

**Cream Teas Bank Holiday Monday 10th April 3pm to 5pm in 'Church Cottage', Denbury.** Come along and avoid the tourist crowds and enjoy a cream tea "away from the madding crowd!"

**Sunday 23 April: National Mobile Phone Emergency Alert Test**

The Government has announced that on St George's Day (Sunday 23 April) there will be a national test of a new emergency alert system. We do not know what time the test will be, but it may happen during a church service, so it is worth being ready for it. During the test your mobile phone or tablet may:

- make a loud siren-like sound, even if it's set on silent
- vibrate
- read out the alert

The sound and vibration will last for about 10 seconds. The alert will include a phone number or a link to the [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK) website for more information.

**Dr Paul Russell, Churchwarden from Broadhempston, is running the London Marathon for Compassion UK**, a Christian charity, supporting children in extreme poverty. Please read his article in The February and March 2023 edition of The Beacon Magazine. <https://challenges.compassionuk.org/profile/4850/paul-russell>

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 11am** – Mission Community Holy Communion Celebrating the King's Coronation at St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen. All Welcome!

**Save the Date: Sunday 14th May, 2.30pm.** Denbury Folk and St Mary's Church present rising stars in the folk world, Filkin's Drift (duo). Chris and Seth are coming to St Mary's, Denbury. More details and tickets from Rachel ( [rachelbelringer@gmail.com](mailto:rachelbelringer@gmail.com) 07751 804 007 )

**Save the Date: 'St Andrew's Outside' Sunday 14th May at 5.00pm.** Details to follow

*Happy Easter from all at the Beacon Parishes Mission Community*

Readings	This week	Next week
<b>Readings for this Sunday:</b>		
1st Reading	Acts 10:34-43	Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm	118. 1-2, 14-24	16
2nd Reading	Colossians 3:1-4	1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel	John 20:1-18	John 20:19-31

**Readings for the week ahead:**

Mon	10 <sup>th</sup>	Matt 28.8-15	Thurs	13 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 24.35-48
Tue	11 <sup>th</sup>	John 20.11-18	Fri	14 <sup>th</sup>	John 21.1-14
Wed	12 <sup>th</sup>	Luke 24.13-35	Sat	15 <sup>th</sup>	Mark 16.9-15

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

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Beacon Parishes Mission Community of Ipplepen with Torbryan, Denbury, Broadhempston and Woodland

# Weekly Notices

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

**Easter Sunday**

**Today - Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
	-with activities for children	
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
Friday	9.15 am	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston (A time of silent prayer and meditation)

**Reflection**

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

**First Week of Easter**

Rev'd Andrew Down is on annual leave this week.

Monday	3pm-5pm	'T-Pot' Bank Holiday Cream Teas	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
Tuesday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	10.30 am	Coffee Mates	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	7.00 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	4.30-5.30pm	Sta*x Youth Choir Practice	- Ipplepen

**Next Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Second of Easter**

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
4.30 pm	Come Holy Spirit: An Informal Service of Reflection	- St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen

**In Memory:** Fran Howells, Geoffrey Bamford, Pamela Lloyd, Elizabeth Mills and Percy Collings.

**Points of Prayer:** Today as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection we pray that the Kingdom of God will be found here on earth as well as in heaven. A world free from hatred, violence, poverty and injustice; a place where all could live together in love and harmony. We pray that you will give us the courage and heart to play our own parts in bringing this about.



## Reflection by Rev'd Tony Meek

Easter Sunday

9<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Our gospel reading for today begins with a tomb – a place of burial. Sadly that's all part of a rather familiar landscape at the moment.

We have very quickly become used to hearing about death. In the past few years there have been daily statistics of those who have died from Covid 19. More recently we hear so often of those dying as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. There have been other tragedies; the terrible earthquakes in Turkey and Syria; the dreadful train crash in Greece; yet another mass school shooting in the USA. The numbers become more poignant when we hear the names – specific stories of named individuals.

Our gospel reading about a tomb is one involving some named individuals – individuals who are bewildered and unsettled. Mary Magdalene comes to the tomb – it's early in the morning and still dark, and things are not as she had expected.

As Mary stands weeping outside the tomb someone speaks to her. She thinks it is the gardener, but then he speaks her name – 'Mary' – and she recognises that this person is Jesus risen from the dead. Suddenly in a moment everything changes, yet again, and it's personal and names are important.

Since the first Downing Street pronouncements about the pandemic, I, with others, have disliked the phrase *social distancing*. Yes, it has been vital that we abide by the rule of *physical distancing* but this is not a time to be *socially* distanced from one another. Relationship matters. Names matter.

What has been inspiring through this time of uncertainty sparked by a pandemic, is that people seem to be rediscovering the power of *social connection*. Thousands of us standing on doorsteps or at front gates, clapping and banging things to show appreciation for our superb and tragically underfunded NHS and all those who are serving us – that is *social togetherness*. Perhaps in adversity we are discovering

more of what it means to be interdependent human beings, each with a name and a story.

At the heart of all this is love. Love which began with the love of God who created us to live in relationship – our God, who knows us by name and loves us – treasures us more than we can dare to imagine.

When Jesus speaks Mary's name she knows that love, and she wants to hold tight to Jesus. His death had brought a distancing which had been unbearable. Yet, Jesus speaks words to Mary which seem almost to impose a distancing: '*Do not hold on to me*'. Then he speaks strange words about ascending. Strange words that will become a reality in due course when the risen Jesus leaves the earth and the Holy Spirit will come to be Christ's presence in every time and every place.

Standing by the empty tomb, Mary doesn't understand any of that. She has encountered the risen Christ and now she wants life to go back to normal – Life as she had known it. Yet it cannot and it will not. Life will never be the same again.

We will have found ourselves saying that several times in recent days, weeks, months and years. This time of pandemic has changed us – challenged us – and I hope that we might continue to learn more about love and kindness and social closeness even in the face of physical distancing.

But even more than that I yearn for us to take hold of the certainty that nothing can undo the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

It has happened. And nothing can separate us from the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Not even a pandemic. Not even death. Nothing can change the reality that you and I are named individuals – unique and precious – known by God and known by name.

And in our confusion and in our 'not understanding', and in our places of fear and grief, Jesus draws closer than close, not in physical body but in spirit. And Jesus speaks our name and invites us to speak his – to reach out and to say yes to his love and his forgiveness. May it be so, this Easter and always.