

Dear friends,

**The nave altar** at St. Peter's was transformed into Jesus' tomb for the School's Easter end of term service which provided the backdrop for a sparkling Easter service involving 300 children last Friday. I must thank Jean and Christine for the ideas and props, Peter for the guitar led songs (and for practicing them in the school beforehand), Lucinda for operating the overhead screen and Jane for the masterful transformation of the altar.



This was the third of our school Easter services, the other two being held in St. Michael's and All Saints so every child in our area has heard the Easter story.

**Note:** There won't be an email for the next two weeks because of my post Easter break.

**Well done** also to Fran whose Jumble sale in aid of "Pete's Dragons" (a charity helping families touched by suicide) in East Budleigh village hall raised £400. Selling stuff at 20p an item means that is an awful lot of Jumble!

**Congratulations** to everyone who took part in the sponsored 10 mile walk to raise money for St. Michael's church, Otterton. £900 was raised – a magnificent effort! Here are the happy walkers before the start. If you notice, Louise and I aren't in the picture. That's because we got the time wrong, so we started late but caught up at East Budleigh!





# 17th April - Easter Sunday

As well as our own services in the RMC, there is going to be a Eucharist on the beach this year, the first one for three years near the Longboat café. I believe it starts at 6am, but Louise and I may or may not be there as we have a very long day having to drive to Gatwick later that day. The café 50 degrees North by the car park will be open at 7am if you require breakfast after the service but need to know numbers so if you think you would like breakfast contact Alison Newson on 445468.

I will be presiding at both services at St. Peter's and Venerable Trevor Jones will preside at the 9.30am and 11am services at All Saints and St. Michael's respectively.

**Acts 10: 34-43.** Peter's speech in the book of Acts is an early Christian record of what the life death and resurrection of Jesus means and how far this message extends. As the speech is made in the house of the Roman Cornelius and that Peter now understands that God shows no partiality indicates the universality of the meaning of Jesus. It is a message of peace and reconciliation meant for all people at all times.

**1 Corinthians 15: 19-26.** On Easter Sunday we celebrate what happened to Jesus, but the message of Paul is what his resurrection means for every one of us. Because Jesus is raised – we will be raised. Easter is a celebration of the triumph of life over death that applies to all of us. Adam and Jesus are representative of all humanity. Death entered through Adam and resurrection happens through Jesus. The world is now a place infused with new life and hope.

**Luke 24: 1-12.** A story of great beauty that can be heard without reference to the other gospel accounts. They all differ, but they are trying to convey something indescribable, and it becomes a dead end trying to reconcile them all. The central point is the tomb is empty and the full import of what that means Luke leaves to his epic "Road to Emmaus" story that immediately follows.

## Thought for the day

The message that Christ is with us and in everything has become my central belief underpinning everything else over the last few years. There are so many facets to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, it is nigh impossible to hold them all at once at the forefront of your mind.

Christ as being representative of all humanity means that we are all made in the image of God, all sons and daughters of God and all have eternal life as an essential and innate part of being human. Realising these things and making them a part of your way of being and doing is what Saint Paul called being “in Christ”. It is that understanding of Grace that underpins our fervent belief in infant baptism for example. We require no understanding on the part of the infant, no ability to consent to doctrinal beliefs, no consent to be baptised on their part – simply their presence, where we affirm that Christ lived, died and was raised for each and every one of them and they are, despite not knowing what is happening to them we are affirming that they are in Christ regardless.

This sense of the ubiquitous and ever-present love of God that goes before us and works within us, mostly unseen and unperceived is the basis of Christianity, the “Good news” that we are to preach. If you imagine the cross bar of a Christian cross as your mortal life from physical birth to physical death and the vertical bar as the eternal life of God, the place where they intersect is the present moment. Mortality infused with immortality at every present moment is knowing that God’s love, creative possibilities, forgiveness and mercy are available in every present moment.

**The Prayer for Today** comes from the Iona community by Kathy Galloway

**Christ our life,**

**You are alive**

**In the beauty of the earth**

**In the rhythm of the seasons**

**In the mystery of time and space**

***Alleluia***

**Christ our life,**

**You are alive**

**In the tenderness of touch**

**In the heartbeat of intimacy**

**In the insights of solitude**

***Alleluia***

**Christ our life**

**You are alive**

**In the creative possibility**

**Of the dullest conversation**

**The dreariest task**

**The most threatening event**

***Alleluia***

**Christ our life**

**You are alive**

**To offer re-creation**

**To every unhealed hurt**

**To every deadened place**

**To every damaged heart**

***Alleluia***

**You have set before us a great choice,**

**Therefore we choose life.**

**The dance of resurrection soars and surges**

**Through the whole creation.**

**It sets gifts of bread and wine upon our table.**

**This is grace, dying we live.**

**So let us live.**

Love and peace,

Martin