

ST MARGARET'S VOICES

St Margaret of Antioch Church ~ Crick

Thought for the Week

"...blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Regardless of the disciples' testimonies, Thomas refused to believe until he saw Jesus himself. I believe this may also be true for many who also refuse to believe.

How then, can people be encouraged to seek Jesus? In Acts 4, we see a vibrant community of believers caring and supporting each other, which attracted many to join and be encouraged by the apostles teaching.

What impression do we give to visitors in our fellowships? Will they see us all being of one heart and mind, full of grace?

Will they see Jesus in us?

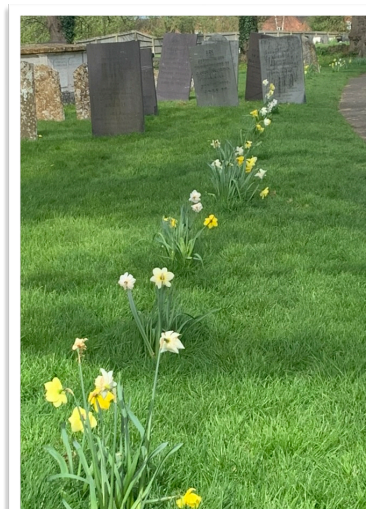
ST MARGARET'S CHURCH WEEKLY SERVICES

Weds 10th April~ Holy Communion **10.30am**

Sun 14th April~ Holy Communion **9.45am**

Mon 15th April ~ Little Saints~ **2.15-3.30pm**

**COME AND JOIN US.
OUR WELCOME IS
ALWAYS ASSURED.**



WELCOME

One of the things we are well aware of now is the coming of spring. It's wonderful to see signs of new life. Daffodils in abundance, leaves unfurling on the trees, some bird species returning after their sojourn in warmer climes. It's no surprise that spring coincides with Easter which is also a time we particularly remember the new life given to people who accept the risen Christ as their Saviour. How are you responding to this wonderful gift of new life?

The BBC has released a new series of Pilgrimage, this time set in North Wales; if you missed its release over Easter, it's available on iPlayer. It's good entertainment but also thought-provoking. It provides a great insight into modern perspectives on faith, religion and spirituality and, perhaps, most powerfully of all, the value of pilgrimage itself: a time for reflection, for gently letting go of deep-seated painful memories, for supporting, and being supported by, fellow pilgrims. We are going to repeat our own pilgrimage walk around the benefice on 15th June. Please put the date in your diaries.

Prayer for the Week.

Heavenly Father,

When Jesus appeared to his disciples after the resurrection he said 'Peace be with you!'

Please grant us that peace in our hearts and minds today. He then sent them out to serve and share the gospel.

Help us to do the same, as we are guided by you through the coming week. We pray earnestly once again for peace in our world. Please speak to the leaders, so that their decisions will bring war and suffering to an end.

In our Lord's name we pray.

Amen

The Flower

How fresh, oh Lord, how sweet and clean

Are thy returns! even as the flowers in spring;

To which, besides their own demean,
The late-past frosts tributes of pleasure bring.

Grief melts away, Like snow in May,
As if there were no such cold thing.
Who would have thought my shriveled heart

Could have recovered greenness?

It was gone

Quite underground; as flowers depart
To see their mother-root, when they have blown,

Where they together, All the hard weather. Dead to the world, keep house unknown. (George Herbert 1593-1633)

Contributors: Bryan Gault, George Herbert, Paul Lowe, Lyn Johnson, Dave Milne, Sue Milne, John Rogers, Carole Smith, Ray Smith

The word 'gate' appears 418 times in the

bible. Gates are important to us all, either keeping things in or out, making us safe or trapped? The expression 'gate-keeper' is often used to describe someone in control of access to a place or situation.

Our Christian culture describes St. Peter standing at the 'Pearly Gates' into heaven, deciding who can access the final resting place, usually based on earthly behaviours.

St. Margaret's has a newly repainted gate (thank you Glen) and we don't have any 'gate-keepers'. Instead there is always a welcome and a smile for anyone who would like to walk through them! Join us?



John 20: 19-end On that first Easter Day, Mary Magdalene must have been in a state of utter confusion. Had she really seen her Lord in the garden or was her mind playing tricks? She went anyway to tell the disciples about her experience. Fearful and traumatised, they were hiding behind locked doors when Jesus appeared to them too, except for Thomas who was absent.

When they told Thomas later, he refused to believe until eventually, he saw for himself. Not having literally seen Christ, we can still do so if we look around at the goodness of others, even in this cruel world.

FACT FILE: Easter Facts Many people are perplexed by Easter being a movable feast when Christmas is firmly fixed. In fact, Easter Day can be any date between March 22nd and April 25th. How is this calculated? Easter Sunday always occurs on the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon. What is the Paschal Full Moon? This is specifically the first Sunday following the full Moon that occurs on or after the March or spring equinox. Note that the spring equinox date used by the Christian Church is always March 21 to simplify matters - or you can always Google it!



Acts 4: 32-35 These verses give us a summary of what life was like for the earliest Christian company. Body, mind, and spirit were involved; there was no welfare state to care for the needy and sick. They pooled their resources and gave to those in need. The unity of the church is marvellously portrayed in the words "of one heart and soul". This oneness of mind is more striking in view of the growth of the church and the rapid expansion of the Gospel's influence. On a spiritual level v33 testifies to the effectiveness of their ministry of preaching and witnessing, great grace was upon them.