

Readings for this Sunday 18 April 2021
The Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 3. 12 to 19

Luke 24. 36b-48



Photo courtesy of Nigel Hall

Parish Register

Funeral

29 April 2021 – Eileen Billington
Landican Crematorium at 11am
St Hildeburgh's church at 11.30am

Weekly Beacon



News from St Hildeburgh's
The Parish Church of Hoylake
Sunday 18 April 2021
The Third Sunday of Easter

The Collect

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – CHURCH SERVICES

Unless the situation changes, Revd Paul will be conducting a service of Holy Communion each Sunday at 10am.

If you feel unable to come to church the Sunday service will still be available to view on line on our website www.sthildeburgh.net and on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/sthildeburgh> or you can view the service on a smart TV.

Please DO NOT sit on the chairs with tape on the seats - the other chairs have been socially distanced in accordance with instructions. This is for everyone's safety in the current pandemic.

**Face coverings must be worn in church at all times
Please use the hand gel provided**

Individual Private Prayer

The church is open for individual private prayer Mondays to Thursdays 10am to 12 noon and Sundays after the 10am service until 12 noon.

Remembering His Royal Highness, Prince Philip

A Condolence Book in memory of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip has been opened online at the Church of England website. To access this please go to:

www.churchofengland.org

Vicar's Two Pence - April 2021

Spring is evident all around us and I am feeling very optimistic about the future. It looks like we are on the road to recovery and it won't be long before we can meet again socially. I particularly miss our Bacon Butty mornings - it will be so good to just sit and chat and enjoy each other's company.

If things continue to go as plan, we will be on track to open up more services and hopefully come the summer we will be able to reinstate Evensong and Open Worship. It was a real joy to hold an Easter Eucharist and celebrate with thankfulness the resurrection of the Lord. I am reminded of the words from 1Peter 3:4 *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you."*

This was the beginning of our tentative steps in going forward. During Easter Saturday we even managed a virtual Messy Church and I am really grateful to Peter and Jane and those who helped make it such a success.

I am sure we have all learned a great deal from the lockdown and what is really important - looking after each other and the wider community. The things that matter it seems to me are the simple things of life. Time with our family and our friends has been highlighted as one of the most precious things of all and I include our church family in that. The book of Isaiah informs us in chapter 54 :10 *"Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you."*

continued.....

Vicar's 2 Pence (continued)

It's not always what we do in church but rather what we do for others that's important. Seeing the church family caring and compassionate, helping feed the hungry is essential as we move forward to a new situation.

It's been truly humbling to see the school, Mrs Wright and the staff get back to teaching face to face and witnessing the care that the teachers put into keeping the children learning throughout the pandemic.

I have heard many parents say how much more they now appreciate what our teachers do; it's no easy task keeping the children on task.

The Church of course has suffered by the loss of income during the last year or so and somehow, we will have to address that. A huge 'Thank You' to everyone who has continued with planned giving it has helped us keep going. However, we now need to recommit ourselves to building the future and all of us to prayerfully review our giving. This year we will see a rise in Parish Share, and we have a Quinquennial inspection looming which will mean that repairs will be identified and that may be costly.

In all of this we must keep the faith, be thankful that God has brought us through this pandemic so far, and will I know continue to have his hand upon us.

The Old Testament reading from the book of **Joshua 1:9 encourages us all:**
"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Your friend Rev Paul

VOYAGERS AT HOME



This Sunday in Voyagers we continued to celebrate Jesus resurrection, and read stories of how he appeared to his disciples. We thought about Thomas, who found it hard to believe, and how that can sometimes be true for us too. Vanessa wrote a poem encouraging us to remember how great God is when we are struggling:

Trust God with all your heart,
God is someone who you can rely on.
Believe in things you haven't seen -
Nothing is impossible for God.
Believe what cannot be proved
Believe in God

Trust God as you would trust your friends and family.
Believe and trust.

Lorna has drawn a picture of Thomas meeting the risen Jesus.

We would also like to say a big thank you to Jane, Peter and all the volunteers who put together the Messy Church packs - we had great fun with ours!

Love and prayers, Christine

FLOWER OF THE WEEK: MAGNOLIA **49th in a series**

Text and photographs by Peter Surridge.

Magnolias are among the most sumptuous of spring-flowering shrubs. More mature readers might remember that Percy Thrower, one of the first TV gardeners, named his house which featured in the BBC's *Gardeners' World* programme The Magnolias. He had plenty of space to grow the shrubs to full size and, down in Shropshire, enjoyed a reasonably hospitable climate so the shoots and buds were rarely damaged by late frosts.

Anyone tempted to plant one should make sure before buying that it is not going to grow too big – some reach 10m (30ft) over time, that the site is sheltered from northerly and easterly winds and that it's not in a frost pocket. But, once established, a magnolia flaunts magnificent goblet or star-shaped blooms every spring. There are more than 100 species and numerous varieties with flowers in many shades of pink, red and purple, or white, or even bright yellow. Some are fragrant, too. Cultural success is more likely if the soil is acidic – it can be improved by adding peat or leafmould before planting and feeding with an ericaceous fertiliser. Planting should take place in April, not autumn, and the plant should be watered generously in dry weather throughout summer and autumn. Magnolias are fairly free of pest and disease problems though can suffer from coral spot and scale insects.

Among the favourite large shrubs are: *Magnolia x soulangeana* (pictured), a large shrub, up to 6m (20ft), with eye-catching pale flowers heavily flushed with rich pink and several varieties of this species, among them Alba Superba, which has large, white, scented flowers and Rustica Rubra, with rich rosy-red blossoms. *Magnolia grandiflora*, another stunner but one to beware because, although it produces a wonderful display of creamy blooms – unusually, in early autumn – it can grow to 18m (60ft) and is not fully hardy.



Left: Eye-catching...Magnolia x soulangeana.

Below: White stars...Magnolia stellata.



Left: Free-flowering...Magnolia Susan



Suitable kinds for smaller gardens include *Magnolia stellata* (pictured), which stops growing when 3m (10ft) tall and a little wider and is one of the earliest to bloom, smothering itself with star-shaped flowers that are usually pure white, though several pink varieties have been bred; and *Magnolia Susan* (pictured), which grows a little larger but produces numerous slim goblet-shaped flowers purplish-pink on the outside and paler inside.

Magnolias are an ancient species, considered to have been among the first flowering plants on Earth, dating from 95 million years ago! Those in British gardens today originate from various places in Asia and America, where they have the common name of sweet bay. Their botanical name was bestowed in honour of Pierre Magnol, a distinguished French botanist in the 17th and 18th centuries. One of the National Collections of Magnolias is held at Bodnant Garden in north Wales.

Check in & Chat Service

Since the onset of the Covid19 lockdown, Wirral Mind has responded by offering welfare telephone calls to those people who feel isolated, lonely, anxious and afraid due to being unable to access our services and others.

Our Check-in and Chat call operatives are on hand to provide practical and emotional support, for anything from accessing emergency food supplies and medicines to alleviating loneliness and isolation. We endeavour to ensure that people are getting the help they need during lockdown periods and beyond; we are especially concerned about reaching those people who may not be in contact with other services or social networks.

We have tried to target services to those struggling because of loss of employment, bereavement and social isolation derived from the pandemic.



Our ultimate aim is to encourage people to access services in person when it is safe to do so, until that can happen we have developed a range of digital workshops, training and peer support groups that will promote and encourage future social networks, reduce feelings of isolation and equip people with the skills and tools that will build resilience.

To make a referral:

Please contact us on 0151 512 2200 or email learning@wirralmind.org.uk

Our phone lines are open Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm



www.wirralmind.org.uk
Registered charity no. 1864887



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