

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WESTWOOD

www.htboa.org



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The Rector's usual weekly day off is a Monday

12 APRIL 2026



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

Welcome to our Service today and welcome if you are reading this at home

11.15am – Holy Communion

474 – The Day of Resurrection

69 – Breathe on me breath of God

228 – I danced in the morning

480 – The Head that once was crowned with thorns

A big thank you to Bishop John for conducting our service today.

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.

FIRST READING

Acts 2. 14a, 22- 32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption."

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

GOSPEL READING

John 20. 19 – end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ROBERT –

The Gospel today focuses on Thomas and his struggle to grasp the reality of Jesus's resurrection. It reminds us that the resurrection is not simply an event to be remembered, but a living reality that shapes the way we live. We find ourselves proclaiming our faith in a world marked by violence and war. In a divided and wounded world, the resurrection of Christ speaks hope. Writing from prison, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran pastor who was arrested and executed for his opposition to Hitler, said that 'only a suffering God can help'. His words remind us that God is not remote from human pain. In Jesus Christ God enters into it, bears it, and transforms it. The cross stands immovable while the world changes. Empires rise and fall, cultures shift, and societies change, but the love of God revealed in Christ crucified and risen is constant. May we be people of resurrection, Easter people, bearers of hope, and rejoice in God's promise of new life.

Robert Atwell

HOLY WEEK REFLECTION -

We were reminded all week, even in the glory of Palm Sunday, to return to the Cross.

Many of us may have required that reminder: I certainly did. Not necessarily due to a preoccupation with chocolate eggs and community-spirited bunnies. More likely because of the utter enormity of Christ's - God's - radical act of love. For the sake of us humans: meaning for you, and me, and every last one of us.

"Human kind cannot bear very much reality," T.S. Eliot said. It does not get much more real than Jesus's lingering, horrific death, occasioned by and endured through love unknown.

The task of Holy Week was to maintain one's gaze as best one could, and perceive the triumph amid the agony.

Chris Booth

HOLY COMMUNION ARRANGEMENTS –

GLUTEN FREE WAFERS – these are available for those who need them. Please let the welcomers know when you arrive and inform the priest when you come to receive Communion

BLESSINGS – you are welcome to come forward for a Blessing during the Communion part of the service

NOTICES

NOTICES FOR WEEKLY BULLETINS – please send all messages for the bulletin by Wednesday 12pm to Annie on: beneficeoffice@htboa.org

COPYING, PRINTING, POSTERS – please send to Annie on: beneficeoffice@htboa.org

BIRTHDAYS - Happy Birthday, prayers and blessings to all those with birthdays in this season.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION – Holy Trinity 10am, beginning this Wednesday 15th April, as an addition to our service pattern.

EASTER FLOWERS AND ACTIVITIES AROUND THE BENEFICE -

Thank you to everyone who prepared our churches for the most joyful day of the year, especially the florists, and to all who joined our vibrant worshipping communities across the benefice. We also thank Beatrice Newman; Zabe, Deidre, and Alison for leading our first Holy Saturday Craft session for families and children; and Jill Harrison for sharing the poems of Heaney and R.S. Thomas.



THIS WEEK @ HT

MORNING PRAYER – Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays @ 8.30am

MAINLY MUSIC – Tuesday @ 10.30am – fun & friendship for pre-school families (contact Marlene on 864412 if you'd like to come). marlene.haffenden@googlemail.com

SAXON CLUB – Tuesday @ 2.30pm – fellowship and various activities for seniors

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION – FOR PRAYER THIS WEEK

Holy Trinity, 10am

COMMUNITY CAFÉ – Wednesdays from 10am-12noon - weekly community café – coffee/tea and biscuits will be provided on a donation basis.

MOTHERS' UNION MEETING – Wednesday, 15th April @ 2.30pm in church. Speaker is The Ven. Ian Stanes. Visitors warmly welcome.

FUTURE EVENTS AROUND THE BENEFICE

HOLY TRINITY LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES -

All are welcome to join us for our lunchtime concert series in the beautiful setting of Holy Trinity Church. 12 noon – 1.30pm.

23rd April – Organ Concert with Martin Cooke – This will be the first solo concert on our reinstated pipe organ as we begin to mark the instrument's remarkable 100 years this year. Martin will put our Henry Willis organ through its paces demonstrating all its sounds and features in a fascinating and enticing programme. As well as his playing, we all look forward to reading Martin's attractive programme notes just as much!

Future concert dates –

14th May – Trumpet and Piano with Mike Daniels

11th June – Monkton Combe Instrumentalists

25th June – Monkton Combe Instrumentalists

CHORAL CONCERT – MONKTON COMBE CHAPEL CHOIR - Tuesday 19th May – 7pm – 9pm

RECITAL CONCERT WITH DAVID HALLS – Friday 12th June – 7pm – 9pm

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for all who are sick, remembering especially: David Chalmers, Betty & Doug Hancock.

Pray for the recently departed and all who mourn them, especially: Tony Carter, Jennifer Fuller & Mary Needham

Please *always* let Rev Jenny know of any pastoral need, including prayer.

- The teachers, wider staff and communities of St Laurence School, Fitzmaurice Primary, The Mead, Westwood & Iford Primary
- For all those preparing for Baptism and Confirmation in this season, for Hector, Henry and Emily
- To find fresh strength in the Good News of Easter
- God's love & understanding in all our challenges
- Lasting Peace in all Areas of Conflict
- Those who have lost hope, the sick, the injured & those suffering life changing injuries
- The Natural World & Resources of the Earth
- All who work in the Medical Profession



We continue to work together in our shared commitment to Safeguarding: **'The Benefice of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield takes its responsibilities**

surrounding the safeguarding of children, young people, and adults who may be at risk, very seriously. We work in partnership with the Diocese of Salisbury to ensure that we work in accordance with best practices at all times.'

SAFEGUARDING - If you have any Safeguarding concerns please speak to the clergy or our Safeguarding Adviser for the Benefice: **Andrea Unwin** 07553161654

Email: safeguarding@htboa.org

If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from: safeguarding@salisbury.anglican.org to speak to a caseworker, or the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor 01722 438651 and press option 3

NEXT WEEK – 19 April – THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

11.15am – Matins

Readings:

Acts 2.14a, 36 - 41

Luke 24.13 - 35