

RENDEZVOUS

CORONA-VIRUS ISOLATION

Special Edition April 2020

Vol 47 No 4

As we can't get our Rendezvous printed or use the usual distribution method in the current situation I have created this simpler edition. If you have an email address, please let me know by emailing me at andrew_plested@yahoo.co.uk. For those who do not have email, we will endeavour to get this simpler version printed and circulated.

Take care

Andrew

CALENDAR April 2020

Sun	5	Palm Sunday
Thurs	9	Maundy Thursday
Fri	10	Good Friday
Sun	12	EASTER DAY
Sun	19	The Second Sunday of Easter
Tues	21	Anselm, Abbot of Le Bec, Archbishop of Canterbury, Teacher
Thurs	23	George, Martyr, Patron of England
Sat	25	Mark the Evangelist
Sun	26	The Third Sunday of Easter
Wed	29	Catherine of Siena, Teacher
Fri	1 May	Philip and James, Apostles
Sat	2	Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, Teacher
Sun	3	The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Our Church will be closed until further notice

Supporting our Church Financially

During this time when our usual supporters are not able to make cash donations or use the planned giving scheme, I would like to ask if donations could be made instead by bank transfer so that we can keep paying our bills! All donations would be gratefully received. Our bank details are:

Account Name: Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish Church of St Mary & St Eanswythe
Sort Code: 52-41-42
Account Number: 08627290

The Flow of Love and Peace – right now!

“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”
(Colossians 3.15-15)

Gosh, we have a challenge before us in these difficult times! And it’s not just how we and our nearest and dearest survive. For us, it’s never about survival; it’s about **real life**.

When Jesus talks about life, he doesn’t mean just physical existence. He means all the things that make life worth living: love and companionship and creativity and meaning and peace and a connection with God.

As a Christian community, we have the opportunity in these dark days to show what it’s like to be filled with God’s Spirit and be infused with prayer, peace, love and compassion. And perhaps some of the other things that are happening just now will help us chart a way to do this well...

Holy Week & Easter

Christ’s willing embrace of agony on the cross and his mighty resurrection show that suffering and death are **not** the final word. He will have **nothing to do** with the things that lead to death: selfishness, blame, hatred, bitterness, violence, scapegoating and fear. And so death could not hold him. And he has given us his life...

St Eanswythe – past, present & future

...which St Eanswythe embodied and expressed so richly during her short but remarkable life. The significance of the confirmation that we really do have her relics among us is not only historical. We are the inheritors of the faith community she founded in this place, and which has been maintained all through the years. Because St Eanswythe’s life vibrates with prayerfulness, compassion and openness to the needs and contribution of others, her presence with us calls us to embody these qualities too. There’s a lot of interest in us internationally right now, so please pray for wisdom as we consider how we develop as a place of pilgrimage.

Coronavirus & caring for each other

The situation and the advice we’re getting is changing day by day, so I’ve no idea what things will be like when you read this. But what I do know is that we are called to demonstrate the qualities expressed by Jesus himself, and the Holy Eanswythe: prayerfulness, compassion and openness to the needs and contribution of others. As a church, we’ll be considering both how to keep people safe **and** ways to keep people connected and supported. If you’re able to access the website or Facebook pages, please keep up with the news there. See <https://stmaryandsteanswythe.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/sainteanswythe/>

The governance of our church

We have our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) coming up. It’s due on April 22nd at 7pm, but it could be delayed and held in May if the progress of the virus makes it necessary. But whatever the date, if it’s safe to come, please do attend. We have to elect two churchwardens, two Deanery Synod representatives and six PCC members. The team that we assemble for the coming year will have the opportunity to shape the future of our church, so it’s important! Please pray about whether you are willing to serve, or whether there is someone you should approach to ask them to do so.

And finally...

...remember this promise: "the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4.7).

Revd Dr John Walker

SUNDAY EUCHARIST GOSPELS – April 2020

Sunday 5 April - PALM SUNDAY. Matthew 27.11-54

All of them said, 'Let him be crucified'.

Jesus, already accepting complete humility in his Incarnation, comes into Jerusalem for the last days before his Passion. He will not draw back from any aspect of human suffering and death.

It was but now their sounding clamours sung,
 'Blessed is he that comes from the Most High.'
And all the mountains with Hosannas rung;
And now 'Away with him they cry,
And nothing can be heard but 'Crucify!'
 It was but now the crown itself they gave
 And golden name of King unto him gave
And now no king but Caesar they will have.

Giles Fletcher

Sunday 12 April – EASTER DAY. Matthew 28.1-10

*Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet
and worshipped him.*

We share in the Resurrection of Christ. We do not need to seek him in secret places; he comes to meet us as soon as we turn to him.

Rise heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise
 Without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise
 With him mayst rise:
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold, and much more, just.

George Herbert

Sunday 19 April – Second Sunday of Easter. John 20. 19-31

'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe'.

The Christian faith has been spread through all lands and in all ages by those who have not seen Christ in the flesh but have experienced his risen presence. God depends on us to be his witnesses in our time.

Sunday 26 April – Third Sunday of Easter. Luke 14.13-35

Then their eyes were opened, and they recognised Jesus.

The promises of God, declared in many ways and confirmed by his mighty acts, have been fulfilled in the Passion and Resurrection of his Son. What was partially understood has become perfect knowledge for all who will draw near to him.

Thursday 9 April - Maundy Thursday. John 13.1-17, 31-35

'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him'.

For many centuries the Passover meal has celebrated for the Jewish people their release from Egypt. On the night before Good Friday, Christians share a meal that commemorates release not from slavery but from the slavery of sin, release sealed not in the blood of a lamb, but the blood of him who is called the Lamb of God.

Friday 10 April – Good Friday. John 18.1 – 19.42

They crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

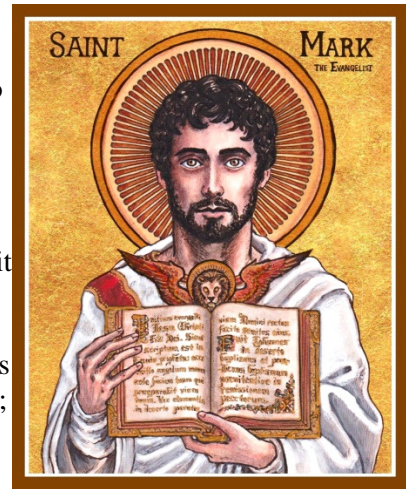
The unique heart of the Christian Faith is the sacrificial death of God incarnate in a human being. Though some of the prophets had a vision of a suffering Messiah, none came near to that awful and wonderful truth of the mystery.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting should take place in church on Wednesday 22nd April, 7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m. Two Churchwardens and six PCC members are needed. However, with the current situation this is likely to be delayed until we have free movement again

Commemoration - Mark the Evangelist 25 April

John Mark was a Jew and, according to Paul's letter to the Colossians, was cousin to Barnabas. He accompanied Barnabas and Paul on their first missionary journey. Afterwards, he went to Cyprus with Barnabas and to Rome with first Paul and then Peter. Mark's gospel is generally regarded as the earliest and was most likely written whilst he was in Rome. It was probably based as much on Peter's preaching of the good news as on Mark's own memory. Mark's gospel has a sharpness and an immediacy about it and he does not spare the apostles in noting their weaknesses and lack of understanding that Jesus the Christ would suffer for the world's redemption. Sharing in the glory of the resurrection means sharing in the giving of self, both in body and spirit, even to death; sharing the gospel was, for all, in essence both excessively generous and ultimately sacrificial.



Collect

Almighty God,
who enlightened your holy Church
through the inspired witness
of your evangelist Saint Mark:
grant that we, being firmly grounded
in the truth of the gospel,
may be faithful to its teaching both in word and deed;
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.

Readings

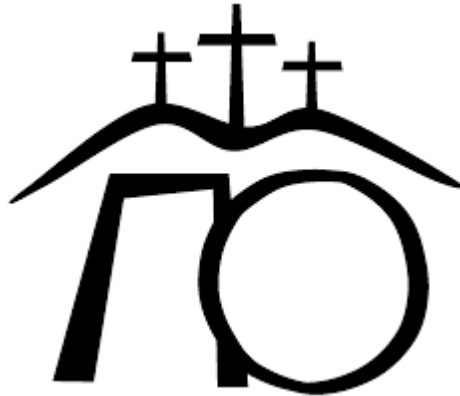
OT – Proverbs 15.35-41; NT – Ephesians 4.7-16; Gospel – Mark 13.5-13

Passiontide



A Crown of Thorns direct from Israel with Golgotha Crosses.

This will be placed on the altar of St George's Chapel in the South Aisle on Passion Sunday and stay until Easter Eve.



Christ is risen! He is risen indeed – Alleluia!

An Easter Collect

Risen Lord Jesus,
as Mary Magdalene met you in the garden
on the morning of your resurrection,
so may we meet you today and every day:
speak to us as you spoke to her;
reveal yourself as the living Lord;
renew our hope and kindle our joy;
and send us to share the good news with others.

The Easter Gospel - St. John 20.1-10

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.

Your resurrection, O Christ our Saviour
The angels praise with sing in heaven.
Grant that we too here on earth
May glorify you with a pure heart.

From the Russian Orthodox Easter Liturgy

Christ holding a child by C. E. Kempe: a tale of royal grief

Many visitors to the church remark on the quality of the stained glass. One window, now more visibly beautiful since the clearing of the plants outside, attracts much admiration. In the east corner of the south aisle, there is a delightful window showing Christ crowned with thorns and tenderly holding a small child. The central figures are surrounded by other children, singing and presenting flowers, and by angels playing musical instruments. Close inspection reveals finely drawn plants growing around the figures with flowers of exquisite jewel-like colours. Despite the intensity of the flowers, the overall impression is of a buttery yellow colour. The colour comes from silver staining, a method developed in medieval Europe which allowed fine detail to be reproduced in glass. Centuries later, the technique was rediscovered and the Kempe studios played a leading role in this.

I must come clean and admit that I'm a bit of a fan of C. E. Kempe, particularly the early works which, from the title of a recent work by expert, Adrian Barlow, give us the experience of "Espying Heaven". It is from this work by Barlow¹ that I read about the history of our extraordinary window.

Charles Eamer Kempe was 31 years old when, after studying under George Frederick Bodley, he opened his own studio in 1868. Kempe had originally sought ordination and was both deeply religious and highly influenced by the theology and aesthetics of Victorian Anglo-Catholicism.

While Kempe glass is said to be immediately recognisable, it is in fact the work of a number of designers and craftsmen, each of whom brought their own traits and specialisms to the corpus. Kempe's skills lay in bringing together these artists and in inspiring loyalty to his overall vision.

The designer of our window was one Wyndham Hope Hughes, whose untrained artistic flair was recognised by Kempe when he was introduced to the then twenty-year old in 1869. Kempe gave him a month's trial and paid for him to attend art classes. In 1876, Hughes was entrusted by Kempe with the design of what was probably the studio's most important commission to date; a memorial window for the Grand Ducal Mausoleum in Darmstadt, Germany. Queen Victoria's daughter, Alice, had married the Grand Duke and the memorial was to commemorate her small son, Prince Friedrich of Hess and by Rhine, who had died in an accidental fall aged only two years. The small prince, known by the family as "Frittie" was a haemophiliac and it is thought he could have survived the fall had it not precipitated a brain haemorrhage.

Designed to offer solace to his distraught mother, the window design shows Christ holding the figure of the small prince. This is the first time that a Kempe window included a known portrait of a real person.

Barlow's research tells us that, apart from the glass in the mausoleum, this design was only used in one other window; that of St. Mary and St. Eanswythe church, Folkestone. Close adaptations can be seen in churches in Oxfordshire and Nottinghamshire. The design was key in consolidating the reputation of Kempe's studio and in establishing his relationship with the Royal Family as patrons. Why this design found its way to Folkestone, we can only speculate. It seems unlikely that, as a commission for the Royal Family, it would have found its way into the general catalogue. It may speak of a particularly close relationship between Kempe and Matthew Woodward. It is undoubtedly one of the churches particular treasures.

Judy Doherty

¹ Espying Heaven. The Stained Glass of Charles Eamer Kempe and his Artists, Adrian Barlow, 2019. The Lutterworth Press.

