

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH BOYNE HILL
MAIDENHEAD
PARISH NEWS**

www.allsaintsboynehill.org.uk

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Dear Parishioners and Friends of All Saints, Boyne Hill,

In this first Parish News following the break I was going to reflect upon the Easter celebrations. It was an interesting time and thanks to the preparation of Jeanette and Mike we were able to offer thoughtful services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil all on zoom. We were joined at the vigil by people from The Church of the Good Shepherd and from St Luke's. Thank you to Fr Kevin Scully and Fr Nicholas Cheeseman for their excellent homilies on Good Friday and Maundy Thursday. Thank you too to all of those who contributed by reading and leading prayers.

The other side to Holy Week was the services in the Parish Centre on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and then a full Easter Sunday of services and activities. On Easter Day we were happy to welcome full house of about 30 people at the 10.00am and 11.30am Eucharist and we even sang a hymn in the quadrangle. In the afternoon thanks to Tanya, we celebrated an Easter Egg hunt with about 40 people. Lots of fun was shared as we not only hunted eggs but listened to an Easter Story, shared a fun Easter Quiz and wrote prayers which are still attached to our prayer tree in the Quadrangle. Thank you to everyone who took part and supported the services. We were also pleased to zoom from the parish centre thanks to Simon Fullarton which meant some of you were able to join us on-line.

On Friday of Easter week, we all received the news of the death of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh at the age of 99, just two months short of celebrating his 100th birthday. There has been an amazing outpouring of tributes and I think many of us have learned much of the life of Prince Philip. I have offered the sermon from last Sunday in this week's Parish News for those who were not able to join us. The Duke of Edinburgh was involved in so many areas of public life apart from his amazing support to the Queen. One area I would like to focus on is the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

During the late 1970s I joined Rogerstone Church Youth Club. It was one of the most enjoyable parts of my life growing up. We experienced excellent curates taking us on parish camping and narrow boat holidays as well as regular fun days out to places like Bristol and London and the regular week by week meetings playing snooker and table tennis as well as sharing services. One person stands out from that period who was not a clergyman. Her name with Heather Hansen, a wonderful lady who committed time to the parish life and took meals on wheels to many folk over many years. Heather was a big rugby fan of Newport at Rodney Parade

and loved talking about sport in general to young people. She was the organiser of the Youth Club as the curates tended to focus on sharing the fun side of the events. Heather it was who planned the narrowboat holidays and camping holidays with great detail. She was one of those reliable people who cared for the well-being of young people. Heather for example knew how to erect tents safely, and to steer 70 foot narrow boats without crashing them, going to quickly and causing damage to the banks of the rivers and planning how far we were likely to travel in a given day. I am not sure how any of us would have managed if left to the more relaxed leadership of the curates of the day! It was Heather who introduced a group of us to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award which enable us to flourish as young people.

Heather set up for us, through the Church In Wales, the opportunity to discover new interests and the opportunity to make new friends and take on new challenges. I found my Duke of Edinburgh's award book on the weekend and discovered that in 1980 I took on the service award with the Police at the Gwent Constabulary at Newport. Over a three month period we were taught about Police procedures and at the end were tested on what we had learned. Another area of interest was of course, aside from sport and particularly cricket, serving at church. I was an altar server, member of the choir and young representative of the PCC. It was, though, the expedition that brings back many memories for me. In Heather Hansen's best handwriting I have my expedition listed as 'Foot along Offa's Dyke Path.' We would be walking 30 miles over 3 days in the area of the Black Mountains. The purpose (not sure I had discovered purpose in life before!) was to survey historic buildings on Offa's Dyke. Mr Butcher, the assessor, has commented in my book that I wrote a very interesting account of the buildings. I must have copied my account from somewhere as I cannot remember a thing about the buildings although I do remember parts of the expedition.

The Silver Award Expedition covered preliminary training which included safety precautions, casualty code, map reading, country code and food and cooking. Further training included the use of a compass and camp craft. Now map reading has never been my strong point and it was a huge relief when I discovered that the Santiago Camino has yellow arrows to follow. Whenever they were covered up in Northern Spain by some unhelpful parking by lorry drivers I was in real trouble. In terms of the food and cooking you have to remember that this was before I had left home and purchased Delia Smith's 'Cooking for One'. When Mr Butcher, our assessor, visited our youth club to look at the contents of my rucksack ready for one of our practice walks he was horrified at my salted peanuts rather than plain nuts and raisins! "Boy, they are not healthy and you will be thirsty!". Today I would have asked him about salt loss through the challenging walk! Mr Butcher took his assessment very seriously. I recall walking in relaxed fashion through country lanes chatting to one of my fellow walkers, but we were on the wrong side of the road. Mr Butcher jumped out from behind a hedge and pointed out our error. "Boy you are walking with your back to the traffic, you need to be able to see oncoming vehicles!" I have never forgotten this as I have walked hundreds of miles to Walsingham and through Northern Spain and Portugal.

It was the camp craft that really took a toll on me and my friend, Philip Hawkins, whose father was the deputy headmaster of Bassaleg Comprehensive School and taught us the map reading. Philip was a super chap and very intelligent and went on to become a dentist. The night of our camping in the Black Mountains, however, was not one of our best efforts of our Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. The girls were allowed to stay in the youth hostel and indeed only had to walk 15 miles not 30 (Heather made them walk the same distance however). Phil and yours truly set up our tent on the side of the mountain. The freezing gale force wind blew up under our tent and we resorted to covering our heads with our bobble hats! Mr Butcher was nowhere in sight to criticise our Camp craft as he was safely snuggled up drinking hot chocolate at home, no doubt! Anyway, we all passed, and, I guess, grew through the experience. Mr Butcher was very complimentary writing that our team was 'Lively'. I had hoped it read 'Lovely' but no, it is lively.

Despite my memories it was a wonderful experience in a young person's life. I have gone on to follow a vocation in the Church serving God, I have enjoyed taking on rather long walks, I love sport and have largely (so far) kept on the right side of the police!

Thank you, Heather, but also His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh for encouraging young people to 'discover fresh interests and make new friends, and find satisfaction in serving others.' It certainly did help, I think, increase my knowledge of myself and would lead to me discover a little about my future vocation.

Let us give thanks to The Duke of Edinburgh for his service to the Queen as her strength and stay and to the country and Commonwealth, for his interest in conservation, his support of all kinds of charities, his interest in science and industry, his love of sport (he was patron to 20 cricket organisations) and his deep Christian faith. It is perhaps to his support of the idea of his former headmaster at Gordonstoun, Kurt Hahn, that I will hold my personal appreciation of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

This is the sermon I preached last Sunday in thanksgiving for the Life of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh:

Doubting Thomas, a week after the other disciples, sees the Risen Lord. He responds with the words, 'My Lord and my God.' He sees Jesus as a friend and as God his Saviour. Jesus says, 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Two people who believed and offered service, duty and loyalty to this country, the Commonwealth and the world over 69 years are Queen Elizabeth and His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Prince Philip who on Friday died at the age of 99 and who Prince Charles spoke of yesterday as his 'dear Pa Pa who will be missed enormously by his family and by so many from this country and from around the world.' The Duke of Edinburgh served Queen, Country and Commonwealth following their marriage in 1947 and the Coronation in 1953 when 20,000,000 watched television sets to see the service from Westminster Abbey. The Queen made vows to serve her people in all her actions, with all her heart and all of her mind. She asked that she would be devoted to God's service and would need the support of her people. The first person following the Bishops, to pledge loyalty to the Queen was Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh.

The Duke of Edinburgh was the longest serving consort in British history who put his Naval career aside to become as The Queen described at their Golden Wedding Anniversary 'My strength and stay.' The Duke of Edinburgh's support to the Queen during 73 years of Christian marriage and nearly 70 years as consort was remarkable and has helped the Queen in her resilience and sense of duty.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said yesterday on the BBC that Jesus said 'If anyone would be my disciple, he must take up his cross and follow me. Philip did this said Justin Welby by following Christ and the Queen. The Archbishop went on to say 'that this is Eastertime, a time when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is not the end and in remembering Philip we celebrate a life well lived, who died well.'

The Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, spoke emotionally yesterday and said, 'His presence (The Duke of Edinburgh) has been a reassurance, a reminder of the stability we so often need to a world that can be so uncertain.'

His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh as well as being a 'Strength and stay' to the Queen and indeed to this country and the Commonwealth also contributed significantly within a number of areas of life that are crucial at anytime in history but perhaps even more so during the Pandemic.

1. The Environment – Prince Philip became a conservationist before it became fashionable. One of his great passions in life was wildlife and he became International President to the Worldwide Fund for Nature. On its 25th anniversary he arranged for it to be held in Assisi the home of St Francis, patron Saint of birds and animals to forge a permanent alliance between conservation and religion. Philip said about man's relationship to the natural world (Which finds echo's in what James Martin has shared with us as a Jesuit view of praying through nature) 'if God in is in nature, nature itself becomes divine, and from that point it becomes reasonable to argue that reverence for God and for nature implies a responsibility not to harm it, not just for our own selfish interests, but also as a duty to a creator.'
2. Young people – At a time when we need to support young people all the more, we find inspiration from the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme set up in 1956. The creator was Kurt Hahn, Philip's headmaster at Gordonstoun school and was viewed as a way of complimenting academic study. The award is now operating in 141 countries and more than two and half million young people have received awards in the UK alone. I found my personal 'Duke of Edinburgh's Award record Book' for the silver award. It has written inside the words of the Duke of Edinburgh.

'I hope that in taking part in the award scheme you will discover fresh interests and make new friends, and find satisfaction in giving service to others.

There are so many worthwhile activities from which you can make a choice and I hope that those which you decide to do will give you pleasure and increase your knowledge of the world and of yourself.'

The award enabled young people to discover new skills and interests and to make friends. My own book which I discovered over the weekend shows Police service, an expedition in the Black Mountains and a survey of historic buildings on Offers Dyke as well as service to the church of St John's in Rogerstone, South Wales. So many people have been speaking on radio and television about their positive experiences of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. One man interviewed on BBC1 on the day of Philip's death said that the award saved his life not just changed it. He had been serving time in prison when offered the chance to partake in the award and he is now a chef.

3. Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh's faith – Philip supported clergy that had been struggling with fatigue in ministry, but he also possessed a committed faith in terms of his knowledge of the scriptures and his thoughtful questions of faith. Both John Sentamu and Justin Welby spoke of experiences when they had preached in front of Philip and he had asked deep and thought-provoking questions to their texts. 'You had to be on your top game', said Welby.

Let us return to Thomas. In chapter 11 of John's gospel Jesus is called to return to the dangers of Bethany near to Jerusalem to help Martha, Mary and Lazarus. Thomas is frightened, but loyal and says, 'let us also go that we may die with him.' Note that the other disciples have said 'Lord if he has fallen asleep, he will be alright.' Fearing that they are entering danger by returning.

The second time Thomas is with the other disciples and Jesus in the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday at the Last Supper. Thomas asks the piercing questions of faith. 'Lord we do not know where you are going how will we know the way?' This gives Jesus the opportunity to reply 'I am the way, the truth and the life, he who follows me will know the way to the Kingdom.'

The third occasion we hear of Thomas is at the time when he was not present at the resurrection of Jesus. In my humble opinion he desires what the other disciples have experienced. A week later and Jesus does appear, and Thomas says 'My Lord and My God, yes he sees his friend and he sees his God. Let us pray that the loyal, supportive, deep thinker, the questioner and the man who had deep faith, His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh sees his Lord and God, his friend and God.

As we think of the Queen having lost her husband of 73 years, we return to Scott Morrison the Australian Prime Minister. 'You will find comfort in your faith and through your family. But we also, Your Majesty, say to you as a Commonwealth, let us also now be your strength and stay, as you continue to endure, as you continue to serve so loyally and so faithfully, as you have done so over so many generations.'

In the Name of the Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen

Au Revoir to the Firth Family

This week we said goodbye to Deborah, Matthew and Mark Firth as they moved to a new home in Tilehurst. We give thanks for their contribution, along with Mary, to life as part of the community of All Saints over many years including choir, Messy Church, Art Courses and Rock Shop to name just a few areas of ministry. We look forward, though, to keeping contact with them especially through Matthew's successful art courses and through Deborah continuing her role at Boyne Hill School.

Matt & Debs would also like to thank everyone who sent messages of love and prayers to the family when Mark was missing recently. They really appreciated everyone's kindness and are delighted to report that Mark is now home, safe and well.

RESOURCES THIS WEEK

Thursday 15 April 10.30am Coffee Morning on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81404382998?pwd=Wkp0SmY3MGxhNFdHSTRJNTRWSDkvdz09>

Meeting ID: 814 0438 2998

Passcode: 466266

All you need is a cup of coffee or tea and perhaps a biscuit or two. Then feel free to share a conversation.

8.00pm Night Prayer on Zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/75976544021?pwd=Q1pJVtIpTytOdHg0VXhSRGxWRzIzZz09>

Meeting ID: 759 7654 4021

Password: 5rHziv

Psalm 34, Mark 4: 35-end Hymn: Jesus Lives, thy Terrors Now

Sunday 18 April 9.30am Morning Prayer on Zoom (note earlier time and new link)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87434475947?pwd=ZlJWOU9RZlFNaTVoYXZpYUR4Lzd1>

Meeting ID: 874 3447 5947

Passcode: 783477

11.00am Eucharist in the Parish Centre.

We will follow this pattern for the rest of this month to see if this proves helpful to people. No need to book.

Monday 19 April 7.30pm Prayer Group on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85011600714?pwd=Y0x2VWpMQ3JFUStsQ0plbEFLOEQrQT09>

Meeting ID: 850 1160 0714

Passcode: 553120

This group, following the example of our successful 'Church on the Move' from a decade ago, focusses on an area of mission that we would like to pray for. If you have anyone you would like us to pray for please let Fr Jeremy know.

Wednesday 20 April 10.00am Eucharist in the Parish Centre

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Diocesan Link for the Eucharist please see the front page of our website. The Diocesan resources can be found without internet on 01865 920930.

In this week of mourning:

Eternal God, our heavenly Father, we bless your holy name for all that you have given us in and through the life of Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

We give you thanks:

For his long and full life;

For his strength of character;

And for his devotion and service to family, nation and Commonwealth.

We praise you for:

His generosity;

The many contributions he made to our national life;

And the encouragement he gave to so many, especially the young.

Amen

We pray for all those who have lost their lives during the pandemic. We remember too all those who have served us on the frontline. We continue to hold in our prayer those living with the impact of the virus physically and mentally. We pray this Eastertide for hope as Britain begins its slow and careful move out of Lockdown.

We hold in our prayers George Hutchison, Mandy Rogers, Danielle, Nick, Fr John, Sister Mary Philip, Roger Baldery and Mark. We pray too for John Bolodeoku's family and for Louise O'Dwyer Bernard's family.

We pray for the recently departed among them His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Kelly Bellman, Olufemi Bolodeoku and Joyce Glover. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

As we think about Prince Philip and his concern for nature we turn again to Charlie Mackesy as the boy, the fox and the mole look out on creation 'So much beauty we need to look after.'

May you all be blessed by God's love this week.

Fr Jeremy

Worship for SUNDAY 18 APRIL THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sounds of Worship

Brian Graves

After His resurrection, Jesus appears with his disciples several times, each time the enormity of what they have experienced together sinks-in. In today's Gospel we are told that when Jesus appears the disciples are startled and terrified and it is only after Jesus has shown his scars and eaten some food that they are convinced he has appeared in the flesh, and they are at ease. This is the opportunity for Jesus to show them that he is the fulfilment of the scriptures and they are his key witnesses. Jesus instructs them to stay in Jerusalem to receive the power of the Spirit (more anon) before they start their ministry on earth.

Today's hymns reflect on the power of the resurrection and the importance of Jerusalem as the locus of Jesus' mission. The first hymn is "This joyful Eastertide" AM 219 words by George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848 – 934) set to Vreuchten a Melody from *David's Psalmen*, Amsterdam. 1685, harmonised by Charles Wood (1866 – 1926).

This short hymn, or rather carol, captures the spirit of joy of the resurrection. Woodward uses archaic language but it has rhythmic and poetic energy. Especially in the refrain and the repetition of the word 'arisen'. It is coupled with an ancient tune but the way in which the melody rises in pitch on each repetition of the word 'arisen' makes this a very effective marriage of words and music in the spirit of what we now come to associate with a carol.

Woodward was an English Anglican priest who wrote mostly religious verse, both original and translated from ancient authors. The best-known of these were written to fit traditional melodies, mainly dating from before 1650. He sometimes harmonised these melodies himself, but usually left this to his frequent collaborator, composer Charles Wood.

In 1874 Woodward was ordained deacon by the Bishop of London, to serve as Assistant Curate at St Barnabas, Pimlico. In September 1882 he moved to St Mary and All Saints, Little Walsingham with Houghton St Giles, in Norfolk. Woodward played the cello, and the euphonium, sometimes in procession. Other hobbies included bellringing and beekeeping. He also published and printed booklets of his own verse.

In 1893, Woodward published *Carols for Christmas-Tide, Series II* after which came *Carols for Easter and Ascension-tide* in 1894, which included "This joyful Eastertide".

Woodward continued his interests in carols and plainsong. In 1897 he published *Hymns and Carols for Christmas-tide*, and in 1898 produced *Legends of the Saints*, and then in 1902 and 1903 *The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus and Poemata*. In 1899 Woodward focussed his time on editing the *Cowley Carol Book*. More carol collections were published during the course of the next 20 years.

In 1924, Woodward and Wood published *A Cambridge Carol Book: Being Fifty-two Songs for Christmas, Easter and Other Seasons*. It included the well-known carol "Ding Dong Merrily on High" clearly a reflection of his bell-ringing interests and has the distinction to be a Christmas carol without even mentioning a specific Christmas theme! Such is the versatility of the carol.

1. This joyful Eastertide,
away with sin and sorrow.
My Love, the Crucified,
hath sprung to life this morrow:

*Had Christ, who once was slain,
ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain:
but now hath Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.*

2. My flesh in hope shall rest,
and for a season slumber:
till trump from east to west
shall wake the dead in number:

3. Death's flood hath lost its chill,
since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver:

This Joyful Eastertide AM 219: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7TFuqp97cs>

The second hymn puts the focus on Jerusalem as the epi-centre of the passion and resurrection. It is "Ye choirs of new Jerusalem" AM 221 words are a translation of *Chorus novæ Jerusalem* by St Fulbert of Chartres (d 1028) translated by Robert Campbell (1814 – 1868) set to the tune St Fulbert by Henry John Gauntlett (1805 - 1876).

The original Latin hymn is written in iambic dimeter, with lines of 8 syllables each in quatrains with an a-a-b-b rhyme scheme. The version we use is based on the translation of Robert Campbell, which is in the shorter common metre. There is a translation by John Mason Neale which is in the original long metre which better reflects the original and shows that Campbell's version, as retouched in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* and later hymnals, is a "Victorian creation".

The first verse begins with an invitation to sing. It refers to the "New Jerusalem" of Revelation 21:2 and uses "Paschal victory" instead of the more frequent "paschal victim" (*victimae paschali*). The second verse describes Jesus as the Lion of Judah of the Old Testament and the fulfilment of the promise of Genesis 3:15, although the medieval text more probably had the idea of the harrowing of Hell in mind, an idea also present in verse three. The fourth and fifth verses invite the believer to worship the triumphant Christ. The final doxology verse was added by the editors of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*.

Henry John Gauntlett originally embarked on a career as a lawyer until he was almost forty years of age, when he abandoned the profession and devoted himself to music.

He was organist at a number of leading London churches, including St Olave's in Tooley Street, Southwark from 1827 to 1846 and Union Chapel, Islington from 1852 - 1861.

Eventually he became the first person in over 200 years to receive the degree of Mus. Doc. from the Archbishop of Canterbury. Gauntlett raised standards of church music and was an inventor of an electrical action system for organs and received a patent for his invention in 1852. He wrote much music, including over 1,000 hymn tunes, and edited many hymn books. His most famous tune is "Irby", which is set to the Christmas carol, "Once in Royal David's City".

Original Latin text

Chorus novae Ierusalem
 hymni novam dulcedinem
 promat, colens cum sobriis
 paschale festum gaudiis.

Quo Christus invictus leo,
 dracone surgens obruto,
 dum voce viva personat,
 a morte functos excitat.

Quam devorarat improbus,
 praedam refundit tartarus;
 captivitate libera
 Iesum sequuntur agmina.

Triumphat ille splendide
 ex dignus amplitudine,
 soli polique patriam
 unam facit rem publicam.

Ipsam canendo supplices
 Regem precemur milites,
 ut in suo clarissimo
 nos ordinet palatio.

Iesu, tibi sit gloria,
 qui morte victa praenites,
 cum Patre et almo Spiritu,
 in sempiterna saecula.

Translation by J. M. Neale

Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem!
 To sweet new strains attune your theme;
 The while we keep, from care releas'd,
 With sober joy our Paschal Feast:

When Christ, Who spake the Dragon's doom,
 Rose, Victor-Lion, from the Tomb:
 That while with living voice He cries,
 The dead of other years might rise.

Engorg'd in former years, their prey
 Must Death and Hell restore to-day:
 And many a captive soul, set free,
 With Jesus leaves captivity.

Right gloriously He triumphs now,
 Worthy to Whom should all things bow;
 And, joining heaven and earth again,
 Links in one commonweal the twain.

And we, as these His deeds we sing,
 His suppliant soldiers, pray our King,
 That in His Palace, bright and vast,
 We may keep watch and ward at last.

Long as unending ages run,
 To God the Father laud be done;
 To God the Son our equal praise,
 And God the Holy Ghost, we raise.

Translation by Robert Campbell

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
 your sweetest notes employ,
 the Paschal victory to hymn
 in strains of holy joy.

For Judah's Lion burst his chains,
 and crushed the serpent's head;
 and brought with him, from death's domains,
 the long-imprisoned dead.

From hell's devouring jaws the prey
 alone our leader bore;
 his ransomed hosts pursue their way
 where he hath gone before.

Triumphant in his glory now
 his sceptre ruleth all:
 earth, heaven and hell before him bow,
 and at his footstool fall.

While joyful thus his praise we sing,
 his mercy we implore,
 into his palace bright to bring,
 and keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,
 all glory to the Son,
 all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
 while endless ages run.

Alleluia! Amen

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem AM 221:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKVQ8JUZWJU>

COLLECT

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever. Amen.

FIRST READING Acts 3: 12 – 19

Peter addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what

he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.'

GOSPEL Luke 24: 36b - 48

While the eleven and their companions were talking about what they had heard, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'

QUENCH CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP HAS REOPENED: Monday to Saturday 11.00am – 4.00pm

Please support them if you can; they have an excellent selection of cards and gifts for all occasions as well as the books.

RNIB April Quiz attached

A just for fun quiz: answers next week.

Don't forget Christian Aid Week: 10th - 16th May

FOODSHARE NEEDS are in the Maidenhead Advertiser each week.

REFLECTION by Greg Hurst

For a moment, I nodded off. I had walked back from church on Easter Sunday to be confronted by all the multiple tasks needed to put together a family roast. In truth, my skills were rusty from lack of practice. I battled with roast potatoes sticking to the base of a newly acquired roasting tin. I had to put the lamb back into the oven for another ten-minute blast to make sure it was cooked properly right through. I was still juggling with the gravy at the last minute.

So when it was all done, and we sat in the garden sipping coffee and enjoying our family reunion, I allowed myself to close my eyes briefly and enjoy the warmth of the sunshine. My mind travelled to our plans for future outdoor entertaining and, the following week, pub gardens reopening. It felt like the cusp of summer.

It was not to last. The next day our guests trooped through our side gate into the garden clad in overcoats, woollen hats and scarves. I hope they enjoyed our company but after a while they jumped up, shivering, and took their leave.

The day after that we called in on my mother-in-law and went for a walk by the River Thames. It was bright and clear but with an icy wind. On driving back, we noticed odd flurries of sleet or snow. There was a sharp frost overnight. Entertaining and socialising outdoors is a wonderful thing.

But let's hope it gets just a little warmer, too.