

**Collects and readings for  
The Second Sunday of Easter**

**COLLECT**

Almighty Father,  
you have given your only Son to die for our sins and  
to rise again for our justification:  
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and  
wickedness  
that we may always serve you in pureness of living  
and truth;  
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the  
Holy spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**READINGS**

1st reading (from the New Testament – first book after  
the Gospels!), Acts chapter 2: verses 14a, and 22-32  
Psalm 16  
2nd reading (again from the New Testament but  
almost at the end of the Bible!), The First Letter of  
Peter chapter 1: verses 3-9  
Gospel (from the New Testament, the last of the  
Gospels) St John chapter 20: verses 19-31

**A message from Revd. Maureen**



**HOW WAS IT – OR IS IT –  
FOR YOU?**

As many of you will know and, if  
you don't - you do now, that the  
season of Easter continues for  
several weeks until the Feast of

Pentecost and includes the Ascension of Jesus into  
heaven. And so our joy and hope and celebration  
continues, even if it is in different and sometimes  
strange ways in these particular and peculiar times.

I thought you might be interested to know what is  
occupying me at the moment, as I am unable to  
prepare for services, meet with wedding couples, visit  
those who are planning the funeral for a loved one,  
take communion to someone who is housebound,  
attend PCC meetings(!!!), meet with families and their  
children to discuss Baptism/Christening, write an  
article for Fiveways, plan talks for Quiet Days – oh, the  
list is endless. How many times have some of us  
wished for a break from the relentless round of  
activity, and now that we are "confined to barracks"  
we yearn for normality?

*Continued...*

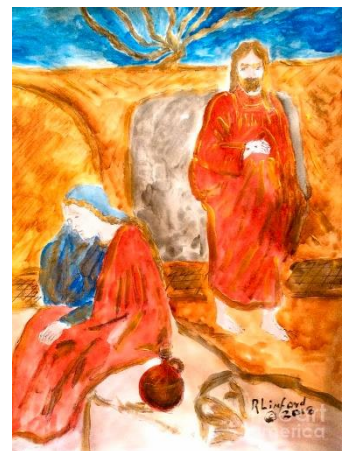


I've actually managed to  
find my saxophone, and  
each day I'm going  
through the hymn book  
and playing hymn tunes –  
even with the windows  
open so that I can  
"inflict"(?) my practice on  
those living close by. Who  
knows, they might even  
recognise the tunes and  
sing along! I've also got a  
jigsaw puzzle on one of

my desks in the study, so that I can fill some of my  
time struggling with a very difficult 1,000 piece  
picture of Pickering railway station. It's very tough,  
but is strangely relaxing at the same time!

Many of you will also know of my great love of  
Malcolm Guite's poetry and, to be honest, his poetry  
and his words on Facebook are what has kept me  
going while we've all been locked away. I'm sorry to  
say that some of the worship offered on TV, or  
Facebook or Youtube has not resonated with me – I  
don't know why. I am ashamed to admit that, after  
ten minutes watching, I have got bored and turned it  
off! And yet – and yet – I feel that the Lord has  
steered me in Malcolm Guite's direction and I have  
been supported and held, reassured and loved in an  
amazing way. I wonder whether I might be allowed  
to share some of his words with you now.

Malcolm wrote some sonnets for Stations of the  
Cross, which my husband David and I used at mid-  
day on Good Friday. There are usually 14 Stations,  
with the 15<sup>th</sup> being used on Easter Day. Malcolm  
called his 15<sup>th</sup> Station *Easter dawn*, and I think the  
words speak to us too  
at this time particularly  
those who are anxious  
about a loved one, or  
anyone who is  
mourning and of  
course those of us who  
are praying for those  
"on the front line" and  
putting themselves at  
enormous risk by  
continuing to serve  
others by doing their  
essential work:



*Continued...*

He blesses every love that weeps and grieves  
 and now he blesses hers [Mary Magdalene] who stood  
 and wept  
 and would not be consoled, or leave her love's  
 last touching place, but watched as low light crept  
 up from the east. A sound behind her stirs  
 a scatter of bright birdsong through the air.  
 She turns, but cannot focus through her tears,  
 or recognise the Gardener standing there.  
 She hardly hears his gentle question, 'Why,  
 why are you weeping?', or sees the play of light  
 that brightens as she chokes out her reply,  
 'They took my love away, my day is night.'  
 And then she hears her name, she hears Love say  
 The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

From *Sounding the Seasons: Seventy Sonnets for the Christian Year*, by Malcolm Guite.

Apart from listening and watching Malcolm on Youtube, I've been reading quite a bit and listening to music. Vaughan-Williams' music is very important to me (sorry, I don't listen to much pop music unless it's from the '60s!). V-W's Five Mystical Songs is a long time love, and I have to listen to it at the start of each day to kick start me.



**Click the picture to hear 'Easter' from Five Mystical Songs (if you see an advertisement you can skip this after a few seconds)**

I love Mendelssohn's epic work called Elijah, and also Margaret Rizza's music which we use in St Mary's sometimes; Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel is another great favourite of mine, though my recording is in German which means that I can't understand what they're singing about but the music is just wonderful and so expressive that I sort of know which bit of the story they've reached! I also love J.S. Bach's organ music, which is great for lifting the spirits, and anything choral from some of this country's Cathedrals. Anyway, as I come across other books and music, I might share it with you in the next InTouch communication.

I've also been occupying myself by sorting out some books – goodness knows how many I have but they take up a whole wall in my study! I've been reminded of some which have been very useful in the past and which I may re-read. One of them is called Sabbath, written by Nicola Slee – some of you may have heard of her; she talks about how we are driven to fill every moment of every day with "doing" and how important "being" is and what is known these days as "in the

moment". Another useful and thought-provoking book is The Table, written by Paul Bayes who is Bishop of Liverpool. This book talks about The Table of the altar, and how the altar is there for everyone but how different people view it from various perspectives and also how many different tables there are: the Lord's table, the breakfast table, the banqueting table, the daily table and all the different uses to which we put a table – fascinating stuff!

So – to return to the heading above – How was it – or is it – for you? We warmly invite you to send us a few lines to describe how you felt during Holy Week and Easter Day, or even how you feel about it now as we continue the season. This leaflet which we are producing is not just for us to send you information or resources to encourage and support you. It's very much intended for sharing what we've received, or been able to give; what we've experienced, and in what way. You don't have to put your name to anything you send us; if you wouldn't mind letting Adrian know who you are, but request him to keep your identity anonymous – that's fine. But do send us your thoughts, feelings, anxieties, praises and things which have really uplifted you and reassured you, a bit like I've done above. You may find that what I've written is surprising, or even shocking, but clergy are not exempt from down times and they often "hit" when least expected and are least needed! But what I've been able to read from Malcolm's writing has, I believe, been heaven-sent and God's way of saying "It's OK. I'm here. I love you and you are safe." And, in the words of Julian of Norwich: "All will be well, and all will be well. And all manner of things shall be well."

We look forward very much to hearing from as many of you as possible. Just send your offering either to Adrian in the post, or by email. If there's anything else you would like me to provide, do let us know – this communication is for all of us, and not just for those to attend church but for all the community so please also share with your neighbours. Print off a copy and pop one through a neighbour's door - whilst keeping your distance of course! Please, also, continue to send us requests for prayer, or write a prayer yourself and send it for inclusion. Any funny stories to make us all giggle will also be welcome. Be imaginative! Help us to fill these pages with items which will give variety for everyone.

May God richly bless us all as we continue to be locked out of our churches but do the best we can in so many other and wonderful ways to show God's love for everyone by serving one another and be God's hands and feet in our communities.

God bless you,  
 protect you  
 and be with  
 you wherever  
 you are. Amen.



**Maureen**

### Our prayers

In our prayers this week, we are asked to pray for the parish of Bagborough; for all those in the benefice who assist with maintenance of churchyards and buildings; those who are lonely, live alone or are unable to leave their homes and we pray for the work of Christian Aid.

Our prayers are also asked for those in the benefice who are unwell: John, Gwen, Joan, Bobby, Lucinda, Norma, Marissa, Roger and Wendy and for all others known to us.

Please pray for Roger, resident in Dunkirk House, who is especially unwell at the moment.

*Merciful God,  
we entrust to your tender care  
those who are ill or in pain,  
knowing that whenever danger threatens  
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.  
Comfort and heal them,  
and restore them to health and strength;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

**Amen.**

### Prayers in the time of Coronavirus

For all who are affected by coronavirus, through illness or isolation or anxiety, that they may find relief and recovery:  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions:  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers, that through their skill and insights many will be restored to health:  
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful, for the gravely ill and the dying, that they may know your comfort and peace:  
Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God.

**Amen.**

### A Prayer of openness to Jesus

Lord Jesus, my Saviour, let me now come to you.  
My heart is cold; dear Lord, warm it with your selfless love.  
My heart is sinful; cleanse it by your precious blood.  
My heart is weak; strengthen it with your joy-filled Spirit.  
My heart is empty; fill it with your divine presence.  
Lord Jesus, my heart is yours; possess it always and only for yourself.

**Amen.**

By Revd. Martin Perry, based on a prayer of St. Augustine

### Gone to the dogs

