

Sunday 5th April

Easter Day

Today's Collect

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son, overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant. That we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

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.



Next Week Services: Sunday 12th April

8:30am	Rous Lench	Morning Prayer
10:00am	Harvington	Holy Communion
10:00am	Norton & Lenchwick	Morning Prayer
11:00am	Church Lench	Morning Prayer

Mid-week Eucharist: 11:00am Wednesdays at St James', Harvington

Upcoming Events

- Community Coffee Morning – 7th April 10am -12pm, Abbots Morton VH
- CAMEO Teas - 8th April 3pm, St James' Church Harvington.
- Spring Supper – 11th April 7pm onwards, Rous Lench VH. £15 per head
- Community Coffee Morning – 25th April 10am-12pm, Church Lench VH.
- Quingo! (bingo & quiz) – 16th May 5pm, St James' Church Harvington.
- **Flower Festival** – 28th June.

This Week's First Reading: *Acts 10.34 - 43.*

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right.³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

³⁷ You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

³⁹ "We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross,⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen.⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead.⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

This Weeks Psalm: *Psalm 118.2, 14-24.*

2. Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."

14. The LORD is my strength and my defense ; he has become my salvation.

15. Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:

"The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

16. The LORD's right hand is lifted high;

the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"

17. I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

18. The LORD has chastened me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.

19. Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

20. This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.

21. I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.

22. The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

23. the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24. The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

This Week's Second Reading: *Colossians 3. 1-4,*

¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 20.1-18.*

The Empty Tomb

¹ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). ¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Next Weeks Readings: *Acts 2.14a, 22- 32 . Psalm 16. 1Peter 1.3-9. John 20.19-end.*

Prayer of Intercession

With joy in our hearts, let us pray to the Lord, who has conquered death.

Creator God, we thank you for the delightful sights and sounds of Spring, that show us the wonders of your creation. By your Spirit's power make us aware of how we can be better stewards of your world, to care for it and everything that lives on it. We pray that all Christians will work together to build up your family, and that any of your people being persecuted for their faith may find peace, hope and fresh strength in the good news of Easter.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we thank you for all the efforts of Peacemakers around the world, working to bring peace to war-torn nations. We pray that world leaders and people of influence would strive for truth, justice, reconciliation and peace around the world. We pray for all nations of the world, that people will learn to live together with respect and love for one another.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, we thank you for our community, our families and friends. We thank you for the people who taught us about you by their lives, love and actions. We pray especially for those do not know you yet, that during the coming weeks they will come to understand more of the message of Easter and your promise of life and love for them, and that they may be drawn closer to you by our witness and the work of your Holy Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray that you will roll away their burdens, open their hearts to your peace and healing and fill their lives with the light of your glory. Loving God, we thank you for all the people who have been working so hard over this last year, to care for those in our hospitals, the grieving, the panicking and the lost. We pray for all who feel trapped by pain, loss or depression, those who are suffering, physically, mentally or spiritually.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Faithful God, as we leave church today, we pray that we may shine your love in our families, our church and community, so that all can see that we are followers of the Risen Christ. Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

