

THE PARISH OF GREAT YARMOUTH**GREAT YARMOUTH MINSTER, ST PAUL'S, ST MARY'S****SUNDAY 18th April 2021 3rd Sunday of Easter**

Services as follows: Facebook at 10am and 11am in the Minster.

Evening Prayer on Facebook / YouTube Thursday at 7pm.

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I was recently struck by hearing a fellow priest talking about his journey from atheism to finding faith. Brought up in a church background he rejected the faith in his teenage years until, rather unexpectedly, he found himself on an Alpha course years later and decided to follow Christ. What made the difference in this encounter with faith? It wasn't the course content. It wasn't the leaflets or videos. It was the people. He came to a place where he met people and could see the difference faith made in their lives.

To be a Christian is to be a follower and witness to the risen Christ and the season of Easter keeps prodding us to remember that: whatever we are confronted with, it can be transformed! Even years of rejecting Christian faith and adopting militant atheism can be turned around. In our gospel reading today (Luke 24:36-48), once more the risen Christ brings peace into a situation where the disciples are full of fear, doubt, questions and uncertainty.

The first reaction in the gospel passage suggests the disciples thought they were seeing a ghost. Jesus is very clear by his actions to dispel that idea and recognise His physical presence in the room. He offers up his wounded hands and feet for them to see and touch. He eats some grilled fish. The writer of Luke's gospel wants to guarantee that those who will hear the Gospel stories understand the truth of resurrection; that the presence is embodied and made whole; that it is able to transform doubt. It will also act as an impetus to mission, compelling those who experience the presence to share their experience with the world.

Fr Simon

NOTICES

Minster Opening times from this week the Minster will be open Monday – Sunday (excluding Wednesday), from 10am-12noon for private prayer. Please follow distancing guidelines.

Sunday Eucharist at 11am in the Minster, along with an online service at 10am. Wednesday Eucharist this week is 10.15am at St. Paul's. If you wish to volunteer to help keep the Minster open, please contact the Parish Office.

APCM/AVM – at the annual meetings held on 11th April Paul Spychal and Wendy Betts were elected as Churchwardens; Paul Davies (re-elected), Jennifer King & Jamie Kemp were elected as PCC Members.

Confirmation Service has been arranged for Sunday 9th May. If you are considering being confirmed, please speak to a member of the clergy.

Pathway Volunteers – if anyone is interested in volunteering at Pathway, please contact Jennifer King:07723 120850. Pathway opens Mon, Wed & Fri serving a lunch. Any amount of time you can offer may help.

Online: If you're online you can find the "Parish of Great Yarmouth" on YouTube. We'll also do live streaming on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GtYarMinster> . You don't have to be signed up to Facebook to view these.

Regular Giving To set up a regular payment or make a one-off gift, account name The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Great Yarmouth, sort code 20-99-21 and account number 60425850. Thank you.

Parish Magazine: The April magazine is out now, if you have any articles for the magazine please contact Pat Stringer, email: pat.stringer1@sky.com

PARISH PRAYER LIST If anyone wants someone prayed for please ask. Pray for those who are sick or in need, all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit or in need of God's loving care: Brenda, David, Wally, Claire, Nancy, Emma, Peter, John. Remember before God the recently departed Bernice Smith. Pray for St Nicholas Priory School: head teacher Maria Grimmer. Pray for all staff at James Paget Hospital and all those who work to care for others during the pandemic.

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.

FIRST READING (Alternative readings)
The reading from Acts must be read as either the First or Second Reading.

Either Acts 3:12-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Or **Zephaniah 3:14-end**

PSALM Psalm 4

R *In peace, in peace I will lie down and sleep.*



Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness;
 you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
 have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;
 how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood? **R**

But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness;
 when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

Stand in awe, and sin not;
 commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. **R**

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness and put your trust in the Lord.

There are many that say, "Who will show us any good?"

Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.

You have put gladness in my heart, more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety. **R**

SECOND READING (Alternative readings)

Either 1 John 3:1-7

A reading from the first letter of John.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive

you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Or **Acts 3:12-19**

GOSPEL Luke 24:36b-48

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

While the eleven and their companions were talking about what they had heard, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

POST COMMUNION

Living God,
 your Son made himself known to his disciples
 in the breaking of bread:
 open the eyes of our faith,
 that we may see him in all his
 redeeming work;
 who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

