



# The Lion

A Monthly News Sheet for St. Mark's Church, Basford

[www.stmarksbasford.co.uk](http://www.stmarksbasford.co.uk)

April 2018



**E**arly 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. 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!" So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. [John 20:1-11]

There are two verses of Scripture that really engage my emotions above all others and they both come from St. John. One comes at the beginning and talks about the Word becoming flesh. The other comes almost at the end where we read above... *"Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb..."*

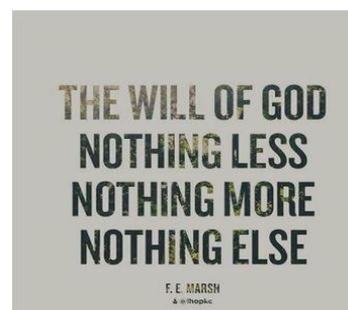
One of the great strengths of the gospel stories is that there's honesty in how people's feelings and responses are reported. We see who's good and who's bad, who's faithful and who's unfaithful, who's strong and who's weak. In the story above, the followers of Jesus make their way to the tomb and they're shocked by what they see. They're expecting the dead body of their friend, instead they find an empty tomb and this triggers very different responses in each of them. The story records for us their response to a world-changing event. One of them believes even though the evidence

is only circumstantial. Another (Peter) seems somewhat indifferent – we're not sure whether he believes or not; he simply goes home. Another (Mary) misunderstands completely: she thinks someone has stolen Jesus' body and begins to grieve her loss all over again: a variety of responses to exactly the same experience.

Here John tells the story of God's action in history with some dramatic emphasis. The Resurrection of Jesus is God's statement as to who God is in this world of ours and how he acts. Before his death, Jesus predicted these events on several occasions but, based on what we see and hear in John's story, those who heard Jesus before seem to have forgotten what they heard.

This story, like so many in the Bible, reveal what it means to be human in the face of God's activity. As humans, we struggle to understand, we gain but a glimpse of the total picture. Human nature is slow in realizing who God is and the reality of what he's doing. We have need to thank God for his patience with us because like those in the story we rely so heavily on this aspect of his nature. Furthermore, another aspect of God's nature shows through and likewise we depend on it also. God acts deliberately; he is faithful to what he says he will do, and this, regardless people's reactions.

I once saw a sign outside a church which read...



I think it might be a fair summary of Jesus' resurrection painted by John. God is acting decisively in history. God's will is finding expression in the midst of the everyday of life. God is saying... *"This is who I am and this is how I work."* Regardless of people's response, God's will is being done.

**Clergy:** Prebendary Terry Bloor ☎ 01782 623668; Revd Pat Dunn ☎ 01782 846417; Revd Patrick Griffin ☎ 01782 922730

**Churchwardens:** Diane Downard ☎ 01782 621424; Nick Atkins ☎ 01782 632213.

**Readers:** Janet Pazio ☎ 01782 698359; Julie Atkins ☎ 01782 632213; Ed Smith ☎ 01782 614259

**Safeguarding Coordinator:** Joanne Locker ☎ 01782 619471 **Hall Bookings Manager:** Beryl Silvester ☎ 01782 613685

The principle is perhaps illustrated by a story shared by a vicar who had been blessing by a 48-hour retreat. The weekend had leaders who were very focused in what they wanted to achieve. It was to allow busy Christians, whose activity levels had caused them to burn out, to rediscover God's strength in their ministry and service. Using various methods, the organizers did a fantastic job. The vicar was amazed at how effective their programme was. Having experienced the retreat, he thought about the different methods employed by the leaders; methods which nudged the participants towards re-discovering strength that none of them could do without. The vicar acknowledged that whilst he was there he had no idea of just how much work was being done for him and for the others participants. Afterwards, however, he recognised that whether he had participated fully or not, the will of organisers would still have been done. The situation and opportunity for him and the others to receive and to grow would have been no less present. Fortunately, he had participated and came away blessed.

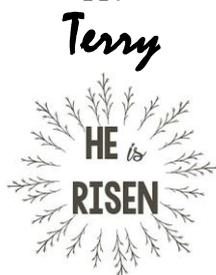
The Resurrection of our Lord is an example of the working of God's will. God is going to do what God is going to do regardless of how people respond. The Resurrection is a statement by God that his will is going to find expression. What a relief that the means for our renewed relationship with God, in which we have a right standing, doesn't depend on our hard work. All that God requires of us is trust and a willingness to follow where he leads.

This Easter, God is patient with us as we muster the courage to look inside the tomb, assess what we see and decide how to respond. Whether we see and believe like John, or see and go home like Peter, or fail to see and misunderstand completely like Mary, God accepts our response on the basis that he intends to work with us and bring us to a place of trust and faith of which he approves. Such patience on God's part is amazing in light of the cost he's paying to bring this story together; he knows us, and he's willing to bear with us.

The resurrection opens for us, the possibility of life beyond our earthly pilgrimage, but much more besides. This story reminds us that God is in control the world. He will be God, and he'll do what God does, regardless of our understanding or our response – he knows what we need.

You see, the sign outside the church was right after all. In the context of the resurrection, this world sees.... *The will of God: nothing less, nothing more, nothing else!*

**A blessed and happy Easter to you all!**



## Worship Services during April

1 <sup>st</sup>	Easter day	8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) 'First Sunday' with HC
4 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP)
8 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> of Easter	8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion
11 <sup>th</sup>	G. Augustus Selwyn	1.00pm 8.00am 10.30am	Baptism (Lady Chapel) Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP)
15 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup> of Easter	8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Worship with Baptism
18 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	8.00am 10.30am	Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP)
20 <sup>th</sup>	Friday	12.30pm	Funeral
22 <sup>nd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> of Easter	8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion
25 <sup>th</sup>	St. Mark	8.00am 10.30am 7.30pm	Morning Prayer Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion & Party
29 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> of Easter	8.00am 9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion

## Diary Dates for April

16 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	7.30pm	Men's Mass & Fellowship at Wolstanton
18 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	7.00pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
21 <sup>st</sup>	Saturday	TBA	Concert - St Saviour's Smallthorne
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Monday		Diocesan Clergy Conference Starts
25 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	7.30pm	Patronal Festival HC & Party

## Early May Dates

1 <sup>st</sup>	Tuesday	7.30pm	Deanery Sub-Committee Mtg
5 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday	11.30am	Wedding
8 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	7.00pm	Archdeacon's Visitation

## ★ St. Mark's Day

We'll hold a special Holy Communion with a 'bring-and-share party at 7.30pm on St. Mark's Day, 25<sup>th</sup> April.

## ★ APCM

Our Annual parochial Church meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm in church. Those who normally submit reports should do so electronically please to Terry who will collate and print them.

## ★ Concert in Smallthorne

A friend of Terry's has been working with a community choir in Smallthorne who will give a concert at St. Saviour's church on the evening of Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> April. Tickets and more info will be available nearer the time for those interested.

## ★ Holy Week Programme

**Holy Wednesday** 7.00pm – Film (Lady Chapel)

**Maunder Thursday** – 7.30pm HC & Vigil

**Good Friday** – 11.00am Matins / 2.00pm Meditation

**Easter Eve** – 8.00pm Vigil / HC / Party

## ★ Walk of Witness

For those interested, Anglicans, Methodists and Catholics will be carrying a wooden cross and holding devotions between St. Wulstan's and the Methodist Church in Wolstanton from 10.00am on Good Friday.

