



Refresh, revisit, and reflect. 6 sessions exploring the Christian Way of Life - for all and particularly those wanting to prepare for confirmation meets today at 4:30 via zoom. Contact Andrew for the link. rev.andrewdown@gmail.com Topic this week: The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12) April 25th: The Eucharist as a model for life.

Online Sermons from the Diocese: For this week's online sermon:
<https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>

Floodlighting sponsors – St Andrew's, Ipplepen.

For those placing floodlighting messages into the grey letterbox at St Andrew's Church Hall, please write 'Floodlighting' on the front of the envelope.

Floodlighting Sponsorship can now be via Just Giving:
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ippleflood

A sponsorship form is also available on our website:
www.missioncommunity.org.uk/floodlighting or by emailing ippleflood@beaconparishes.co.uk and blank copies are usually available in St. Andrew's church, together with Gift Aid envelopes.

In Memory Rex Osborn and Frances Ley.

Look out for the wonderful cards on sale to raise funds for our churches. Thank you to Robin and Pam Thomas for organising this. Fantastic picture Robin!

St Andrew's Youth Choir, Ipplepen Watch and hear our recording of 'Rainbow if Hope':
<https://asongforus.org/submissions/st-andrews-youth-choir-ipplepen/> The Youth choir is still going strong by using 'ZOOM', 5.30pm – 6pm on Thursdays for the senior group and 5.30pm – 6pm on Friday for the junior group.

Readings

	This week	Next week
Readings for this Sunday:		
First Reading	Acts 3:12-19	Acts 4:5-12
Psalm	4	23
Second Reading	1 John 3:1-7	1 John 3:16-End
Gospel	Luke 24:36b-48	John 10:11-18

Readings for the week ahead:	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th
	John 6:22-29	John 6:30-35	John 6:35-40	John 6:44-51	John 15:18-21	John 6:60-69

They can also be viewed/downloaded from <https://bible.oremus.org/>

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Today's Sunday Services

9.30am	Holy Communion	- St John The Baptist, Woodland
11.00am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
6.00pm	Zoom Evening Prayer	- Zoom
		For the Zoom password, email: rachelbelringer@gmail.com

Telephone support/chat following the church services: Sheila Sheldon is available to speak to following our church services. Sheila's phone number is (01803) 814227.

Morning Prayer

9am - 9.30am Monday to Thursday this week on Zoom
For the Zoom password, email: rev.andrewdown@gmail.com

Reflection

Our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week at the following times:

St Peter & St Paul's, Broadhempston	9am to 5pm	Sundays and Wednesdays
St Andrew's, Ipplepen	9am to 5pm	Daily
St Mary the Virgin, Denbury	10am to 5pm	Daily

Please note, St John the Baptist, Woodland is currently closed for private prayer and reflection.

Mid-Week Services

Tuesday	12 noon (instead of 10.15am, due to funeral service taking place at 10.30am)	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

Next Sunday – Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.30am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
11.00 am	Morning Worship	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Funeral Services

Tues 20th April 2021 at 10.30am Frances Ley - St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Happy Easter – a whole 50 days of celebration

As we continue in the season of Easter, which lasts 50 days, we will celebrate that in Jesus' resurrection darkness becomes light, death becomes life, sacrifice becomes love. God's amazing love is hard to believe so we need this time. Like the first disciples we too must see and then gradually come to believe.

Message from Andrew: A big thank you to everyone who helped in preparing the churches for Easter. All the displays and decorations looked amazing. I would also like to thank those who had a part in making this year's services so meaningful, the readers, the musicians, the preachers, the servers, those that led the prayers and those who led services when I was at one of the other churches. Everyone working together made the Easter Celebrations so special. Thank you to everyone who sent me their Easter greetings.



Reflection by Steve Sheldon

Third Sunday of Easter
Luke 24:36b-48
Sunday 18th April 2021

Reading today's gospel lesson I was suddenly reminded of the last words of the "deaf, dumb and blind kid" from The Who's 1969 rock oratorio *Tommy*: 'See me, feel me, touch me.'

Jesus's companions from the road to Emmaus have rushed to the 11 apostles in Jerusalem to tell them of their experience. Suddenly Jesus appears among them all and they were all 'startled and terrified'. They think he's a ghost, a phantom, a spectre, a vision, or as the original Hebrew would have been, *rephaim*, a "shade". Shades were disembodied spirits who floated around in "*sheol*", the land of dead spirits.

But Jesus was not a disembodied spirit raised from *sheol*, but someone mysterious and unique, who existed in a new one-off category of existence. Our minds are confined to the here and now in time and space. This is why overthinking the details of the 'afterlife' is not helpful, because our limited minds cannot grasp it and we tend to fill in the gaps with our own imaginations. We need to be at peace with the vague hints and clues God provides.

We can no more 'understand' our spiritual rebirth than we could our material birth waiting in the womb; we can no more understand the 'hereafter' than an embryo can understand the earthly world into which it is about to be born. We need not overly occupy ourselves with things too hard to know, but be "*content and at peace, as a child lies quietly in its mother's arms.*" [Psalm 131]

The men gathered that day, staring at the risen Christ, were joyful but still struggling with doubt, so they shared their food with Jesus to prove to themselves that he was not something like Banquo's ghost, or the spirits that haunted Scrooge. He was real, not a vision.

See me, feel me, touch me. They became true witnesses of the glory of the risen Lord. When they had ceased to occupy themselves with things too hard to know, and allowed God to still their hearts and quiet their fears and doubts, and then understand there is no 'understanding', then Jesus could enfold them 'like a child upon its mother's breast.'

Looking at his closest friends, with love and affection in his eyes, with a nurturing, gentle smile Jesus shared his Peace with them.

In our lives we too can share the Peace that Jesus gives us. The risen Christ looks at us, his friends, with a gentle smile, with love and affection in his eyes. And we can each respond: See me, feel me, touch me, heal me.

*Listening to you, I get the music; gazing at you I get the heat.
Following you, I climb the mountains; I get excitement at your feet.
Right behind you I see the millions; on you I see the Glory.
From you I get opinions; from you I get the story.*

Repentance and forgiveness are to be proclaimed in the name of Jesus to all the nations. We too are witnesses of this, the Glory of the risen Lord.

When we cease to overly occupy ourselves with things too hard to know; when we question our doubts and ask whether our wavering faith is actually about God or rather about the human history and fallible manmade structures of religion and church; when we allow God to still our hearts and quiet our fears and doubts; when we understand there is no 'understanding': then Jesus can also comfort us and enfold us 'like a child upon its mother's breast,' and the Peace of Christ can abide with us.

