone around the world in compassion and forgiveness. May the sacrifice that our Lord Jesus Christ made for us be a guiding light of hope to nurture our thoughts, words and deeds. Through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. Amen.

MORNING WORSHIP 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

This Sunday's Online Morning Worship service on Zoom will be led by Canon Tony with assistance from Graham King, who will preach the Sermon. The service will start at 10:00 am GMT. Details are being supplied in the email sending out this Pew Sheet, and are as follows:

Topic: My Meeting
Time: Apr 11, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73212021840?pwd=a0VYcmt3OURjUWJQUy8yMmdQNzNjdz09>

Meeting ID: 732 1202 1840
Passcode: 05gJBL

(if copying the above into your internet browser window, you need to type in all of the text in blue as a single entry without a space – it has been split into two for formatting purposes.)



Left:

The St. John's Easter Garden which has been created in the churchyard near the West Door. This is part of a series of nine such gardens in an Easter Trail which has been put together by Churches Together in Risborough (CTR) which are loosely based on the Stations of the Cross. The St. John's garden is No. 7 in the trail.

