

View from the Rectory

Dear friends - What a full month March is, with Lent, Mothering Sunday, Holy week and Easter day, all falling in the same month! It's no wonder the Co-op are selling 'Happy Easter hot cross buns'! With so many important festivals falling close together, there are bound to be themes getting mixed up and falling into each other. For instance, both Good Friday and Easter Day being celebrated here together in the baked goods aisle!

This does not just happen in March though. Sadly, we often come across mixed messages. There are times we get confused in conversations, or maybe we misunderstand an email or news item, or sometimes we hear half a story and think that is the whole story, or perhaps we even fall foul of fake news or lies. Sometimes we need to do a better job at listening or checking information we hear. At other times, we might need to do a better job ourselves at communicating so that we are clear to others.

In John's Gospel, chapter 20, Mary Magdalene finds Jesus' tomb empty. Though Mary tells the two disciples this, they cannot quite believe it, so want to see it for themselves. So they run to the tomb and when they also find it empty, they leave. Mary Magdalene stays though, too sad to physically leave. It is in Mary Magdalene's staying that she is the first person to meet the resurrected Jesus. In staying, she saw and spoke with the risen Christ and then had the important task of sharing the message to others that Jesus is risen. The disciples left confused. Mary Magdalene stayed, and came to understand.

Sometimes we might find it hard to understand what God is saying to us, or sometimes even feel we are struggling to find God. It might be tempting to leave, to give up, to walk off confused. It is more worthwhile though, to be like Mary Magdalene, and to stay. To stay as near to God as we can be in our confusion, sadness or doubt, so that we can, and will again, feel the nearer presence of God and know God's love.

At Easter time, Mary Magdalene reminds us of the importance of being present, and not giving up on our faith, even if we are confused or think we hear mixed messages. Mary Magdalene reminds us not give up in our Good Friday moments, and that the joy of Easter will come to us all again.

I hope you all do have a wonderful and joyful Easter season.

With all best wishes and prayers,

Rev George

Prayer for the month

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.