

Reflection from the Rectory

We sometimes forget that the resurrection wasn't an 'all at once' event. Only Mary Magdalene met Jesus on the Sunday morning. For a time she was the only one



that knew. For others it would be more of a process, some on the Emmaus Road, for Thomas not until he had placed his hands in Jesus' wounds and even for Peter, not until he had thrice declared love for Jesus could the light of the resurrection fully pierce the gloom that his three-fold denial had cast.

You could say that there was a resurrection road map! This year with the vaccination programme in full swing we are beginning to see the dawning of a new light as we look towards to the lifting of restrictions, but without being fully clear as to what might be possible when. We must learn to be measured in our response. I think the disciples too took time to get used to the resurrection light and what life would look like within it. It was a victory by all means, but it couldn't take away the horror of the cross or the fear of being captured and executed by the Romans themselves. The resurrection was something the first disciples would need to learn to navigate in a new joy. This year we can celebrate Easter inside our church buildings and we are beginning to be able to make limited plans moving forward, but we still need to be cautious. Perhaps this is much more what that first Easter was like; a

new hope was born, but still not quite sure where it would lead the disciples of Jesus. The landscape of our ministry has changed, because people have been changed; we have faced our own horror and some will bear the scars for many months or years. It feels as though we can be triumphant in the empty tomb but in the knowledge that many lives are still under the shadow of the cross.

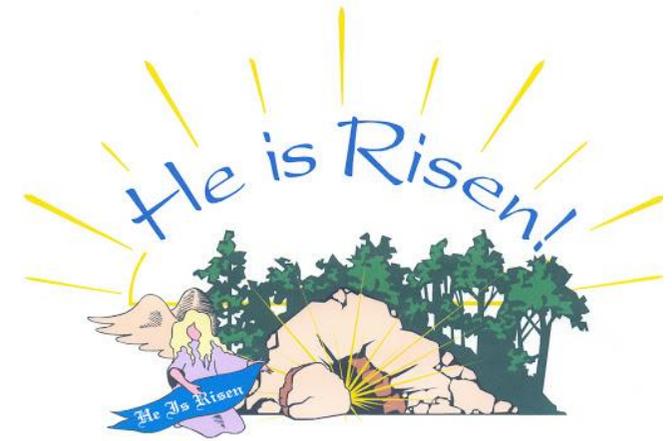
So let us be joyful in the story of God's ultimate revelation of love witnessed on Easter Sunday morning, but let us also be sensitive to those still struggling to make sense of life and loss. Our message is for them, but needs to be delivered with the deepest tenderness of service where the light can begin to shine. If you walk into a dark room and turn on the bright light you will blind those who have been sitting in the dark. If you light a candle and allow their eyes to adapt, it is far easier to see. May the light and love of the resurrection be the source of our hope, joy and love, and may we carry it gently to those still sitting in darkness, but longing to see afresh. A very happy Easter.

Chris

A Prayer from the Celtic Church

O Christ, the Master Carpenter,
who at the last, through wood and nails
purchased our whole salvation:
wield well your tools
in the workshop of your world,
so that we who come rough-hewn to your
bench, may here be fashioned to a truer
beauty of your hand.

We ask it for your own name's sake. Amen.



St Michael's Church Framlingham with All Saints Saxtead

Monthly Newsletter

April 2021:

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St Michael's Framlingham



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SAXTEAD NEWS

If we were to award a village prize for Archdeacon Sally Gaze's "40 DAYS of KINDNESS" Suffolk Lightwave initiative, it would go to Margaret Mouzer who spoke to her friend and neighbour Eleanor Abbott four times every day for more than a year until Eleanor went into Mills Meadow last month. Eleanor was the first person to welcome Margaret (and her famed collection of mice) to Saxtead when she moved from her tied farm in Framlingham, and Margaret certainly repaid the kindness a hundredfold.

In a second Suffolk Lightwave initiative Saxtead has supported the **Thank you hampers** which were given last week to

several local schools and a doctors surgery to thank them for their work during lockdown.

We initiated a hamper for Earl Soham School and the support and generosity of the community, and from John Hutton the butcher, has been amazing. We received lovely letters from the Headmaster and Administrator to say how touched and encouraged the staff were to see how much they were appreciated by us all.



The Rev Mary Lamb's vision is to fill St Michael's Framlingham with butterflies to celebrate the risen Lord and new life this Easter. We in Saxtead have joined this project



with a **children's butterfly competition** and nearly 20 children have entered. Their entries will be displayed on the windows of Saxtead church,

which is open, from Maundy Thursday to Easter Monday. There will be an **Easter egg hunt** in Saxtead churchyard with **one basket per child** for Saxtead children -. **The baskets will be there from 10.30 to 4.00pm on Easter Day, 4th April.**



Christina Darell-Brown
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Easter Biscuits

8oz (225g) plain flour
 a pinch of salt
 4oz (125g) butter or margarine
 4oz (125g) caster sugar
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 3-4 tablespoons beaten egg.



- Preheat oven to 160C/350F/Gas Mark 4
- Prepare baking trays by lining with baking parchment.
- Sift flour and salt into a bowl; rub in butter/marg until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.
- Add sugar and mix to a stiff paste with vanilla essence and beaten egg, using a fork.
- Turn onto a floured surface and knead gently until smooth. Wrap in film and put in fridge for 30 mins.
- Roll out thinly and cut into shapes, rounds, rabbits, eggs, whatever you have. Put onto the baking sheet and bake for 12-15 mins in the oven; they should be light gold in colour.
- Cool on a wire tray and store in an airtight tin.
- These biscuits can be iced if you wish, or varied by adding 2oz/50g coconut, or 2oz/50g currants, or 2 level teaspoons of mixed spice or ginger with soft brown instead of caster sugar. To make them into almond biscuits use almond essence instead of vanilla and add 2oz/50g of ground almonds with the sugar.

These are great to make with children - Happy Easter!