



20 April 2022

Dear Friends,

“Happy Easter” is a wonderful greeting, promising new life, fresh beginnings and renewal. “Christ is risen - he is risen indeed” is a beautiful way of turning that greeting into an exchange: I say one part, you respond. We are joined in our resurrection faith. Now is the time to let go of a Lenten discipline, to see how our lives may have changed and been transformed by God’s grace. So the Easter season (from Easter Day itself until Ascension Day) is a time of achievement, transition and hope.

The emphasis of this season has changed over the centuries. The most important thing to note about the earliest Christians is that, although they knew that Jesus had risen, there was still a lot of uncertainty about what that meant. Look at all the main Easter stories in the Gospels: there is an underlying theme of ‘something has begun, but we’re not quite sure what it is’! On the road to Emmaus, the disciples did not recognise Jesus at first. At the empty tomb, Peter and John were not quite sure what they saw. Even in the garden, Mary at first did not recognise the gardener/Jesus. So, it is perfectly reasonable to enjoy Easter without being able to name clearly what or why.

Over the next few hundred years, Christians became more confident in speaking about Jesus rising from the dead, and returning to his seat of glory in heaven. Jesus was the pioneer of a new way. The great saints and martyrs were expected to follow him immediately to the glory of heaven, whereas “ordinary Christians” expected to lie in the grave until ‘the end of time’. Only then, when God brought all things together, would the likes of you and me be resurrected to join Jesus in heaven. In this way of telling the story, we are not considered to be unworthy or second-rate; it’s just that only a few go to heaven straight away - the remainder follow after the sleep of death.

As the church’s teaching developed, a new emphasis was placed on what happened to mortals, while they waited for heaven. The doctrine of purgatory emerged, with a description that we need to be purified first, in preparation for our entry into heaven later. I remain deeply sceptical about that doctrine. There has always been concern about it, and the reformation was partly fought to overturn some of the consequences of that belief.

Nowadays, there are so many different approaches to how we visualise death, what happens after death, and what might follow at “the end of time”. There is no picture in our own generation that commands universal acceptance. Anyway, I am cautious about imposing my preferred view on to anyone, whose experience may require a different telling of the Christian faith. That said, I do value two aspects of the story as told by the early Church: that death is an ending, and that death is not the final end.

At death, language of ‘being at peace’, or ‘resting from our labours’, or ‘being freed from trouble and harm’ makes sense. Bad times are over, duties are completed, we have run our course and now we rely on the value of each day we have lived. Reincarnation, to my eyes, belittles the value of our one wild precious life (as the poet calls it). Life does not simply go on and on for ever - value ebbs away if each day can be repeated ad infinitum. Having said that, I strongly believe that a good God remembers, preserves and treasures for ever all that has been valuable. When I take a funeral and hear about the wonderful ways that the dead person created value, love and care, I cannot imagine that a good God will simply let that all go, to disappear for ever. I don’t know how - but I do believe that God holds all that is precious, together, for ever.

Perhaps, this is a return to what the Early Church taught: a life well lived is of enormous value; at the end of a life, celebrate it, give thanks and let the person rest in peace. She/he is gone, but not forgotten – out of sight, but never out of God’s mind. Heaven is an attempt to express the unimaginable: that God will gather up all the pieces, all the goodness, kindness, courage, sacrifice and more – and that these moments, and the people who created them, will be reunited.

All shall be well, and all shall be well,
and all manner of things shall be well.

- Robert

Rector's footnotes



Palm Sunday

I am saddened to report the death of three people, each of whom loved this parish and contributed to it in different ways: Jonathan Mackie, Graham Gibson, Colin Semper. Jonathan and all his family were great supporters of the choir for many years. Graham sang in the choir, as well as helping raise grants for the major appeal that enabled us to renovate and repaint Holy Trinity a few years ago. Colin was curate in the parish in the 1970s, also working for the BBC. May they each rest in peace, and rise in glory.

The Clergy Team

Welcome back to Jonathan who will be returning following his recent sabbatical!
This week, Rod will be in Wyke and Tom will be in Godalming.

Slides for our online worship

From this Sunday forwards, the slides for morning worship (that are provided for those watching on YouTube) will contain the words of the hymns only. Please be in touch with the office if you want a copy of the Order of Service, on-line or on paper.

Confirmation

We were very proud of our young people at the Cathedral on Saturday evening. They represented themselves and the parish with maturity and dignity and we welcomed them, newly Confirmed, at Holy Trinity on Easter Day.

Confirmation is such a special event in our parish life and we look forward to further learning and discussion with them as they continue their spiritual journey after tonight.



A day to remember.

I found it hard to believe when I was invited to receive a gift of Maundy Money, to be distributed in St George's Chapel, Windsor, on Thursday in Holy Week. Of course, I was thrilled to accept.

Venetia and I were both bowled over by the warmth and friendliness of the Castle staff; from the warder in his black frock coat with scarlet lapels and cuffs, offering to take our photo as we emerged from a luxurious 'royal' minibus - to the jolly General (one of the 13 Military Knights of Windsor) who entertained us during a reception in St George's Hall. During the service, each Recipient was presented with two purses, one red and one white. The red one contained a £5 coin and a 50p coin, both commemorating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Historically, this sum of £5.50 is made up of £3 for clothing, £1.50 in lieu of provisions and £1 'in redemption' for a piece of the Sovereign's gown which, before Tudor times, used to be cut up and shared between the Recipients. The white purse contained uniquely minted silver Maundy Money in one, two, three and fourpenny pieces, totalling 96 pence, one penny for each year of the Monarch's age. Prince Charles's sincerity was clear, as he pressed the purses into my hand and said 'This is a gift from the Queen to express her gratitude for all that you are doing.' In reality, of course, this honour must be shared with colleagues in the Pastoral Care Team at HTSM, and the Hearing Champions as well.

The music was magnificent, and reassuringly familiar, sung by the choir of St George's plus choristers from the Chapel Royal. Before the service the Bishop of Worcester greeted the Recipients (one man and one woman for



each of the Queen's 96 years). He told us that, not so long ago, a lady had given the Queen a pot of marmalade in return for her Maundy Money, and assured us that this was not strictly necessary. A small 'herd' of Beefeaters guarded Prince Charles as he handed out the purses, and six children carried posies of spring flowers to protect his Royal Highness from the smell of the crowd. Again – not strictly necessary. Truly a day to remember. I am so grateful.

Roger Howes

Sunday Worship • 24th April 2022

HOLY TRINITY

[10am Sung Eucharist](#)

[Sermon by Jonathan Hedgecock](#)

Acts 5.27-32; Revelation 1.4-8; John
20.19-31

[6pm Choral Evensong](#)

Preacher Tom Pote

[CLICK ON THE TITLE OF THE
SERVICE FOR LINKS TO ZOOM
AND YOUTUBE](#)

[INSTRUCTIONS CAN BE FOUND
HERE](#)

ST MARY'S

[8am BCP Holy Communion](#)

[Led by Robert Cotton](#)

[10:30am Morning Worship](#)

[Led by Barry Tabraham](#)

1 Corinthians 15: 12-22; John 20: 19-31

[Midweek Holy Communion •](#)

[Wednesdays • 12 noon](#)

(except the 2nd Wednesday of the month)

[SERVICE SHEETS CAN BE
FOUND ONLINE HERE](#)

[Daily Morning Prayer on Zoom 8.30am \(9.30 Saturday\)](#)

Notice, events and reminders

The next Parish Walk will be on **Saturday 23rd April** in the Wotton area. Please let the Parish Office know if you would like more details.

Hart Male Voice Choir will be performing on the **Saturday 23rd April**. Tickets can be found online.

There will be a Concert for Ukraine this **Sunday 24th April** at Holy Trinity Church at 2.30pm. Please click on the link for more details.

Trinity Club will be on the **26th April** where Ian Hay-Campbell will lead the illustrated talk on Some Diplomatic Byways from 10.30am at 12 noon at St Mary's Church.

There will be NO vigil for Ukraine at St. Mary's this Friday. This will resume on the **29th April**.

The next Churchyard gardening party will be on **Saturday 30th April** from 9.30 to midday. Please do come along. No gardening skills required, just a willing heart. Do bring gardening gloves.

Plant and Book Sale Saturday **7th May 2022** 10am – 3pm Holy Trinity church. Please would you consider sowing a few extra seeds or potting up some perennials to sell on the day. All donations will be welcome!



Holy Trinity
Church

Bonny at Morn

A short selection of songs by women composers to celebrate May-Day, from the girl choristers of Holy Trinity, Guildford

Sunday 1st May, 11.30am
Holy Trinity Church, Guildford | Free entry



**Coffee
&
Cake
at
St. Mary's**

10.30 – 12 noon
– an opportunity to meet up with friends

Thursday 28 April:
Keith and Hilary Beckingham
will be telling us about
community projects in Rwanda
they've been supporting for some years
and visited from their previous church

Everyone welcome




Volunteers Wanted

Chit Chat needs more volunteers to help facilitate English Conversation with people living in Guildford whose first language isn't English. We meet at St Mary's Church, Quarry Street on Wednesday mornings in termtime from 9.30-11am. We sit at tables with 2 hosts and 4 guests and have a prepared topic to start the conversation. We do not teach but encourage guests to practise their English. Although some volunteers help weekly, others help fortnightly or monthly.

Guest numbers have been steadily increasing since we started meeting in person again last September. Many are recent arrivals from Hong Kong, but we also have refugees from other countries and people who have chosen to work and live in the UK. We do not yet know what needs the Ukrainian arrivals will have. It is a privilege to bring the love of God to these people, but it is also good fun and fascinating to learn about their lives.

If you would like more information, please contact either

Jane Hedgecock email jane.hedgecock@yahoo.co.uk

or **Susan Snashall** email snashallsusan@gmail.com

text 07770 921602 or phone 01483 571615

