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Sunday 2nd April 2017 - CW Chearsley edition



**The United Benefice of Long Crendon (LC),
Chearsley (Ch) & Nether Winchendon (NW)**

WELCOME EVERYONE TODAY AND EVERY DAY

Prayer



Gracious Father, you gave up your Son out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion, that we may know
eternal peace through the shedding of our Saviour's blood, Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus
Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered
on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus
Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Readings for Today:



The Old Testament: Ezekiel 37.1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of
the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He
led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they
were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I
answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to
these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.
Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you,
and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come
upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live;
and you shall know that I am the Lord." So I prophesied as I had been
commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling,
and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were
sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered
them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to
the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord
God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain,
that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath
came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."

The Epistle: Romans 8.6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law - indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The Gospel: St. John 11.1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now

Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. **Amen**

Notes for your diary:

Is God calling you to serve on the PCC in Chearsley? If so please speak to the Churchwardens (Joy and Alicia) or to Richard about what it might entail.

Benefice Lent Course continues on Thursday evenings 8:00-9:30pm in Church House, Long Crendon or **Friday afternoons 1:15-2:45pm** at Long Meadow, Dark Lane, Chearsley.

Electoral Roll: We'll be revising our official church membership list 17-31st March. If you're a regular worshipper with us and would like to join it then pick up an application form from church and return it to one of our wardens before the end of March.

African Food Crisis: The UN has warned the world faces the largest humanitarian crisis since the second world war, with more than 20 million people in South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, and Nigeria facing starvation. Please pray and if you feel compelled to give additional finances towards relieving this disaster, go to www.oxfam.org.uk/what-we-do/emergency-response If you don't want to give online then please put your donation in an envelope marked 'Famine Relief', place it in our collection, and we'll pass it on".

Saturday 1st April, Monthly Prayer Gathering at St. Mary's, Long Crendon, 9:30-10:30 am. Our prayer focus will be on the three villages and wider issues. All welcome. Ray Copping and Geoff Hogbin

Wednesday 26th April, Bishop Steven will be visiting the Aylesbury Deanery. Everyone, with a particular request to PCC members, is invited to attend 'An Evening with Bishop Steven' at St. Mary's, Princes Risborough, 7:30-9:30 pm.

Services in the United Benefice

Sunday 2nd April 2017 – The Fifth Sunday of Lent (CW) or the Fifth Sunday in Lent (BCP) – Passiontide begins

9:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	NW	Derek Witchell
10:00 am	Café Sunday	LC	Lay Led
10:00 am	Family Holy Communion	Ch	Derek Witchell

Sunday 9th April 2017 – Palm Sunday (CW), or the Sunday next before Easter (Palm Sunday) (BCP)

10:00 am Benefice Breakfast and Palm Craft at Chearsley Village Hall followed by a procession from the Hall to St. Nicholas' for Family Communion at **about 10:30 am** (when the procession arrives)

		Ch	Richard Phillips
6:00 pm	Seasonal Lessons and Carols	LC	Richard Phillips

Note: there is no service in Nether Winchendon today

10th – 15th April 2017 – Services during Holy Week

Monday 10 th	LC	7:30 pm	Compline (Night Prayer)
Tuesday 11 th	Ch	7:30 pm	Compline (Night Prayer)
Wednesday 12 th	NW	7:30 pm	Compline (Night Prayer)
Maundy Thursday	NW	7:30 pm	United Benefice Communion (BCP)
Good Friday	LC	9:00 am	Prayer Walk
	Ch	10 am	Good Friday Service
	NW	11 am	Good Friday Family Service
	LC	2 pm	Stations of the Cross, Devotional
	Ch	5-8 pm	Rock Solid
Holy Saturday	Ch	10 am	Creation of Easter Garden
	Ch	8 pm	Benefice HC and Service of Light

Sunday 16th April 2017 – Easter Day

10:00 am	Easter Garden and Holy Communion	Ch	tbc
10:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	NW	tbc
10:30 am	Holy Communion	LC	tbc

Sunday 23rd April 2017 – The Second Sunday of Easter (CW) or the First Sunday after Easter (BCP)

8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	LC	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Family Service	Ch	Lay Led
10:30 am	Holy Communion with choir	LC	Richard Phillips
6:00 pm	Evensong	NW	Robert Hutton

If you have events coming up in the Benefice and would like them included in future Pew Sheets, please let us have the details on llm.chearsley@btinternet.com Please note that your wording may have to be edited to fit the available space - John and Jenny Scholefield