

**Suggested  
donation  
50p**

A wooden cross is positioned diagonally across the frame, resting on a large, white lily flower. The background is a light, textured surface.

# Holy Trinity

WATERHEAD

**April 2022**

**[holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk](http://holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk)**

# Services at Holy Trinity Church

**Sunday 11:00 am Parish Worship**  
**Wednesday 7:00 pm Family Communion**  
**Baptisms and marriages by arrangement with the Vicar.**

**Please submit items for the May magazine by 15 April.**  
**You can e-mail files to paulmonk111@gmail.com**

## People at Holy Trinity Church

### Vicar

**The Revd Dr Paul Monk**  
**St Barnabas' Vicarage, Arundel Street, Oldham OL4 1NL**  
**T: (0161) 624 7708 and E: paulmonk111@gmail.com**

### Assistant Curate

**The Revd Denise Owen (Vicar of St Thomas' Church Moorside)**  
**Tel: (0161) 652 0292 and E: therevd.dowen@yahoo.co.uk**

### Wardens

**Val Crane (0161) 628 4977**  
**John Wolstencroft (0161) 620 2401**

### Readers

**Ruth Lees (emeritus) (0161) 624 0777**  
**Rosie Kingham (0161) 652 4265**  
**Lucie Reilly (in training) (07880) 861 751**

<b>Pianist</b>	<b>Rosie Kingham (0161) 652 4265</b>
<b>Administrator</b>	<b>Sarah Gura (07843) 178 762</b>
<b>Church Secretary</b>	<b>Lynne Schofield (07804) 094 457</b>
<b>Church Treasurer</b>	<b>Vicky Heaton (07906) 077 058</b>
<b>Gift-aid Secretary</b>	<b>Vicky Heaton (07906) 077 058</b>
<b>Parish Hall Manager</b>	<b>Daniel Reilly (07788) 860 764</b>
<b>Rainbows</b>	<b>Sarah Wilson and Natalie Morris</b>
<b>Brownies</b>	<b>Val Lees and Moira Belcher</b>
<b>Guides</b>	<b>Karen and Lisa Cannon</b>
<b>Beavers and Cubs</b>	<b>Lee Thompson (07907) 907 354</b>
<b>Scouts</b>	<b>Mark Dickinson (07976) 666 512</b>

## Letter from the Vicar

As a Church, Holy Trinity has many goals, but the Kingdom of God needs to inspire all of them. 'The Kingdom' is a shorthand term that means God is inspiring everything we do. Jesus came to usher in this Kingdom, and the Church is one of God's principal vehicles in achieving that aim.

As a local Parish Church, Holy Trinity has a key role in changing Clarksfield and Greenacres in such a way that it more closely reflects the Kingdom of God. There are two main strands to this goal.

First, Holy Trinity is called to change the lives of its own members. The aim of that change can be called 'godliness', 'holiness', or 'Christlikeness' but, in essence, each of these terms mean the same thing. That quest for personal holiness explains why we hold services of divine worship: worshipping together enables us to share in the power of the Gospel and the sacraments.

The second way in which Holy Trinity is called to work toward the Kingdom involves our encounters with the local community. That community engagement must always have as its focus the need to make Jesus known and to improve the lives of local people.

Accomplishing these miracles require the sort of a power so profound that it can raise a human being from death to new life. We're talking the language of inner transformation. In fact, we're talking resurrection.

That's why Easter is so important to every Christian and to the Church. Because of Easter, every disciple can access this Easter power and pass from spiritual death into New Life. It starts with radical forgiveness and then energises every part of this new life. It makes us more like Jesus.

Wishing you all the power and joy of Easter:

PAUL

*Fan vaulting in the south aisle at Cullompton Church, Devon.*

# Quiz night

We will at last be holding our next Quiz Night. It's on Saturday 21 May in the Parish Hall. It starts at 7:30 pm, so please take your places as soon after 7:00 pm as possible so that we can start promptly. Getting there early will give you a head start on the first picture round. Bring your friends to make up your team (to a maximum of 6 per team).

- Tickets cost £5 for adults. That price includes nibbles and a (mostly) cheese buffet supper.
- Tickets cost £3 for those between 12 and 18 years of age.
- Tickets for children under-12 are free

The bar will be open. There will be a raffle as well as a cash prize of £30 for the winning team. If anyone would like to donate a raffle prize, please contact Lynne Schofield on (07804) 094 457.

All monies raised will go towards the new kitchen in the Parish Hall. Anyone who uses that kitchen will know that it is seriously overdue for refurbishment. So come along for a fun evening and help us to make the Parish Hall an even better venue.

Liturgy is never for inner  
consumption but  
always for cosmic  
transformation  
John Chrysostom

# Bible readings for April

## Sunday 3 April

### Passion Sunday

O.T.: Isaiah 43:16-21

Epistle: Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel: John 12:1-8

## Sunday 10 April

### Palm Sunday

O.T.: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel: Luke 23:1-49

## Sunday 17 April

### Easter Sunday

O.T.: Isaiah 65:17-end

Second: Acts 10:34-43

Gospel: John 20:1-18

## Sunday 24 April

### Low Sunday (Easter 2)

O.T.: Exodus 14:10-end; 15:20-21

Second: Acts 5:27-32

Gospel: John 20:19-31

## Sunday 1 May

### Easter 3

O.T.: Zephaniah 3:14-end

Second: Acts 9:1-6

Gospel: John 21:1-19

She had been the  
magician's assistant  
for more than 30  
years



## Dates for your diary

Sunday 10 April	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	11:00 am: Eucharist
Monday 11 April	<b>Holy Monday</b>	7:00 pm: Compline
Tuesday 12 April	<b>Holy Tuesday</b>	7:00 pm: Compline
Weds 13 April	<b>Holy Wednesday</b>	7:00 pm: Family Eucharist
Thursday 14 April	<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	8:00 pm: Eucharist then vigil
Friday 15 April	<b>Good Friday</b>	11:00 am: Family service 12: 00–3:00 pm: Meditation
Sunday 17 April	<b>Easter Day</b>	11:00 am: Eucharist

All there services occur in the Church except the Meditations at the Cross on Good Friday, which occur in our sister Church of St Barnabas (OL4 1NL).

Sunday 10 July      **Lucy Reilly will be licenced as a Lay Reader at Manchester Cathedral.** We don't know the time.

## The carpenter

He knew his son  
would outshine him  
from the beginning,  
  
so taught this child the  
only thing he could:

The skill of taking  
blades and wood

and turning death  
into something  
else entirely.

**Jay Hulse** from *The Backwater Sermons*



Those in heaven and  
those on earth form a  
single festival, a shared  
thanksgiving, one choir  
John Chrysostom



#2983482

## Small kindnesses

I've been thinking about the way, when you walk down a crowded aisle, people pull in their legs to let you by. Or how strangers still say 'bless you' when someone sneezes, a leftover from the Bubonic plague. 'Don't die,' we are saying. And sometimes, when you spill lemons from your grocery bag, someone else will help you pick them up. Mostly, we don't want to harm each other. We want to be handed our cup of coffee hot, and to say thank you to the person handing it. To smile at them and for them to smile back. For the waitress to call us honey when she sets down the bowl of clam chowder, and for the driver in the red pick-up truck to let us pass. We have so little of each other, now. So far from tribe and fire. Only these brief moments of exchange. What if they are the true dwelling of the holy, these fleeting temples we make together when we say, 'Here, have my seat,' 'Go ahead—you first,' 'I like your hat.'

*Danusha Laméris*

## Prayer of the month

### Asking for faith

**'I believe; help my unbelief!'**

This short prayer was said by a man who approached Jesus, asking Him to heal his son. The boy probably had a condition such as epilepsy which put the boy in danger and caused the family great distress. St Mark tells the full story in his Gospel (Mark 9:11–29). It may be significant that St Mark places it in this part of his Gospel because a great many other stories occur around the same position, and all of them are designed to help us develop a more realistic view of who Jesus is.

The man who prayed these words had approached Jesus asking for a miracle—in effect, he was asking Jesus to intervene and change things. In seeking Jesus' help, the man was saying that he found the situation difficult and could not cope. He was starting from a position of truth. He also had faith because he was saying that Jesus was able to cause the change he wanted.

The key to understanding the story is to realise that the man already had faith but he wanted that faith to grow and develop. We can pray this same prayer for the same reason. Our faith, however weak or strong, can always grow, develop, and mature.

# Being an eco-Church in April

- As we plant up our gardens for the summer, don't forget lots of flowers for the bees and butterflies: the more colourful the better. Among their favourites are honeysuckle, lavender, foxgloves, cosmos and poppies.
- If you like to grow your own herbs, the flowers of chives and rosemary are great for the bees too. Even if you only have a window-box, the bees will still appreciate it.
- And if you have clover growing in your lawn, please don't mow it all down. It's full of nectar for the pollinators.



**Raising a hand in blessing** The halo round the young woman's head tells us she is a saint. The background of yellow roses implies femininity and gentleness. And she seems to gaze out *through* the observer into the world.

This gaze explains the point of God's blessings: we receive God's help in order to share it. The blessing of the Cross is for everyone. We limit the power of the Cross whenever we hug its forgiveness to ourselves.

Mary Magdalene came from the Galilean district of Magdala near Tiberias, on the western shores of the Sea of Galilee. Unfortunately, there is much confusion about her life. At one extreme, some scholars believe that the lives of three distinct people have become combined to form the single person, St Mary Magdalene. At the other extreme is the idea that all three instances are the same person.

The first of these St Marys in the Gospels followed Jesus and his disciples around Galilee. She witnessed first-hand Jesus' crucifixion and burial, and later went to his tomb to anoint his dead body on Easter morning. She was the first person to see the risen Lord and announced his glorious resurrection to the apostles. Accordingly, many early Christian writings call her 'the apostle to the apostles'.

The second of these Marys is 'Mary of Bethany,' the sister of Martha and Lazarus **Luke 10:38–42** and **John 11**. And the third Mary is an unnamed penitent woman who anointed Jesus' feet (**Luke 7:36–48**). This example of extravagant love, together with the ambiguous statement that Jesus had previously cast out seven demons from her (**Luke 8:2**), supported the later tradition that she had been a prostitute before meeting Jesus.

The incident of washing Jesus' feet belongs to the Galilean phase of Jesus' ministry: it precedes the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand and the third Passover. Straight afterwards, St Luke describes a missionary circuit in Galilee, and portrays the women who ministered to Christ. This list includes 'Mary who is called Magdalen, out of whom seven devils were gone forth' (**Luke 8:2**). But Luke does not tell us that she is to be identified with the 'sinner' of the previous chapter.

St Luke later describes Jesus visiting his friends Martha and Mary 'in a certain town' (**Luke 10:38–42**). Jesus had just left Galilee, so this 'town' may have been Bethany. The idea seems to be confirmed by the preceding parable of the Good Samaritan, which could have been spoken on the road between Jericho and Jerusalem, which is close to Bethany. But here again we find no suggestion of any identification between the three Marys.

Indeed, if we only had St Luke's account, we should certainly have no grounds for saying they are the same person. St John clearly identifies Mary of Bethany with the woman who anointed Jesus' feet (**John 12**; cf. **Matthew 26** and **Mark 14**). It is important to note how St John speaks of Mary as 'she that anointed the Lord's feet' in **11:2**—before he actually mentions the actual incident.

It is commonly said that Luke refers to the subsequent anointing, which he himself describes in **12:3–8**, but some scholars question whether he

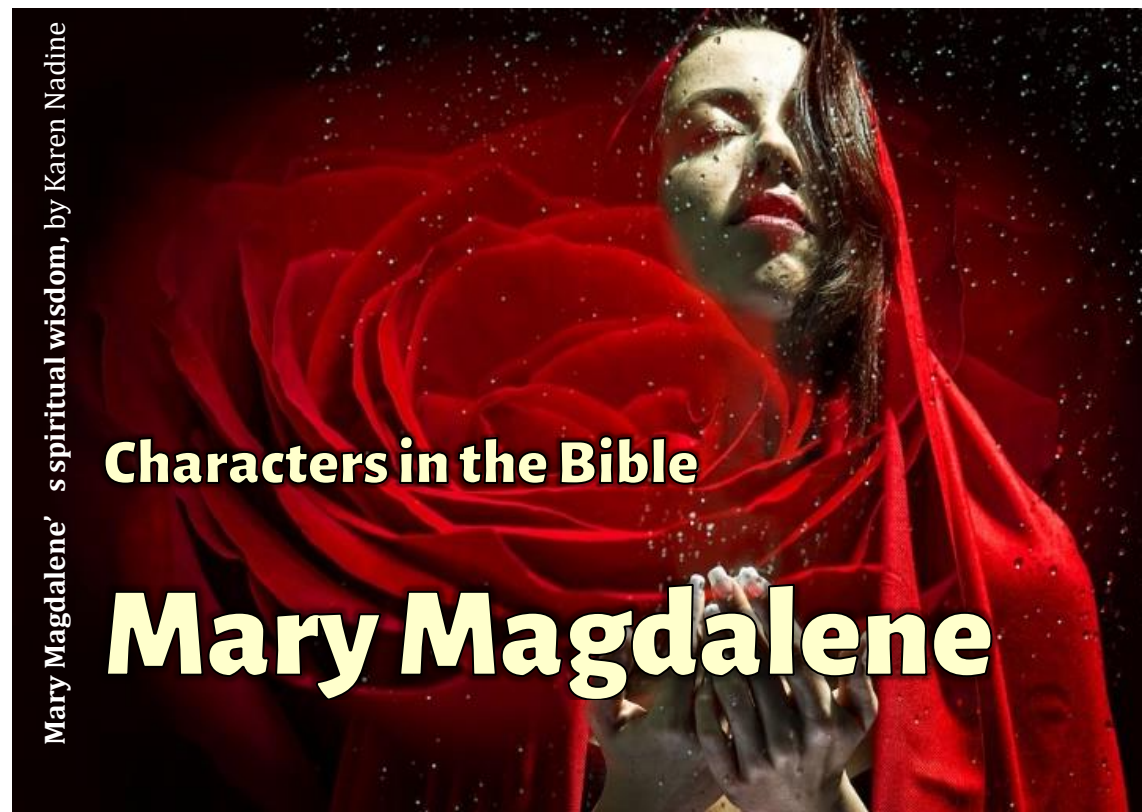
would have used this exact phrase if another woman (and she a 'sinner') in the city, had done the same. It is conceivable that St John, just because he is writing so long after the event and at a time when Mary was dead, wishes to point out to us that she was really the same person as the 'sinner'. Similarly, St Luke may have veiled her identity precisely because he did not wish to defame one who was yet living; he certainly does something similar when he conceals the identity of St Matthew by calling him Levi the publican (**5:7**).

It was inevitable that a woman about whom almost nothing was known should later attract many stories. The Greek Orthodox Church says St Mary Magdalene went to Ephesus with the Virgin Mary and died there. Her relics were transferred to Constantinople in 886 AD, and are preserved there. However, according to another (early French) tradition, Mary, Lazarus, and other companions went to Marseilles and converted the whole of Provence. Legend also says that Mary's family's castle was called Magdalon. If true, then her family were descended from King David.

Mary Magdalene's spiritual wisdom, by Karen Nadine

## Characters in the Bible

# Mary Magdalene



# The Magdalene's blessing

You hardly imagined  
standing here,  
everything you ever loved  
suddenly returned to you  
looking you in the eye  
and calling your name.

And now  
you do not know  
how to abide this ache  
in the centre  
of your chest  
where a door  
slams shut  
and swings open  
at the same time,  
turning on the hinge  
of your aching  
and hopeful heart.

I tell you  
this is not a banishment  
from the garden.

This is an invitation,  
a choice,  
a threshold,  
a gate.

This is your life  
calling to you  
from a place  
you could never  
have dreamed  
but now that you  
have glimpsed its edge  
you cannot imagine  
choosing any other way.

So let the tears come  
as anointing,  
as consecration,  
and then  
let them go.

Let this blessing  
gather itself around you.

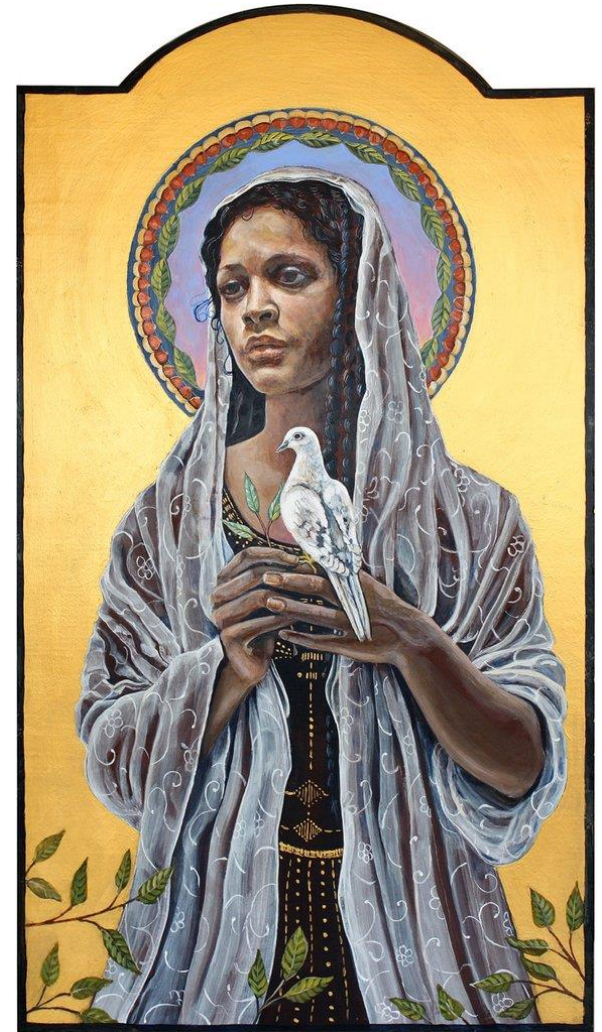
Let it give you  
what you will need  
for this journey.

You will not remember  
the words—  
they do not matter.

All you need to remember  
is how it sounded  
when you stood  
in the place of death  
and heard the living  
call your name.

Jan Richardson  
from *Circle of Grace*

**Modern icon of  
Mary Magdalene**  
by Sue Ellen Parkinson



There once was a man—passionate, driven, and desiring to do all that he could to deliver his proud people from their enslavement to overlords. A man of violence—and we do treasure our rebels and their battle against supposed tyranny, our Robin Hoods, our Bravehearts. One man's freedom fighter is another man's terrorist and the Romans had him in their grasp—dead to rights, condemned to death. Barabbas was his name.

And his only future was the torment the disgrace the shaming of the cross. The Romans intentionally made a spectacle of rebels so as to deter others and we sentimentalise the cross at the cost of misunderstanding its horror and effectiveness. No lovely green hill but a public display of torment at the cross roads entering the city. As far as he can he prepares himself for the awfulness to come until he hears his name being called out echoing through the streets.

In confusion he is released to leave the city. The tradition of releasing a guilty man at the Passover has happened and he is free but to his horror he hears there was a choice—the Nazarene has been rejected and the Zealot freed, the man of violence and murder or the man of peace, the innocent suffers and the guilty walks away, Barabbas lives but Jesus dies in the place he should have been and worst deserved in so many ways.

Every moment from then on is for Barabbas lived in the shadow of that cross: Jesus taking his place; his life at a crossroads—and what a poignant phrase that is in this context. I wonder what he made of it. How he lived it? Did it change him?

Each Good Friday we are faced with the same shock and horror. We are confronted by the terrible self-giving of our God and Saviour who surrenders himself to the Cross so that by his death our enslavement might be broken, as the price paid for our freedom. Our chains removed. But at such a cost.

And like Barabbas we can never be truly the same. We walk always in the shadow of that Cross where our friend, our Lord, our Saviour gave himself for us. At any moment he could have called on his power and walked away yet he chose the path of pain and sacrifice, the path of the Cross because he loved you and me to the uttermost.

For us as Christians the day we realised what our friend did for us is the day that becomes our Crossroad. What are our choices now? How can we live under that shadow and be changed? What will we do with

the rest of our lives? May God help us in gratitude and love to give ourselves to the love and to the service of our astonishing, amazing Saviour.

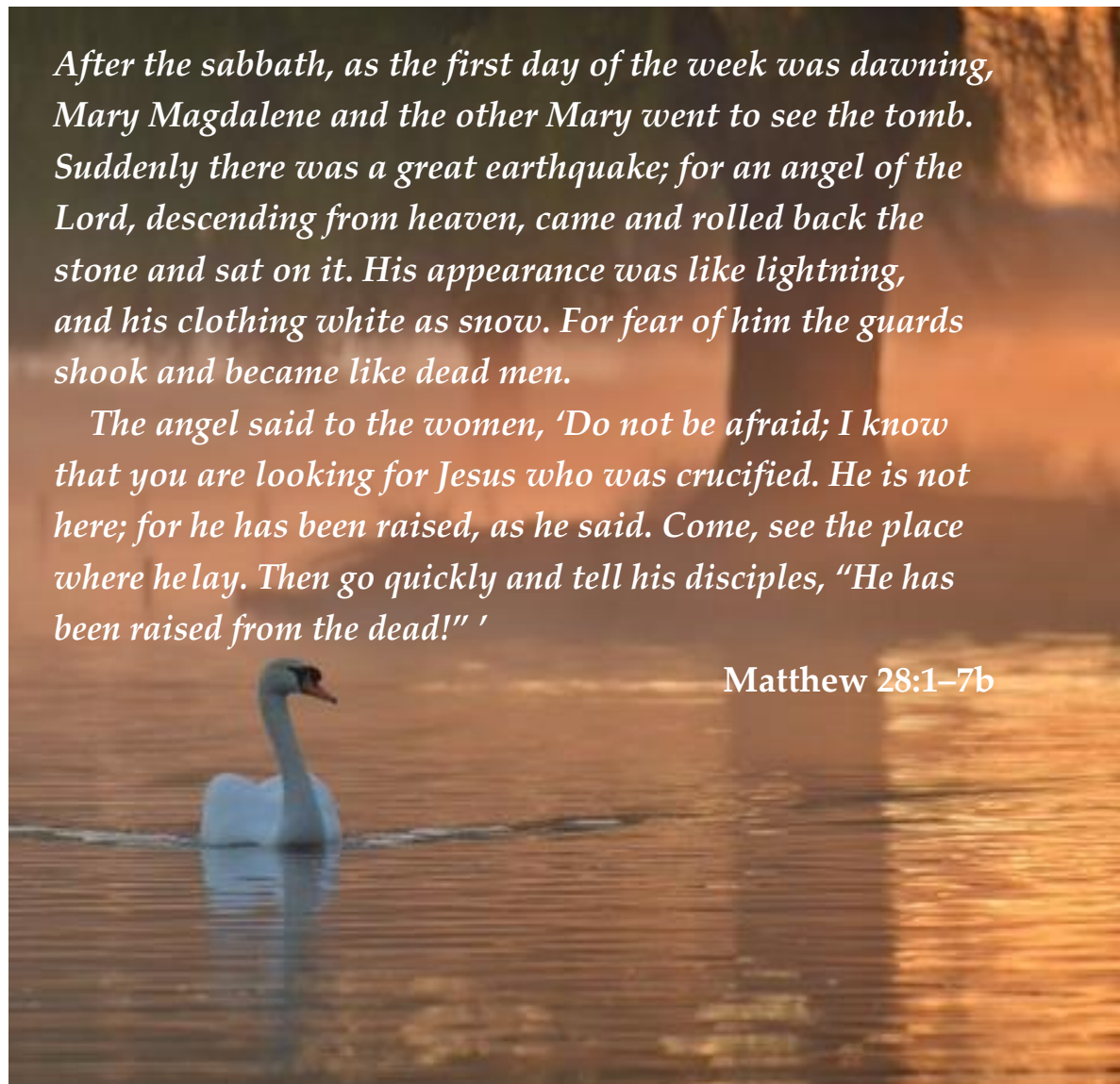
*Robin Wilding*

# Barabbas

*After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. Suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.*

*The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead!" '*

**Matthew 28:1–7b**



# Mission communities

Last year, the Diocese of Manchester started a new initiative, creating 'mission communities'. It's a way of helping parishes to share and work together. The new Deanery of Oldham and Ashton comprise seven of these mission communities. Our Parish will work more closely with a group also comprising Glodwick, Hey, the Leesfield benefice, Moorside, and Waterhead. The Mission Communities came into force on 1 January.

While Glodwick no longer has a Church or worship centre, it's parish is still a legal entity with legal responsibilities.

Each Mission Community has a designated leader. Our Vicar Paul Monk has been asked to lead this particular group. That leadership involves coordination and promoting communication between the parishes and the central bureaucracy of the Diocese. In some respects, it also represents a kind of figurehead position. Paul is officially licenced in June.

The Mission Community is served by three full-time clergy: Paul; Denise Owen who is Vicar of Moorside and also licenced to work in our own team; and Lyn Woodall, who is Vicar of St John's Hey and of the Leesfield group of Churches. St Barnabas, Moorside, and Waterhead all have good Lay Readers. Hey has several curates.

In future, we will automatically be invited to services, events and functions at these other Churches, and can expect to share staff and help from these other Churches.

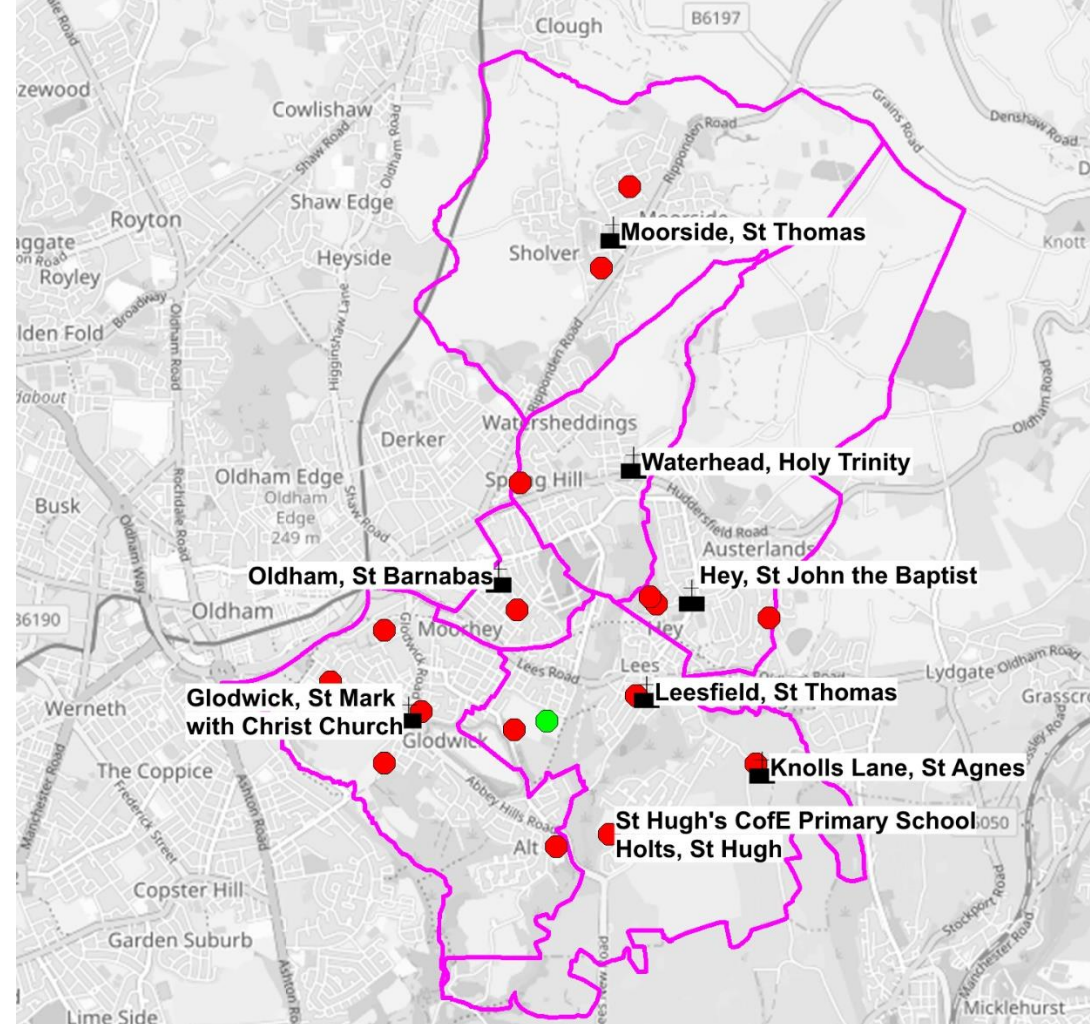
## From the parish registers

### Holy matrimony

Saturday 17 March Shaun Scantlebury and Natalie Haynes  
in Waterhead Church.

### Christian funeral

Joan Platt	Friday 4 March in St Barnabas Church.
Marion Scoltock	Wednesday 23 March in Oldham Parish Church.
Jack Marsden	Monday 28 March in St Barnabas Church.



*Jesus said to Mary Magdalene, '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."' John 20:17*

**Date** This letter was written shortly after John wrote his first letter, so 86–88 AD.

**Authorship** The Church traditionally says the First, Second, and Third 'Letters of John' were written by John the son of Zebedee. He was one of Jesus' twelve Apostles and brother of the James the Great.

According to tradition, John became the Bishop of Ephesus in Asia Minor and the other churches in the Roman province of Asia mentioned in Revelation Chapters 2–3. It was at Ephesus that he wrote the fourth Gospel and the three Letters. Like John's Gospel, they share many distinctive words and phrases, with frequent contrasts of opposites (compare, for example, 2 John 1:5 with 1 John 2:7 and John 13:34–35, or 2 John 1:12 with 1 John 1:4, John 15:11 and John 16:24, and so on).

John wrote the letter in Ephesus during a time of persecution when identifying people by their real names could endanger lives. The author therefore called himself 'the elder' and addressed the letter to 'the chosen lady and her children' (2 John 1:1) by which he meant a Church and its members.

**This letter in context** At thirteen verses, 2 John is the second shortest book of the Bible, with only 3 John being shorter.

Both the letters 2 John and 3 John say the writer has more to say, but he hopes to come and speak to them in person.

John's three letters are linked. For example, each encourages faithful adherence to God's truths and obedience to His commandments. And each says Jesus is divine; he is the Son of God who came in order to offer eternal salvation to all humankind. In some respects 2 John forms a bridge between 1 John and 3 John. It shares many themes with 1 John but copies 3 John in terms of format and expressions.

**Reason for writing** Just decades after Jesus' earthly ministry, false teachers were harming the church, so John used the second half of this letter to warn his flock against them. These false teachers believed that Jesus was truly divine, but argued that he was not fully human (today we call them 'Gnostics'). John's three letters complement each other in imploring love for God and one another, walking in the truth, and warnings concerning the dangers of following false teachers who deny the Incarnation of Jesus.

John therefore told them to walk in truth and to love one another because only love and truth working together are strong enough to withstand these Gnostics. He says in verse 5, 'And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another.'

John then uses the word 'truth' five times in the first four verses. He speaks of those he 'loves in truth', those who 'know the truth', and living in Christ 'for the sake of the truth'. He speaks of being glad to find 'children walking in the truth' (verse 4). He even tells his flock that these false teachers not even be welcomed as guests, saying that 'anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work' (verse 11).

**For more information, go to:**

<https://www.christianity.com/bible/niv/2-john/>

[https://www.agapebiblestudy.com/John\\_2/John\\_2\\_Lesson\\_1.htm](https://www.agapebiblestudy.com/John_2/John_2_Lesson_1.htm)

<https://www.thebiblejourney.org/biblejourney1/19-johns-letters-to-the-believers-in-asia-minor88730/the-2nd-letter-of-john/>

## The Second Letter of John



Holy  
**Trinity**  
WATERHEAD

# Maundy Thursday

Thursday 14 April

starts at 8:00 pm

[holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk](http://holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk)



SAINT  
**Barnabas**  
CLARKSFIELD

Friday 15 April

12:00 noon – 3:00 pm

# Meditations at the Cross



Holy  
**Trinity**

# Good Friday

Friday 15 April

Service for all the family, at 11:00 am

[holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk](http://holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk)



Holy  
**Trinity**  
WATERHEAD

# Easter Sunday

A joy-filled family service to celebrate the  
resurrection of our Lord

Sunday 12 April at 11:00 am

[holy trinity waterhead.co.uk](http://holytrinitywaterhead.co.uk)

Early, on the first day of the week the women came to the tomb ... they bowed down with their faces to the ground.

Angels said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead?

He is not here; he has risen!'

Luke 24:1, 5-6

## Did you know?

Peter and John set out and went towards the tomb ... [John] 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.  
*John 20:3-7*

Peter and John entered Jesus' empty tomb and saw a pile of abandoned graveclothes, and noticed how the discarded face cloth lay separately, apart from the linen.

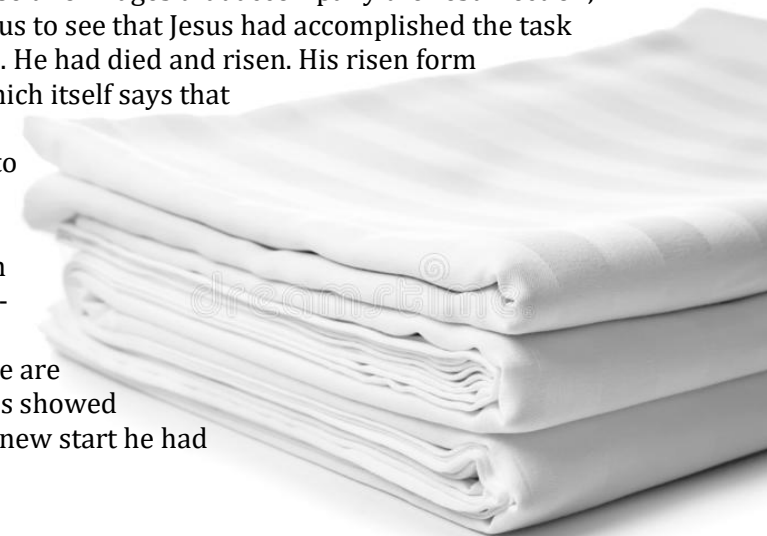
But the positioning was no afterthought. To this day a Palestinian craftsman shows his satisfaction with a completed work by taking a cloth and wiping his brow with it. He then places that cloth before the finished work. And Jesus the master carpenter placed a face cloth in front of a task he thought satisfactory.

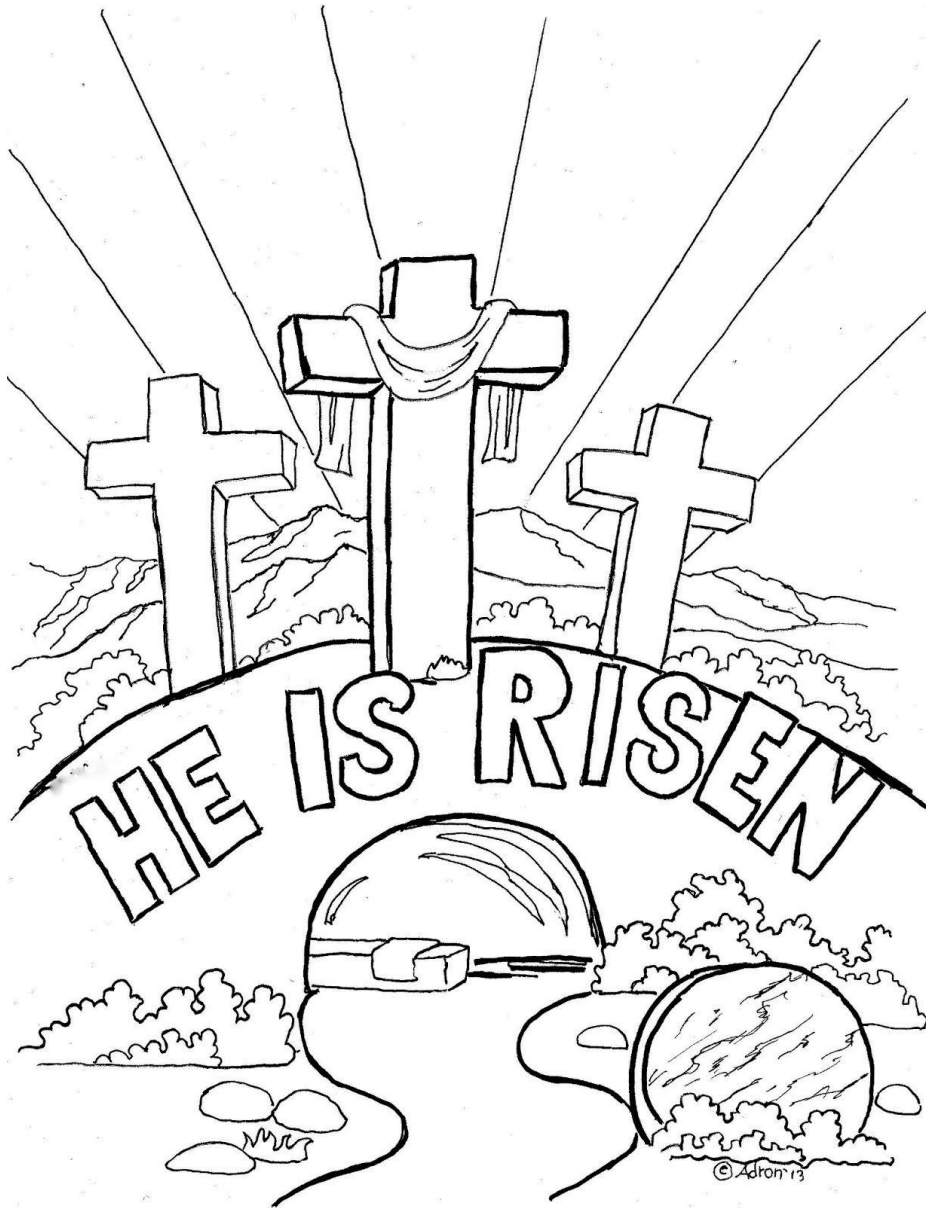
But what is the task? To answer that question, consider the plinth on which Jesus' body lay, a catafalque hewn from the bare rock. On it, the disciples saw two angels. The image reminds us of the Ark of the Covenant, a gold-plated box made to contain the two stone tablets of the Law that God gave to Moses. On its lid were two angels, and God was said to dwell in the space enclosed by their outstretched wings.

Combining these two images that accompany the resurrection, Scripture invites us to see that Jesus had accomplished the task given him by God. He had died and risen. His risen form was pure God, which itself says that although he had taken our sins into his body on the cross, those sins had distilled from his body at the instant of his rising from the dead. We are forgiven and Jesus showed his delight at the new start he had achieved for us.



This sinner needed the maximum baptism experience.



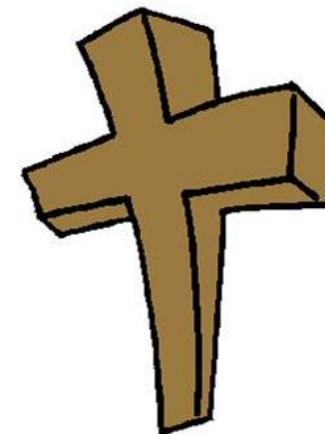


Colour this picture

## Wordsearch for Easter

B	M	A	L	M	H	B	B	K	I	N	G	R	N	R
N	O	I	T	C	E	R	R	U	S	E	R	E	O	O
A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S	E	Y	S	C	D	I	O
S	E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	H	J	E	T	S
N	S	N	A	M	O	R	O	O	R	R	E	M	A	T
R	C	D	S	G	T	T	R	I	I	K	S	P	V	E
O	Y	R	A	M	B	C	S	S	V	Z	U	T	L	R
H	L	O	V	E	L	T	E	M	M	A	S	I	A	Y
T	C	R	O	W	N	N	Y	L	O	H	S	O	S	Z
X	C	R	U	C	I	F	I	X	I	O	N	N	K	Q

APOSTLES  
 CHRIST  
 CROSS  
 CROWN  
 CRUCIFIXION  
 HOLY  
 JESUS  
 KING  
 LAMB  
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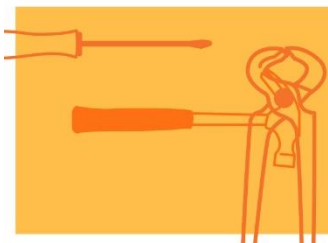
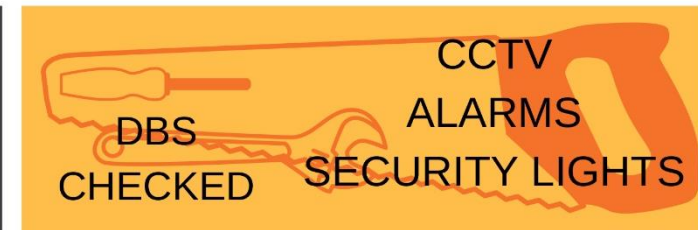
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# From the memorial book

- 2 **Alice Baron** died 1992 aged 79 years. 'Loving memories of a dear friend.'
- Edward Robinson** Loving Husband, Dad, Grandpa and Cousin died 1992 aged 77 years. 'In Heavenly Love Abiding.'
- 6 **Samuel Mellor Schofield** died 1982. 'Loved and remembered every day.'
- Donald Joseph Harris** died this day 1989 aged 61. 'A Dearly Loved Husband, Dad and Grandad.'
- Martin Connell**, died this day 2012 aged 62. Always remembered.
- 9 **Harry Widdall, DSM RN**, donor of this book, died 1989, aged 77. He served with distinction on H.M. 'U' Boat *Graph* during World War Two.
- Alan John Clegg** died this day 1984. 'Remembered always. Love you for ever. Mum and Dad.'
- Vera Cunnington** nee Pemberton, died 1994 aged 74 years. Beloved Wife of Stanley, Mother of Averil and John.
- 11 **Allen Smith** died this day 1990. 'Memories of you will never die.'
- Eunice Kirkpatrick** beloved wife of the late Frank, died this day 1997, aged 79. Loved and remembered always.
- 12 **Doris Lees** died this day 1990. Simple words but very true. We will always love and remember you.
- 19 **Sarah Lizzie Dunkerley (Sally)** Died 1996. Remembered with affection. 'O Lord, in Thee I have trusted. Let me never be confounded.'
- 22 **Bill Stott** died this day 2000. Lovingly remembered by Eileen and family.
- 23 **Joseph Connell** died this day 1983 aged 63 years. 'Always remembered.'
- 26 **Frank Wadsworth** born this day 1934. Birthday memories. Gone but not forgotten.
- 27 **Lisa Kershaw** died this day 1999 aged 16. An angel too beautiful for this earth.
- 28 **Harold Andrew Prendergast** died this day 2005. Treasured memories and a loving grandad of Lisa – together again.



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An extraordinary burst of warm sunshine has opened daffodils and brought forgotten perennials pushing upwards through garden soil.

# Evidence

Also I was very pleased to hear a male greenfinch singing at length from a still-leafless poplar tree. Years ago one took the presence of greenfinches for granted but apparently their numbers have been greatly reduced by disease.

A few days ago a loud chattering was coming from a small group of trees a field away from the King's Meadow. The calls were being made by a sizeable flock of fieldfares, some of whom were dropping to the ground where they hopped about probing for worms. These handsome grey and chestnut thrushes have had an easy winter with no frozen

Local woodland is alive with birdsong including the soft hooting of a tawny

owl. ground to contend with. Soon, accompanied by their relatives the redwings and some visiting blackbirds, they will depart from our north-east coast, re-crossing the North Sea to Scandinavia where they will breed. Swallows journey from South Africa but they are aerodynamically styled and have stopping places along the route but the fieldfares must cross the bitterly cold North Sea where the prevailing winds are

strong enough to generate much electric power.

A different sound could be heard in a drainage channel where frogs were spawning. The male frogs were croaking to attract females and at my approach submerged in unison as if their leader had shouted a warning.

Nature will always somehow beautify waste sites or unkempt alleyways and I have been very impressed by the grace and form of a blackthorn tree growing adjacent to Buckley Road at the rear of the old car wash. The tree is growing from a low and ancient stone wall, the stone having shifted and settled to accommodate the trunk. The otherwise bare branches are currently covered in small white flowers being worked by bees. The wood of blackthorn is said to make excellent walking sticks and in former times it was supposed to invest the sticks with power to ward off ill fortune. Near the base of the tree, from dumped garden rubbish, flourishes a clump of the ever-welcome narcissus Tête-à-tête. Also present are some plants of coltsfoot. This herb, used for centuries as a cough remedy, has an old rustic name of 'sweeps' brushes' and the yellow flowers do indeed resemble the chimney cleaners principle implement.

*Blackthorn*



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# Quiz

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*Looking at Jesus seriously changes things; if we do not want to be changed, it is better not to look too hard or too long.*

**Rowan Williams**



*When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.*

*As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.'* **Mark 16:1-7**



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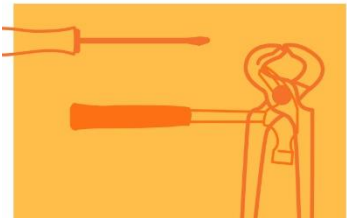
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