

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WESTWOOD

www.htboa.org



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The Rector's usual weekly day off is a Monday

5 APRIL 2026



EASTER SUNDAY

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

11.15am – Holy Communion

267 – Jesus Christ is Risen Today

355 – Now the Green Blade Rises

563 – Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem

503 – Thine be the Glory



Happy Easter!

COLLECT

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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 READING

John 20. 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 PRAYER

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.

Amen

MESSAGE FROM JENNY –

Easter Sunday!

We are Easter people!

Alleluia is our song because the risen Christ calls us into participation, not passive observation. To follow Christ is to live within the reality He inaugurated: a life marked by mercy, compassion, and reconciliation. Mary saw with clarity what the world often misses: the presence of God in ordinary, hidden, and fragile places. And she ran to tell others - that is our calling, too.

To live as Easter people is to perceive with the heart. The risen Lord invites us to see beyond appearances: life where the world sees death, hope where despair seems absolute, and love where fear reigns. Our faith calls us to act on that vision: to forgive, to serve, to offer peace, to bring justice, and to care for the neighbour beside us, and the stranger we do not yet know. Each act of love, however small, participates in the Resurrection reality Mary proclaimed.

When we began our Holy Week journey, I reminded us that we are participants, not observers. From the Mount of Olives, through the Last Supper, the foot of the Cross, and now to this Garden of the Resurrection, we too are called to be witnesses.

Mary Magdalene's testimony echoes down the centuries: from the rubble of failure, destruction, and sin, God's limitless, indestructible love reweaves and reframes everything we understand about ultimate reality.

The risen Christ meets us here, where we are, in the complexity and brokenness of our lives, offering reconciliation and calling us into a shared life of transformation. God's power is perfected in weakness; God's glory is revealed in vulnerability; God's love endures through suffering and death. The Resurrection is both a gift and a summons: to believe, to hope, and to live anew.

We are Easter people because nothing - not death, not fear, not despair, can overcome God who is life itself. Our song is Alleluia because the risen Christ awakens hope in every heart, transforms sorrow into praise, and invites us to participate in the life of God here and now.

Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia. Happy Easter!

Yours,

Jenny

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.

FAREWELL & THANK YOU -

Thank you to everyone at Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Wingfield & Westwood for the generous and thoughtful gifts on my retirement and for being such a blessing in my life for the past 4 years. It has been an honour to serve the churches and congregations, and you genuinely have made me feel very appreciated. I'm looking forward to slower mornings, holidays in the motorhome, a lot fewer emails and more time with my family, but I'll always remember my time working with you all fondly. God bless you all! Netty



THIS WEEK @ HT

MORNING PRAYER – Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday @ 8.30am

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

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

TRIO PARADIS CAFÉ CONCERT –

Thursday 9th April @
10.45am. April concert
consists of music inspired
by the natural beauty of
spring. Concerts last
c45mins. There's no need to
book, just turn up early for
best seats as these concerts are popular!



CREATIVE MAKERS MARKET – Saturday 11th April, 10am-3pm

FUTURE EVENTS AROUND THE BENEFICE

Weekly Communion at Holy Trinity - 10am beginning on 15 April

HOLY TRINITY LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES -

All welcome to join us for our lunchtime concert series. 12 noon – 1.30pm – Just turn up!

23rd April – Martin Cooke
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.

FOR PRAYER THIS WEEK

- 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
- The Rector, +John, +Robert, the ministry team, +Alan, and their families and friends
- Church Wardens, PCCs and all volunteers
- The Resurrection and our Easter celebrations
- Families of our Parish, Benefice and wider communities
- Our outreach to our local community
- Bradford on Avon Churches Together
- Persecuted Christians around the world



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 – 12 April – THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

11.15am – Holy Communion

Readings:

Acts 2.14a, 22 - 32
John 20.19 - end