

Holy Week Gatherings

Every night, at 8 pm, through the whole of Holy Week, the church 'gathered' on Zoom to remember the events of that week and their significance. I hope that folk who were not able to join us on Zoom were still able to follow the readings and events of the Week, and that it was of some help to them.

Overall through the week, 33 people shared in the gatherings. Folk joined from Malawi, South Africa, Australia and all the way from Carnoustie and Edinburgh! Most folk were able to join by video, and others by audio alone, but all were able to participate.

MONDAY
6

On Monday, we read the story of the Last Supper and we all had a glass of something red and some bread that we ate and drank together.

TUESDAY
7

On Tuesday, we reflected on Jesus praying of the Garden of Gethsemane and we prayed for one another, prayed for the situations that folk spoke about and we shared the Lord's Prayer together.

WEDNESDAY
8

On Wednesday, we spoke about the Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus. We spoke about relationships and we shared photos of and prayed for people with whom we had relationships.

THURSDAY
9

On Thursday, we spoke about Jesus' Trial and the fact that, by making the decision to speak when He was not required to, He condemned Himself and made the crucifixion possible. We then spoke about some of the big decisions that have changed our lives and we prayed for each other.

FRIDAY
10

On Friday, we spoke about the Crucifixion and folk showed something that depicted for them the meaning of the cross and the Day that we call 'Good'. Joanna showed a wooden spoon for discipline and punishment as a reminder that Jesus took our punishment; Tracey showed a stripy blanket as a reminder that "by his stripes we are healed". Christine showed a piece of holly to remind us that He was he was pierced for us and given a crown of thorns to wear. Many folk shared crosses and Bryn drew a picture of a fish and turned it into a motorbike!

SATURDAY
11

On Saturday, we reflected on the silence of the tomb – Jesus' Sabbath rest after re-creating the world, and we spent time in silent and in open prayer.

SUNDAY
12

Finally, SUNDAY! It was a good gathering and, again, folk shared things that reminded them of the story of the resurrection and its significance: Jerome shared the cartoon that appears in this newsletter; Sybil shared her very old Afrikaans Bible to remind us of the Word of God; Stew shared a hand held cross; Ian spoke about daffodils and the fact that the bulbs lie seemingly dead but emerge to glorious life; and Lucy played her clarsach.

St Andrews and Trinity Church Newsletter

April 15th

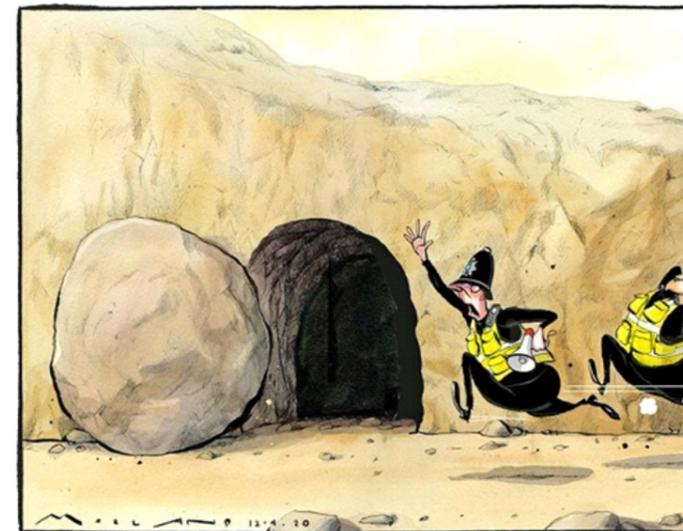
Easter Message From Jerome



HE IS RISEN!!

I have to confess to you that I have peculiar interests. One of them is that I enjoy reading cartoons and comics. In many ways, I think that they succinctly express ideas and attitudes that speak about

our lives, and sometimes they can teach and inform in better ways than other forms of communication.



Every so often, I come across something that resonates so well that it has me amazed at how good it is and what it says. The above cartoon, which appeared in the Sunday Times on Sunday 12th April, and is attributed

to the artist, Morton Morland, is just such a one. It is a statement on our present predicament of the lockdown. It suggest that Jesus, by leaving His tomb, has somehow breached the quarantine regulations and the police (whom many have complained about have been quite zealous in



their enforcement of the regulations) are chasing after Him to make sure that He goes back to where He belongs.

But it is the depth of the cartoon that has left me gasping with delight:

Firstly, there is an assumption there that people will recognise that this is a picture of the Tomb where Jesus was laid after His crucifixion. Now, I know that we are talking Times readers here, but this is still a throat catching assumption that people will make – that they will recognise the empty tomb as THE depiction of the glory of Christ. This suggests to me that, in spite of the secularisation of the UK, the decline of church attendance and the soothsayers of doom regarding the Church, here we have a picture that suggests the iconic images of the Christian faith have not lost their meaning, are still instantly recognisable and are able to resonate with people today.

Secondly, this is a cartoon that speaks of complete futility. Humans too often think that they have all the answers, that things are all sorted out or are capable of being so. There is a saying I heard that goes like this: “If you want to give God a good laugh, tell Him your plans”. In the Scriptures, God tells us that:

“my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts”,

and to this I will add, ‘our plans are not His plans’.

The resurrection of Jesus is the active truth of this statement. The authorities wanted Jesus dead and gone; they thought that they had achieved their goal. They were 100% wrong. You cannot get more wrong than that. God raised Christ from the tomb to demonstrate that He will have the last Word. God raised Jesus from the tomb to vindicate Christ in all that He did and said.

Though people and authorities and the oh-so-clever of our time seek to confine and limit Christ, He will never be bound by them. If He wants to communicate the truth that He can go where He pleases, no-one will deny Him, not even the polis.



Now this is not to suggest for one second that we can all defy and ignore good and useful laws with impunity and clear conscience, but this cartoon, and Easter, in particular, are a reminder that God is real. His purposes are being worked out, and we can either get on board with Him or oppose Him (but I am betting that the former option is both the wisest and safest).

Lastly, this cartoon speaks of a deep and resounding victory. The Tomb was meant to be the final word about Jesus. Human authority was meant to be the power that defeated Him. More than that, Death was meant to be the ultimate power that extinguished Him. BUT, but, but the Tomb is empty. This is the great central point of Christianity, the rock on which all things are built. There is a greater authority than Humanity. There is a greater authority than Death. There is a greater power than sin. And this Authority has just walked from the Tomb, and no-one and no power can hold Him back.

Church Finances

Many folk have been asking what they are to do with their envelopes.

At the present moment, the church has sufficient funds to meet its regular commitments, so it is managing.

Folk are asked to continue to fill their envelopes and, when we gather again, they can be handed over.

Folk are also encouraged to consider moving to a Standing Order arrangement. This is where your tithe is paid for you from your bank account to the church's bank account on a regular basis as you decide. All it requires is for you to contact your bank and ask to set up a standing order in favour of the church.

All you will need from the church is its bank details. If you want to move to this method of tithing, please ask Ian or me for the church's bank details.



Then, you contact your bank and ask it to start a Standing Order for any amount you wish and as regularly as you wish, and your Bank will do that for you until you tell it to stop.

