



**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Easter Day**

**In Memory:** Michael Dow, Edith Mortimore, Penelope Kittow, David Day and Rita Day.

**Points for Prayer.** We hold in prayer the ongoing conflict in Ukraine praying for peace. We particularly pray for those families who are facing separation due to the conflict.

**Cream Teas in Denbury on Easter Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April**, 3 to 5pm at Church Cottage, Denbury.

**New Editions of The Beacon Magazine** are available in the churches now.



**LLF Creative Prayer Event at Exeter Cathedral, 28 April: Drop-In Prayer Stations from 10am to 2pm, 12pm Service led by Bishop Jackie.** You are invited to a time of prayer and reflection for the Living in Love and Faith discernment process as it goes forward. This event is being organised by the Diocese of Exeter Living in Love and Faith project group, led by the Bishop of Crediton, the Rt Rev'd Jackie Searle. It will include a time of gathered prayer when we will be praying for Bishop Robert and our General Synod representatives who will be involved in national discussions about the future direction for the Church of England in matters of relationships, sexuality, gender and marriage. If you have done the LLF course and would like to share your thoughts by completing the LLF survey, you have until 30 April to do so. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LLFcourse>

**Over 200 Offers of Homes for Ukraine** Thank you to everyone who has filled in the online expression of interest form offering accommodation to refugees from Ukraine. Around 220 people have filled it out so far. The Diocese of Exeter is working with the charity Citizens

UK <https://www.citizensuk.org/> to act as a key sponsor in Devon to co-ordinate providing homes for Ukrainian refugees and help ensure ongoing community support. Citizens UK is linked to the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme. Work is now underway with aid agencies in Poland to identify Ukrainians who would like to travel to the UK. The Diocese of Exeter will then be working to match up refugees with householders in Devon.

**Exeter Diocese has set up a donations page to pay for the transport costs for Ukrainian refugees to travel to Devon.** You can find out more and donate by clicking the link below. Or search for Exeter Diocese Ukraine Appeal at [givealittle.co.uk](http://givealittle.co.uk)

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/2d2a1971-a8af-4500-a701-57eff0308c24>

Readings	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b>		
1st Reading	Acts 10:34-43	Acts 5: 27-32
Psalm	118:1-2, 14-24	150
2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 15:19-26	Revelation 1:4-8
Gospel	John 20:1-18	John 20: 19-End
<b>Readings for the week ahead:</b>		
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	Matt 28:8-15	Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Luke 24:35-48
Tue 19 <sup>th</sup>	John 20:11-18	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> John 21:1-14
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 24:13-35	Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Mark 16:9-15

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## Today's Sunday Services

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
10.00 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
10.00 am	Holy Communion	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

## Morning Prayer

This week morning prayer will be said at the following times:

Thursday 9.15 am - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

## Reflection

All our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week from approximately 9am to 5pm each day.

## Mid-Week

Rev'd Andrew Down on Annual Leave this week, back on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>

Monday	3pm-5pm	T-Pot - Easter Monday Cream Teas - Church Cottage, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
Tuesday	10.15am	Holy Communion - St Andrew's Ipplepen
Wednesday	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice - St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15 am	Holy Communion - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	4.30 pm	Youth Choir Practice - St Andrew's, Ipplepen

## Next Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – Second Sunday of Easter

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
11.00 am	Churches Together – Family Service	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
6 pm	Scouts St George's Day Parade	- Ipplepen





## Surprised by Generosity Reflection for Easter Day

**Dave Hopwood –  
Author and speaker**

In his book, *Who Moved the Stone*, Frank Morison suggests that while the male disciples fled back to Bethany to Mary and Martha's house, the women most likely stayed in Jerusalem over that Easter weekend. Though it was dangerous they wanted to remain close and to express their devotion to Jesus, even at this most bleak of times. The kindness they had received from him drew generosity from them. They wanted to care for him, even as his life ebbed away. Two of the women stayed close on Good Friday and crept through the lengthening shadows so that they could see where Jesus was buried; they had a plan to return on Sunday and properly prepare his body. That Sunday morning trip must have been risky, they came under cover of the half-light as dawn was creeping over the horizon. Plus they knew the tomb had been sealed and had no idea how they might open it. Yet still they came. Still they wanted to offer a final act of worship to the man from Galilee who had brought so much into their lives. You could say that even in that period of his death Jesus resurrected courage and kindness in others.

Resurrection surrounded Jesus as he travelled around. He was constantly reviving those who sought him out. In spirit, heart and mind, and on at least three occasions, in their bodies as well. He never held back, and seemed to make a ministry out of the unexpected interruptions that came his way. On one occasion, when a woman who had been sick for twelve years secretly reached out and drew healing from him in the crush of an excited crowd, Jesus refused to move until he could offer her more than this. He waited until he could look her in the eyes and show her how much she meant to God. She had lost everything over the years, money, health, dignity, and Jesus was set on generously resurrecting hope within her. When a rich, despised and disillusioned tax collector was willing to look foolish and climb a tree to get a look at him, Jesus burst into his life with a smile and an open heart. He resurrected meaning and integrity in Zacchaeus's life, so much so that the whole town was blessed. Zacchaeus did a massive u-turn, vowing to pay back all those who had lost money under him.

And so to Sunday morning, and the feelgood ending no one saw coming. And once again Jesus upends expectations. Women were seen as second-class citizens in that day. And could not be witnesses in court. And yet here we find two angels at the

open tomb telling these faithful women to go back and bear witness to what they have found. Jesus no longer held by death, but his neatly folded grave clothes a sign of his complete and perfect work of resurrection.

We live in a world which longs for resurrection. Creation itself groans and struggles as it longs for change and a better way. So many lives are shattered and torn by our desperate and often selfish schemes of life. And even as possible solutions are offered up, these themselves can lead to greater fractures, greater strife between nations and people. Peace on earth, the angel announced to those hungry shepherds. So, in the light of resurrection, where is that now?

Well, like these faithful women we see glimpses of it as we muddle through our days, signs of the hope of the living Jesus. In kindness expressed, in those who stand up for justice, in the courage of ordinary people reaching out to others. In the beauty and wonders of creation. Psalm 8 describes us as created and called, beneath a skyful of stars. Tiny yet splendid – reminded of how precious and valued we are by these nightly signs of resurrection hope. A sign that we matter, that we are made by a caring creator, and that we are worth the life, death and resurrection of that wonderful man of Galilee. The prophet Habakkuk spoke of a time when the earth would be filled with the awareness of the glory of God, as the waters cover the sea. The glory is here, in so many small and large ways, but it's the awareness that we sometimes lack, so easy to miss the presence of God as we hurtle from a to b, trying to keep our heads above water. There's a saying I love, 'changing the world one smile at a time'. We may or may not have the resources or strength to do great things but even the smallest kind word or action is a testimony to the presence of the glory of God, the hope of resurrection in this fragmented world. A sign that the God of all peace and hope is present with us and working through us to others.

