



NASC!

Spring 2018



All Saints Church

The Church by the Roundabout!

{The educational bit}

Easter, also called **Pascha** (Greek, Latin) or **Resurrection Sunday**, is a festival and holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial after his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary c. 30 AD.

It is the culmination of the Passion of Jesus, preceded by Lent, a forty-day period of fasting, prayer and penance.

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter>)

Image from:

www.dosmallthingswithlove.com/2014/03/easter-resurrection-set-free-printable.html



 **word word word word = 4-word**

A word from the Editor

The initial feedback on the first issue of our church magazine sounded quite encouraging. So I shall continue.

I still have free-hand on the content – I suppose until someone decides that they want a regular feature in the magazine. So, with permission, this issue's sermon is lifted from <http://bryonytaylor.com/>. There is also an audio version of this sermon on her website – and well worth listening to.

For all people, who don't know her, Rev'd. Bryony Taylor is the daughter of Cheryl and Andrew Hall.

Please give me your feedback, so that I get an idea of your thoughts on this newsletter. The next one is due to come out in June.

Thank you. †

P.s.: Use any spare area on page 9 to doodle, rather than play on your mobile gadgets during service... - You can get (colouring) pencils from the wardens at the door!



Cheese & Wine Evening

Saturday 28th April 2018

**A variety of wines
and some interesting cheeses to try!**

£10

Sign up in church,
or contact Lin via email

linsilver@rocketmail.com



Vicar's Update - Looking Beyond Lent

The Church keeps different Seasons of the Year not to reflect the weather of the world, so much as to reflect our own internal weather.

Jesus was (and is) deeply connected to reality. Having walked through Lent to Good Friday we cannot fail to see He knew suffering. There were many times when He knew joy, too, in weddings and festivals. No doubt like most of us He also knew times when life simply passes by without great drama as in our Common State or Time. Everyone's life is a different mix of the times or moods, and this is why we have different Seasons in the Church. In Lent we are often in Purple, a colour of reflection or penance, signified at the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. The mood becomes more sombre as we move through Lent.

If we follow the Stations of the Cross, important to many of us here, we move to the inevitable outcome of facing our Lord being nailed to the cross and dying for us. But we know, too, that is not the end. We are not a people of despair, although we may find times in our lives when we are.

No, we are people of hope as we see the joys of Easter blow away the clouds of sorrow and we see the SON RISE on that Easter morning, the Rainbow after the Flood, God's promise that our life is now part of life eternal through Jesus, because of Jesus. Despite all our difficulties and disappointments, regardless of our achievements, joy or wealth, we are all held at the same price in the sight of God and will all reap the same reward.

So let us have the courage to live our lives in all its seasons knowing we are the people of the RISEN SON.

May God grant you a peaceful and Blessed Easter!

Your Vicar,

Rev'd. Neil Paxton



Easter Sermon – John 20:19-31 – “Peace be with you, as the Father has sent me, so I send you”

By Bryony Taylor, 07 April 2013, St Aiden, Leeds

God’s story is our story. We have been blessed with the Bible, God’s story of his interaction with his beloved creation. The stories we read in the gospels are our story. In Holy Week I tried to help us to step into God’s story as we looked at the stories of some of the lesser characters in Mark’s gospel. Now we have come to the Easter season and we walk in the most astonishing and delightful part of the story of God’s dealings with his people. So let us again seek to step into this story. What might Jesus have to say to us?

The disciples in our gospel reading today are hiding. They are hiding from fear of the Jews. Are they hiding from God like Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden? Perhaps they are, in a way. What was the last thing they did before the arrest of Jesus? They fled and denied knowing Christ, even though each of them had said they would be willing to die for Jesus. They are still not willing to die for Jesus. They are hiding and they are terrified. They know Jesus is dead. They know that his body has gone from the tomb but they have no understanding as to what this might mean. I think they believe what Mary first tells them, that the body has been taken away and they don’t know where they have put him. Mary has since told them that she has seen the Lord but this just makes no sense to them. It is into this context that the Risen Christ appears to the disciples. What is the first thing Jesus says to the disciples? Does he say ‘Where were you?’ or ‘You abandoned me?’ No. He says, astonishingly, ‘peace be with you’. Then John gives us what I think must be one of the greatest understatements in scripture, he writes: ‘then they were glad when they saw the Lord’. Of course there is the absolute delight in seeing Jesus risen from the dead but I think the rejoicing happens partly because in saying ‘peace be with you’ Jesus is saying ‘I forgive you, you thought you were no longer my friends but you are still my friends and I say peace be with you’.

He says ‘peace be with you’ again. Then he does something else astonishing, he says ‘I send you’. This is a group of frightened men hiding in a locked room who don’t even understand what has happened to Jesus. In that state, he tells them that he is sending them. There is no sense that they need to pass some kind of test first before they get

sent out: they're ready now. Jesus says 'as the father has sent me so I send you'. It almost sounds like 'get up, take up your mat and walk'.

Then we get another hint from Genesis, Jesus does something really weird. He breathes on them. Has anyone breathed on you before? If they have I'm sure you don't remember it as a pleasant experience.

How does God bring Adam to life when he is created from clay? He breathes on him. Only the Creator God can give life to something that is dead.

In a sense, the disciples in that locked room are dead and lifeless, they are dead in their denial of Jesus, their sins, in the way they have let God down. Jesus breathes on them and says 'receive the Holy Spirit'. Unfortunately in English it is hard to make the connection but in both Greek and Hebrew the word for God's spirit can also mean breath or wind. The Hebrew word for spirit is '*ruach*' – it even sounds like a breath as you say it. So Jesus, the one who until very recently was dead, breathes life, the Holy Spirit back into the weak disciples. As Paul writes in the letter to the Ephesians 'even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead' (Eph 2:5). In receiving this forgiving power of the Holy Spirit the disciples are then to do the same, to forgive others in that power.

Jesus knows exactly what we need. He knew what the disciples needed to hear and see and touch. In this first appearance in the locked room he shows the disciples his hands and his side, to show them he is not a ghost but real and can be touched. Thomas isn't there and so he is afraid that the disciples have just been seeing things, that they've had some kind of hallucination. He makes the perfectly reasonable statement that he wants to touch Jesus in the very spot where the nails went in. He has to be sure it's the same Jesus: that he's not a ghost and neither is he just a man that looks like Jesus.

These are the same questions I have. Surely they were just seeing things, the mind when going through grief can do strange things. Surely it was just wishful thinking? Or maybe a man did come into the room but it was just some bloke that looked rather a lot like Jesus? It can't actually be that man we lived with for 3 years and saw brutally killed.


Jesus, when he appears to them all again it is again in a closed room (interestingly not locked, but still closed, there is still some doubt there) and again, the first thing he says to them is 'peace be with you'. In

doing this he is saying 'I meant it you know, I really do forgive you, you really are still my friends, peace be with you'. Then he immediately knows what Thomas needs and offers him the chance to touch the place where the nails were in his hands and feel where the lance pierced his side. Jesus is happy to show him how real he is. This is enough for Thomas, we don't even know, if he takes Jesus up on the offer to put his finger in his wounds, he simply makes the first full profession of faith in the divinity of Christ in the Gospel and says 'my Lord and my God'. Jesus knows what we need. He knows we need something tangible to let us know that God is real. Something we can touch. So he gave us Holy Communion - a reminder each week that Jesus is real. We can touch and taste and receive him in the bread and the wine. Just when you were worried that God felt like an imaginary friend, we are reminded, week by week that he is real.

Jesus speaks directly to you at the end of this encounter. If this were a movie rather than a book, this would be the part where Jesus' head turns from Thomas and looks directly at you down the camera lens and says 'blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe'. That is you. That is me. Jesus steps out of this story we are reading directly into our lives. His story is our story. Our story is his story. He comes to us in our fearful, dead, inadequate, failing state and says 'peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you, Receive the Holy Spirit, you are blessed because you believe in me.'

Amen.



Fun from the : ... found on my travels through the Internet.



Note reads:

*Gone to see Dad.
We're fixin a place
for you. Be back
soon to pick
you up!
Jesus*

Major Church Project - Update

Now “Penny (2)”, the dish washer, is regularly used on a Sunday - you just need to look for the little elves that are filling and emptying it every so often.

Recently the flower vestry was stripped of its essential shelves and cupboards. Where will Andrew be preparing the arrangements for the Easter Garden?

Even though not part of the major refurbishment, the ongoing maintenance of keeping the roof tight, has its own story: We have tried with pots that supposedly make pigeons think the roof is on fire, to move our many pigeons along. It hasn't worked. However, the vicar might want to consider selling the guano to gain extra income for the maintenance fund. ✝

Fundraising – the constant consideration

from our website

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Make a donation to *All Saints' Major Project Fund*
- Set up a regular standing order to All Saints' Church, Southend
- Request a box containing 52 envelopes for weekly donations
- Consider any of our other fundraising opportunities, such as *Bag-a-Brick* - £2 for a brick to mark a special event or anniversary.
- Come along to our fundraising events throughout the year - details on our notice boards and website.
- Consider including All Saints' Church, Southend, in your will.

Please make cheques payable to "**All Saints' Parish Church Daisy Brown Fund**", or donate via the PayPal Donate button on the website.

For standing orders, weekly donations and Bag-a-Brick or, if you would like more information, please contact our Treasurer Penny Alexander on 01702 464997 or treasurer@allsaints-southend.org.uk

Also, “All Saints Church” pens are available from Penny for £1. ✝

Recent Experiences

The second Highlight of the Church year after 1st January finally indicated the definitive end of Christmas: **Candlemas**. Or, as our vicar said, any Christmas decoration after this date will be all-round-the-year decoration, and not indicate the special event within the Church Year.

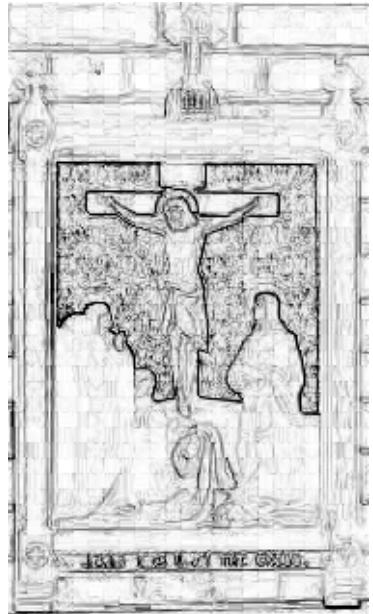
Through a quirk in events planning the Church usage for the year we ended up with a **Table Sale** every third Saturday of the month. Good for fund raising and relieving your rooms from stuff that has no place there anymore.

Walking the **Stations of the Cross** has long been a regular feature on the Saturdays during Lent. We had a special experience this year, where on one occasion the video created and directed by Paul Seckleman last year (2017) was shown. Members of the congregation who participated in the creation could hear themselves and also meditate on the Stations.

Unfortunately, this year the **Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham** was snowed under, which led Penny to cancel the stay at the retreat.

The **Bradwell Area Vocations Day** saw a number of our parishioners attending and learning what options there are to find deeper connection with their faith, but also to engage with their Church to promote the Living God, Jesus Christ.

Penny 2 was briefly out of action, as a tiny piece of glass – broken weeks earlier and not fully removed – stopped the emptying valve from operating. Luckily, the replacement dishwasher – 6ft, bearded, male – did not mind getting his hands warmed up in the water in the pretty cold vestry kitchen.



Do you know your church?

1) How many pillars are supporting the main nave? _____

2) Where do you find this person (hiding)?



3) When was the *Disabled Access to the West End of the Church* instated?

4) Draw below the face of the person, who arranges the flowers at Easter.



Results from last issue:

- 1) WWII Sunderland flying-boat
- 2) In the large picture next to the font
- 3) 4 4) 5
- 5) Thurifer, Crucifer, Acolyte, M.C.,
ringing the bell, incensing, etc.

Group Highlight: Uniformed Organisations

(... and supporting careers: Rainbows, Brownies, Guides & Rangers) meet in the **Thomas Smith Hall** adjacent to the Church (with entrance from Sutton Road) every **Monday from 16:00 – 21:30** during **term-time ONLY**.



Girls of all ages are coming together in age-specific groups to engage in social and sportive activities.

What do girls do at guides? (www.girlguiding.org.uk)

Girls and young women in guiding do unforgettable things. Rainbows have their first sleepovers, Brownies earn body confidence badges, Guides abseil down walls they climbed up by themselves, and The Senior Section (Rangers) lead and inspire younger girls to do exciting activities.

Contact Marion Booth on 01702 306644 or 07940 059258 for further information.



Upcoming Highlights of the Church Year (2018)

Services will take place on the nearest Sunday

- Mar-29 Thursday Maundy Thursday
- Apr-01 Sunday Easter Sunday (No joke!)
- May-10 Thursday Ascension Day
- May-20 Sunday Pentecost
- May-27 Sunday Trinity Sunday
- May-31 Thursday Corpus Christi



Can't get to grips with your finances? Don't know to how much all your bills add up? Want to know the money left to spend without going into debt?

There's help for your Bookkeeping: contact Stefan (your *NASC!* editor) on 07503 163469 for a confidential discussion.

NASC! – Newsletter of the **All Saints' Church**,

1 Sutton Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 5PA, a Member Church of
The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Southend (-on-Sea)

Vicar: Rev'd. Neil Paxton

(CofE: 608373 8/373) - Spring/2018se

Officers of All Saints Church - we are serving you ...

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>(preferred) Contact</u>
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Pastoral Assistant	Penny Alexander	 01702 464997
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Editor/Publicity:	Stefan Eichenseher	webmaster@allsaints-southend.org.uk

www.allsaints-southend.org.uk

Check for updates on the weekly Notice sheets!

Closing date for the **Summer 2018** edition (June – August) is on **11 May**.

Please give any contribution(s) to Stefan (or send by email).

The Editor reserves the right to edit contributions for reasons of space, clarity or libel.

Service Times

Sunday	10 am	Eucharist and Young Church
Monday	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Tuesday	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday	9:30 am	Eucharist
	5:30 pm	Compline
Thursday	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer
Saturday	9 am	Indian Orthodox Church, every 2nd Saturday of the month

www.facebook.com/AllSaintsChurchSouthend



MARCH		
Sat 24th	10.00am	Stations of the Cross
Sun 25th	after 10am service	Annual District Church meeting
Mon 26th	6pm	Holy Week Eucharist
Tue 27th	6pm	Holy Week Eucharist
Wed 28th	6pm	Holy Week Eucharist
Thu 29th	5.30pm	Parish Passover Supper
Thu 29th	8pm	Maundy Thurs Eucharist with washing of feet followed by Vigil until midnight
Fri 30th	11.30am	Stations of the Cross followed by Good Friday lunch and workshops
Fri 30th	2pm	Liturgy of Good Friday
Sat 31st	8pm	Service of Light
APRIL		
Sun 1st	10am	Easter Day Eucharist
Mon 2nd	11am to 2pm	Craft and Collectables Fair- in the All Saints' Church; Booking a table required, unless you are browsing – then spending money welcome!
Sat 21st	11am to 2pm	Table sale
Sat 28th	7.30pm	Cheese and Wine evening
MAY		
Sat 5th	11am to 1pm	Jumble Sale
Tue 8th	7.30pm	DCC Meeting
Sat 19 th	11am to 2pm	Table sale
Sun 20th	10.30am	Parish Service at St Mark's

Please contact Kalah, our Fundraising manager, (on 07772 728277) to let her know of any suggestions, comments and feedback on events. ☩