

**Welcome to the Mells Group of Parishes**  
**Chantry, Great Elm,**  
**Mells with Vobster, Whatley**

## **NOTICES**

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March - Easter Day**

09.30 Holy Communion at Great Elm led by Martin Weymont

09.30 Holy Communion at Whatley led by David Clark

11.00 Holy Communion at Chantry led by David Clark

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

09.30 Matins at Mells led by Robin Isherwood

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April - Second Sunday of Easter**

10.00am Group Service at Mells – Lay Led

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## **Easter Day**

**Collect**

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**First Reading: Acts 10 34-43**

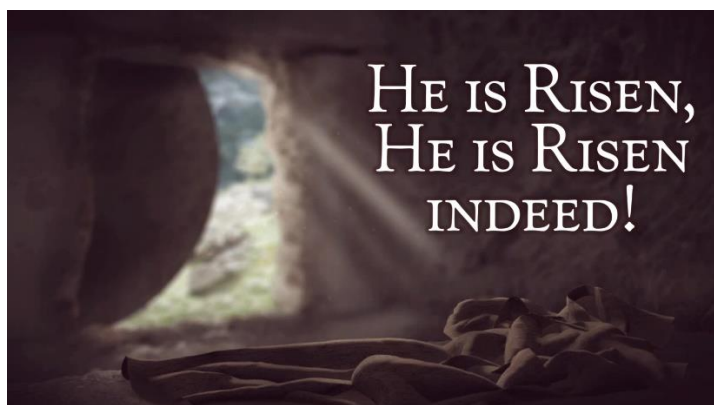
Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

## **Gospel: John 23 1-18**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." ' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

## **Post Communion**

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



**Please be aware that:**

**The Parish Office will now be located at  
St John's Parish Office, The Cottage, 1 Church Steps,  
FROME, BA11 1PL**

**and the times of opening will be 1.00pm - 4.00pm**

**Tuesday and Thursday**

**Tel: 07557 751 795**

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## **Church services in April**

|                  | <b>7<sup>th</sup> April</b> | <b>14<sup>th</sup> April</b>                       | <b>21<sup>st</sup> April</b>                   | <b>28<sup>th</sup> April</b>                | <b>5<sup>th</sup> May</b>                                     |
|------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chantry</b>   |                             | 11am:<br>Matins<br>Janet<br>Cauldwell              | 11am<br>Morning<br>Prayer<br>David Clark       | 11am: Holy<br>Communion<br>Chris Hare       |                                                               |
| <b>Great Elm</b> |                             |                                                    | 9.30am Holy<br>Communion<br>Robin<br>Isherwood | 9.30am<br>Informal Service<br>Richard King  |                                                               |
| <b>Mells</b>     | 10am:<br>Group<br>Service   | 9.30am:<br>Holy<br>Communion<br>Robin<br>Isherwood |                                                | 9.30am<br>Morning Prayer<br>Janet Cauldwell |                                                               |
| <b>Whatley</b>   |                             | 9.30am:<br>Matins<br>Hazell Tovey                  |                                                | 9.30am<br>Holy Communion<br>David Gatcliffe | 10.00am<br>Group Service:<br>Holy Communion<br>Martin Weymont |

# From The Diocese

New life for all the world

Sowing seeds, chitting potatoes, choosing varieties. Easter acts as starter's orders for the gardening year. Beds are cultivated, lawns mown, plans for all the growth and new life that spring and summer will bring made and then turned into action.

There's a much greater connection between gardening and Easter than it merely being the time to dust off forks and spades. For in the Bible, a garden is the setting for Easter itself. In John's Gospel (Jn 20:1-18) Mary Magdalene meets the risen Jesus in a garden. Indeed, Jesus's appearance to Mary is so unexpected that at first she can't believe it's really him. So she mistakes the man she meets 'supposing him to be the gardener' (John 20:15).

In John's account, all the new life contained in the first Easter chimes with a much earlier story set in a garden too. This is of the new life of another man and woman, the creation story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and contained in the book of Genesis (Genesis 2:4- 3:24). In that story, Adam is the gardener (Gen 2:15), only for things to go wrong. In John, Jesus is portrayed as the new Adam - come to bring new life that has no end.

What would happen if we were to think of our churches as gardens, primed to welcome the spring that is the new life of Jesus this Easter? What would happen if we imagined ourselves called to be gardeners - like our father Adam and the new Adam, Jesus? What would we expect to grow? What might need pruning or weeding? What new plans for the coming season would we make and turn into action? What would be the harvest that we'd sow for, tend and then reap?

For I reckon we should see Easter as the starting point of all that God wants to do among us and with us. Jesus's resurrection opens us to being part of God's new creation. Easter offers us a fresh start for life, relationships and the life of our churches: new life for all the world.

Happy gardening and a very Happy Easter to you all.

Bishop Michael

