

THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL



CHARING WITH LITTLE CHART, CHARING HEATH, EGERTON, HOTHFIELD, PLUCKLEY AND WESTWELL

PEW APRIL 2020 NEWS

ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN!

A difficult time for humanity! The epidemic sweeping the world reminds us how precious life is, and how fragile. Two millennia ago, disciples and friends were devastated by the crucifixion of Jesus their friend and leader. By normal expectations they should have disappeared into historical oblivion. But they didn't.

The events of Jesus' arrest, trial and execution are well documented. If you attend one of the Good Friday services you are likely to find the impact disturbing and poignant, in no way softened by the passing of time. Maybe the impact will feel greater as we adjust to the worldwide suffering caused by a small virus normally found in bats. Just another senseless and devastating historic event.

What happened *after* the crucifixion breaks free of historical norms. The empty tomb is witnessed by women (women were not legally accepted as witnesses in 1st century Judea, a wonderful irony). Not fevered imagination, nor the resuscitation of a corpse. The varied personal encounters with a real alive Jesus are difficult to define; hard to write about. Nor are they confined to the past. The gospel writers understandably give different accounts. St Mark completes his gospel with the empty tomb as though there is nothing more that he could say that could do justice to the new reality. Matthew emphasises that the Lord is ever present. Despite events, "*I am with you to the end of the age*". St Luke recounts a despondent couple walking to Emmaus with a stranger who breaks bread. St John pointed to Jesus who restores his relationship with Peter. What stands out is the transformation of the disciples into a community of reconciliation, equality and loving service that transformed the world around them. At Easter we engage again in that reality and commit to a life of love and obedient service. Confident not in ourselves or some modern sophistication, but in our assured dependency on the risen Lord through whom the tragedies of this world are forbidden to have the final say.

As Christians have always greeted each other at Easter: "Alleluia! He is Risen".

Mark Taylor

Readings for April

Palm Sunday
Isaiah 50:4-9a,
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 21:1-11,
Matthew 27:11-54

Maundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-14
I Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13 – End of 53
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1 – End of 19

Easter Sunday
Acts 10:34-43
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18

Easter 2
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
I Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19 – End

Easter 3
Acts 2:14a, 36-41
I Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Bishop Rose urges people of Kent to seek unity

Giving her first sermon as Bishop of Dover, The Rt Revd Dr Rose Hudson-Wilkin urged people to refuse to be divided, instead focusing on their common humanity.

Speaking at her installation at Canterbury Cathedral, she said: "Let us think what it might look like for us here in Kent, if the name of Jesus enabled us to be a unifying body. That instead of focusing on the things that separate us, we focussed on the things that we share in common. What if we were to discover that God, through Jesus does indeed sneak out those great doors and is right there in the community with us, urging us to think of his justice, mercy and his compassion for the whole world. What if we were to recognise his presence as we seek to ensure that the resources we have been blessed with is not for amassing personal wealth but to be shared in such a way that our brothers and sisters in poverty is no longer in need?"

She added: "We are deeply mistaken if the kind of relationship we seek with God is so personal and private that we exclude our brothers and sisters around us or indeed as we are in Kent, on the frontier if we exclude our brothers and sisters from another mother!"

Bishop Rose urged those present to focus afresh on Jesus, opening themselves up to God's transforming power: "He is ready to walk with us, today I invite you to shed the cultural barriers that have locked him into special boxes and so called religious sites and enable the spirit to change our lives so that we can in turn be changing other lives through the message of the Good News."

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH OUR WEBSITE

THE BENEFICE OF CALEHILL WITH WESTWELL

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Welcome Articles Who we are About us What we do Life Events News & Events Policies Safeguarding

Q Search Site

Prayer for this week

God of creation,
In the storms of life,
fix our eyes on you.
Be our beacon
in dark places,
our compass
when we are lost.
Help us to trust that you
will guide us safely home,
Amen.

'Loving God, Serving Christ,
Growing the Church'

Links
Church of England Canterbury Diocese Ashford Deanery Calendar

Non-eucharistic liturgy in a rural setting
Diocesan Calendar of Prayer
Welcoming Bishop Rose

OUR CHURCHES

| | | Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 |
|---------------|-------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Charing | 9.30 | Communion | SCP Said Communion | Communion | Informal Service |
| Charing Heath | 9.30 | | Communion | Informal Service | Communion |
| Egerton | 9.30 | Family Service | | SCP Matins | Communion |
| Hothfield | 11.00 | Communion | SCP Matins | | Informal Service |
| Little Chart | 11.00 | All Age | All Age | All Age (+ Comm) | All Age |
| Pluckley | 11.00 | Communion | SCP Matins | Communion | Inter Eucharist |
| Westwell | 11.00 | SCP Communion | Inter Eucharist | Family Service | Communion |

It's especially necessary in this time of interregnum to keep abreast of what's happening, and to make sure others know about your church's plans and projects. Pew News only comes out once a month, and things happen in between issues. It makes sense to get your news out to the whole benefice, and the best way is to get it on the website. Whatever you have to announce or report, send the details to me at hedley@grenfell-banks.com, and I'll pretty it up and make sure it is posted as quickly as possible, usually within hours, often within minutes.

www.calehill-westwell.uk

Is the address. Once there, you'll find details arranged under eight headings:

Articles – the latest news and items of interest, including a bit of history about Calehill.

Who we are – the clergy, lay ministers and administrator.

About us – information about each of our churches and the people to contact for each church.

What we do – the various groups active in the benefice.

Life Events – information about baptisms, Weddings, Funerals.

News and Events – Pew News (in case you've lost your copy), and notices of forthcoming events from the seven churches; this is where to post your events – make sure you do!

Policies – our rules on privacy and the churchyard regulations.

Safeguarding – our safeguarding policy.

On the welcome page, you'll also find links to the Church of England, Canterbury Diocese and Ashford deanery. There's also

FUNERALS

Susan GRUNDY

Susan died on Wednesday 22nd January 2020 aged 71. Her funeral took place at St. Nicholas, Pluckley, followed by burial in the churchyard, on Wednesday 19th February 2020.

Bessie RATCLIFFE (Hothfield)

Bessie died on Saturday 8th February 2020 aged 89. Her funeral took place at Charing Crematorium on Friday 13th March 2020.

May God enfold Susan and Bessie in his tender love and care.



We are following government recommendations and so all face to face scouting has stopped. Cub camp and many other events have been cancelled. We are still in contact with our young people and making suggestions for how they can spend their time and work on badges. Scouting is an incredibly important part of the growth and development of young people and we can't wait to get back to doing it properly

Terry Lister

Group Scout Leader

07748818660

The naming of "Easter"

seems to go back to the name of a pre-Christian goddess in England, Eostre, who was celebrated at beginning of spring. The only reference to this goddess comes from the writings of the Venerable Bede, a British monk who lived in the late seventh and early eighth century. Bede wrote that the month in which English Christians were celebrating the resurrection of Jesus had been called *Eosturmonath* in Old English, referring to a goddess named Eostre. And even though Christians had begun affirming the Christian meaning of the celebration, they continued to use the name of the goddess to designate the season.

In the absence of a Rector, communications for Calehill and Westwell should be addressed to the Parish Office:

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