

**The United Benefice of the parishes of Melbourne,  
Smisby, Stanton by Bridge and Ticknall**



# **The Easter Bulletin**

*A weekly publication for the Benefice*

**12<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Easter Day**

**Join us for livestreamed worship on our Facebook page  
(Melbourne Parish Church) Sunday at 10.30 am!**



**Alleluia. Christ is risen  
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!!**

A poem written by W H Vanstone, an inner-city priest in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, reflecting on the role of Joseph of Arimathea who had known Jesus, taken down his body from the cross and laid it in his own new garden tomb:

“He’s gone,’ says Joseph: and, with Pilate’s leave,  
Eases the nails and lowers him from the tree,  
Wraps him in reverent and tender thoughts  
And lays him in the cave called Memory.

That cave is deeply hewn in Joseph’s heart:  
All that’s within will always be his own:  
In memory’s cave the treasure of his past  
Is safe for ever, walled and sealed by stone.

'He's safe,' says Joseph, 'safe in this cool place,  
And no one now can take my Lord away:  
In years to come I'll still see his dear face  
As clearly as I saw it yesterday.'

'He's gone,' cries Joseph later, in despair.  
But Mary says, He's left this word for you:  
He cannot rest content to be your past –  
So he has risen, to be your future too.'

Over these past weeks (and no doubt some way into the future) we have probably shared some of the emotions of the Joseph portrayed in the poem above. We grieve the loss of many things knowing that, with most of our losses, they are an investment in all our futures.

The resurrection of Jesus changed the lives of that small, rag-tag bunch of disciples. So much so, many were willing to give their lives because of the knowledge and truth they experienced.

We remain ever aware and ever thankful of the sacrifices so many are making on our behalf. Through sacrifices present and past, Easter teaches us again and again that we are allowed to be a people of hope – even when we are separated from one another. Sometimes, yes, we need others to hope for us and that is ok.

We are a family of faith made one by the power of the Holy Spirit – part of the church eternal and temporal, the church gathered and dispersed. We do indeed pray that we may soon be gathered together under the one roof (and what a celebration that will be! Hold on to that thought and vision) and, until then, we are still united in the resurrection joy that death and sin have been conquered and the eternal gift of heaven is both yours and mine to know here and now, at all times and in all places.

May God bless you, this Easter and always. Alleluia!

-Steve

### **Canon David K Edwards – Lent Course 2020**

The Lent Course is based around Bp. Stephen Cottrell's book '*I Thirst: The Cross – The great triumph of love*,' published by Hodder and Stoughton (ISBN 978 1 529 36092 9).

#### **So here are some thoughts about Chapter 6 – Living waters**

Yes, I know we are in Holy Week but what Stephen Cottrell says in this chapter is pertinent to the things we are thinking about during this time.

We live in a society which for years hasn't really had to deal with the realities of death at first hand. Most people die in hospital or care homes, a situation that my grandparents, born some years before the end of Victoria's reign,

might have found distinctly odd. But with Covid-19 we are suddenly made aware of the realities of it. The mounting death toll given out each day at news conferences, the pictures of exhausted medical and care staff, the entreaties to stay at home to save someone's (maybe your) life, and pictures of the stark reality of a Covid-19 funeral, are foremost in our minds.

That came home to me as I was starting to write this piece. An email from the brother of a friend of more than 50 years told me that Peter, now resident in a care home, may be suffering from Covid-19. The home is waiting for a doctor's diagnosis, but it doesn't look good. His brothers have had to consider what to do – should they request resuscitation or allow him to slip away? They have concluded that they will let him go unless they can be assured that he will have a good quality of life.

They, at least, have a strong Catholic faith that gives them hope even at such a bitter time. But what of those people who have no faith, no understanding of the power of God at work in their lives, no hope that there is anything more? "Is that it?" must be their question.

Stephen Cottrell says that the death of Jesus brings a terrible emptiness into the lives of those who have followed him so closely and so faithfully. They are left desolate; they have seen how stoically he accepts torture and death on the cross, but in the end they drift away. Had it all been for nothing? "Is that it?" might have been their question too.

For this particular week the thoughts of Christians are directed to the events of Jesus' life that will lead to his arrest, torture and death. It is the bleakest time in the church calendar and the bleakest day of all comes between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. It has come to be called Holy Saturday, but with the interior of the church building stripped back to its bare bones and Christ no longer risen but entombed, it is a sombre day. On this day there will be no celebration of Holy Communion.

John portrays this sense of bleakness in his gospel but then lets this lead us into the joy of the Resurrection. Stephen Cottrell comments on the paradox that presents us with; in spite of everything that has happened hope springs from the dead Christ.

Long ago when I worked in the Leicester Diocese, I took a party of teenagers round the Cathedral. In spite of Religious Education being part of their education, they seemed to have very little understanding of some of the basics of Christian belief. 'Why are there crosses in this building? Why is there a skull at the bottom of that cross? Why is that man hanging there?' The cross has been such an icon of Christianity for so long that we think it has always been there and will be understood. But in reality, in the earliest days of Christianity people used the fish as a symbol of their faith. Stephen Cottrell says that in any case that the cross is an odd symbol to choose, given that it is associated with torture and death; but the Resurrection gives a new perspective to it – it becomes a symbol of hope that the love of God transcends even death.

It is that sense of hope in a bleak world that Jesus gives to the Samaritan woman at the well, when he asks her to draw him some water and then

debates faith with her. He treats her in a manner that would have shocked her own people and the Jews. But then Jesus is a peacemaker, he brings people together.

And the truth of that encounter is that in talking to her about faith he starts where she is rather than where he thinks she ought to be. Jesus is telling her the good news about God that he shares with everyone; he is engaging in evangelism. Evangelism is something the church and Christians know we should practise but we don't find it easy. Speaking to someone about our faith may be okay in a church context but what about when we are away from the comfort zone.

What images does the word evangelism bring to mind? Rather intense, embarrassing even, people preaching and praying loudly in the streets? There was often someone like that standing by the Guildhall Market when I worked in Derby Church House. The walks of witness on a Good Friday? The parish magazine or bulletin pushed through the letterbox? Evangelism is an awkward and threatening word for many people; yet the lesson from Jesus is to start the conversation where people are now and to let evangelism grow naturally from this.

So why don't Christians find evangelism at all easy? What stops them? The hard truth is that many of us have very little knowledge and understanding of Christianity. Maybe we have done little studying of it since scripture lessons in school, Sunday School, confirmation classes, the occasional attendance at Bible study or Lent courses. There is a challenge here to the church to help its people understand and think deeply about what they believe and how they can share this with others. Because the word 'disciple' doesn't just mean a follower; disciple comes from the Latin word *discipulus* which means a student. A disciple should be someone who studies, a disciple should be active in their faith.

Perhaps, says Stephen Cottrell, the biggest surprise in the gospels isn't the Resurrection at all, momentous though this was, but the fact that Jesus entrusts his work, the life of the future church, to the fallible men and women who have followed him. They aren't, as far as we are aware, scholars, theologians, people with academic qualifications; rather they are fishermen, tax gatherers, even a rebel or two. Just ordinary people who were drawn to this extraordinary man. Yet it worked; the teachings of Jesus survive beyond the Ascension, survived war and turmoil across the centuries. Survived the anti-clericalism of the French Revolution and the stagnation of the Anglican Church in the eighteenth century.

So, the challenge of the Resurrection, the good news of Jesus Christ, is that we as Christians should share this with others. Which prompts the question for me, will the church be changed by Covid-19? Will people return to church after the crisis is over or will some have been so challenged by the destruction wrought by it that they have a crisis of faith? Has the church been damaged by locking up its buildings and removing the ability to spend quiet time in a sacred space for many people?

There will be no easy answers and I am quite certain we will have to work

hard and maybe learn to change what we offer. Learn the lesson from Jesus that we have to start where people are and with what they need, rather than what we think they want. Maybe we will have to abandon the old cherished ways of doing things to become a dynamic and living church in a post-viral era. Who knows; my imagination can barely cope with this. The picture is patchy, unformed, unclear but we need to work together with love to look forward in faith. We have to stop hiding in our comfort zones and meet God's challenge to bring the good news to a world that feels very dark at the moment.

**Here is a link from Laurence Rogers:**

It's a lovely YouTube recording of Kings' College Choir, Cambridge:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPR\\_UqjCnfw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPR_UqjCnfw)

**A message from Jane Dalton:**

Dear Steve, Rachel and family,

I managed to get the service today, and wanted to send my thanks. It was very precious to feel part of a shared worship after two weeks, and the post communion descant was lovely. Thank you, Sophie. I was clutching a real Palm Sunday cross which Philip Boshier brought yesterday in an envelope with a Holy Week booklet, a pebble (used on Good Friday when placed on palm cross before being rolled away on Easter Day, a candle to be lit on Easter Day, and a Cadburys egg to be eaten on Easter Day!). I have abstained from chocolate as part of my Lent observance so that is very welcome.

I hope you are all well and that the joys of Easter continue to carry us through. God Bless, *Jane*

**A message from Calcutta Cathedra Relief Services:**

**COVID-19 Crisis: Urgent Appeal:**

The Government lockdown in India, aimed at mitigating the spread of coronavirus, will have a devastating effect on those living in poverty in Kolkata's slums and the surrounding rural districts. Most people live from hand to mouth, earning meagre incomes by doing menial jobs or running small businesses such as tea stands. With these sources of income removed, whole families who are already living below the poverty line and in dire need, will be left without any livelihood, and the means to fend for themselves. In such circumstances, it is particularly the women and children in the communities who are most at risk.

CRS is working with the Diocese on a plan for the distribution of basic aid to those most in need in the 12 city slum areas in which CRS is engaged, and in the 36 Diocesan pastorates (parishes). The intention is to bring relief to 1600 families (about 8000 people in all) by distributing basic medical supplies, and staple foods ( such as rice, lentils, sugar, milk, oil).

CRS will use their own vehicles to distribute in the slum area, and distribution in the parishes will be undertaken from the churches by the clergy and parish communities.

While it will not be possible to implement the aid programme until the government lock-down ends, CRS and the Diocese urgently need to raise funds now to be in a position to move when able to do so. The budget for the programme is approximately £11,500.

**Can you support this appeal?** If so, please send your donation to the Friends of CRS. The bank details are:

CAF Bank Ltd, **Sort Code 40-52-40. Account No: 00096998.**

**Account Name:** Friends of Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service (Please identify the purpose of your donation as "Covid 19 Appeal")

Thank you very much for your support. Right Reverend Paritosh Canning, Bishop of Calcutta, Mr Rig David, Director of the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service, The Trustees of the Friends of CRS Enquiries to:

[secretary@friendsofcrs.co.uk](mailto:secretary@friendsofcrs.co.uk)

### **A message from Living Waters:**

Dear all,

This is undoubtedly a very different Lent experience which none of us could have foreseen. You may have been reading and following Stephen Cottrell's 'I Thirst' as well as the excellent reflections from members of the ministry team. Partly in line with this, but also thinking about our temporarily postponed consideration of the Lord's Prayer, members of our group have suggested offering some positive action.

Many of us will have been spending less during the last three weeks on going out for meals, coffee or driving our cars for instance. Giving from Lent lunches will be down this year in terms of supporting The Kolkata Cathedral Relief Service. Water Aid is also a charity close to many of our hearts.

When we (eventually) get back together what about donating some of what we have saved to one or both of these charities? Even £1 a day would collectively make a difference.

Let's think about it.

Hoping you are all keeping safe and well.

With love and best wishes for Easter,

*Linda, Alison and Ros*

### **A pattern for daily prayer, so that, at home or at church, we can pray together:**

**Monday:** Those in great poverty or need.

**Tuesday:** Those who have asked for our prayers: Ruth Barkaway, Anne Brazier, Roo Hubbard, David Ingram, Bob Smith and Margaret Stockley. Those in Derby's hospitals and hospices. All at Pool Cottage. All who are suffering from Covid-19.

**Wednesday:** Our group of parishes.

**Thursday:** The church worldwide. All Christian people. The local church. The Anglican Communion.

**Friday:** All in need, especially the hungry, poor and homeless.

### **The Departed**

In our prayers this week, we can remember those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur near this time among them Mary Spencer, Francis Brame, Ann Robinson and Edward Ingram.

## **The Readings for today:**

### **First Reading:** *Acts 10.34-43*

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

### **Gospel Reading:** *John 20.1-18*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

### **Additional Collect:**

God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

### **Contact us:**

The Revd Steve Short                      01332 864741

Email: [rector@melbourneparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:rector@melbourneparishchurch.org.uk)

Parish Office                                      01332 862153

Email: [melbourneparishchurch@gmail.com](mailto:melbourneparishchurch@gmail.com)

Website: [www.melbourneparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.melbourneparishchurch.org.uk)

Facebook: Melbourn Parish Church or

<https://www.facebook.com/Melbourn-Parish-Church-Derbyshire-198938417583824/>

## **Easter Music**

On behalf of our Church Choir, I would like to wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter. This current period has been unlike anything experienced before, where we're not currently allowed in to our churches, and for me, not being able to play the church organ has left me and I know many other organists, feeling bereft at this important time in the church calendar. One of the choir said to me that "not being able to sing during Holy Week is horribly disconcerting - it's almost like a bereavement in itself". I think this sums up how many of us feel whose leading and offering of music within the worship of our church are so important and essential to us and appreciated by many of you.

The Rector's weekly services and the daily offerings through Holy Week have been an enormous help and I thought some of you might appreciate some musical suggestions to sit alongside them and help sustain you as we enter the Easter Season. These include some items which our choir would ordinarily sing. Please let me know if you have any comments or suggestions for future weeks via [simon.e.collins@btinternet.com](mailto:simon.e.collins@btinternet.com) or 07808 474236. So today, may I suggest the following:

## **Hymns**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mglx\\_0jhW1Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mglx_0jhW1Y)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCz-HYIxmV>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCsVFu78deI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WmmqBXU9WrU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPH7-dNrwb8>

## **Choral Music**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAs8dKCDdVs>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALCpsw-O\\_AQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ALCpsw-O_AQ)

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8wngXcoVWM>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wwJwQ\\_x0uk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wwJwQ_x0uk)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3TUWU\\_yg4s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3TUWU_yg4s)

## **Organ Music**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjdkWloqm-E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QTeN1CqmE4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ue6HE890Qc8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvtekOk6mas>

## **The Big Easter Evensong**

Tonight at 6.00p.m. our choir will be joining with many other church choirs both nationally and internationally in a lovely initiative by The Royal School of Church Music. They have provided music and materials to enable members to learn the music at home and then to join in a live stream of a service of Choral Evensong. Music will be led by a selection of choirs who have assembled special, virtual performances of the music with which each singer will be able to join in, knowing that they will be singing at the same time as others across the nation. The link to this will be live just before 6.00p.m. on Sunday so do listen in and join in with the hymns from your own home: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g2Oo1tUSQos&feature=youtu.be>

With my very best wishes to you all,  
Simon Collins,  
*Director of Music*

