

Sunday April 12th 2015



The United Benefice of Long Crendon, Chearsley & Nether
Winchendon

WELCOME TO EVERYONE

Jesus said to his disciples, 'This is the will of my Father, that whoever sees the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and that I shall raise him up on the last day. **John 6 : 40**

Pray



Lord, we are your people. You have gathered us together
to share in your purpose and to advance your kingdom
of love, justice and peace.

In our worship and devotion open our minds to know your will.

We come, like people at the first Easter,
raised by Christ to be his presence in the world.

We come joyfully and gladly to offer praise and adoration
to the living God.

In the name of Jesus accept our praise.

We come to worship. God is with us, Christ our Saviour
is present to guide and encourage us.

God's Holy Spirit is present to guide and encourage us.
in the name of Jesus, accept our praise. Amen.

Collect for The Second Sunday of Easter

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

Readings for Today

Old Testament: Acts 4: 32- 35

New Testament Reading: 1 John 1: 1- 2 :2

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and

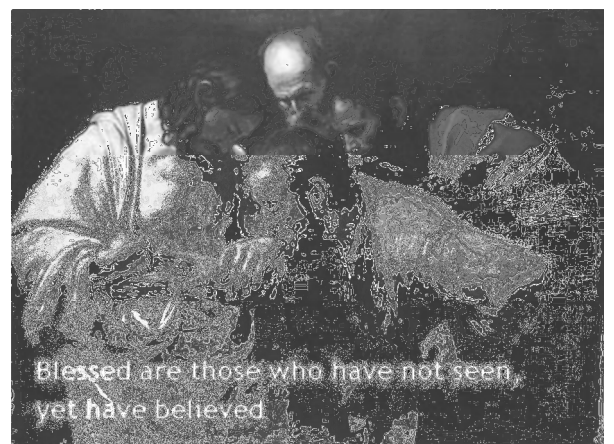
we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defence--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Gospel Reading: John 20: 19 – 31

When it was evening on 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.

Services Today: April 12th Easter 2

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|---------|---------------------|-------------------|---------|
| 8.00am | Holy Communion | Long Crendon | JW |
| 10.30am | Sung Eucharist | Long Crendon | JW |
| | | Preacher | RH |
| 10.00am | Morning Celebration | Chearsley | Lay Led |
| 10.00am | Matins | Nether Winchendon | RSB |
| 6.00pm | Evensong | Chearsley | JS |

Services Next Week: April 19th Easter 3

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|---------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----|
| 8.00am | Holy Communion | Long Crendon | JW |
| 10.30am | Family Service with Holy Baptism | Long Crendon | RC |
| 10.00am | Holy Communion | Chearsley | JW |
| 10.00am | Family Service | Nether Winchendon | AB |
| 12.30pm | Holy Baptism | Long Crendon | JW |

Easter Decorations

Many thanks to all those in our three churches who gave their time and skills to decorate them so beautifully for our Easter celebrations. They all looked really lovely. Visitors were very impressed!

Annual Parochial Church Meetings

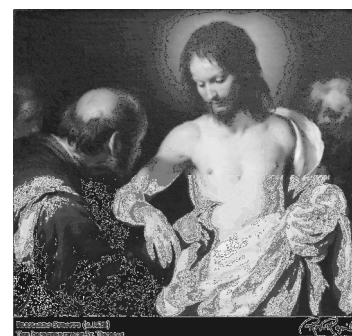
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|--------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| Sunday, April 26 th | 12.00pm | Long Crendon |
| Sunday April 26 th | 6.00pm | Nether Winchendon |

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father.

In our Gospel reading today, the disciple Thomas wants to put his hands in the holes in the wounded body of Jesus. He needs to know that Jesus is really alive. If we had been near Jesus after the resurrection we might also have been surprised at what was going on. Thomas just says out loud the things the other disciples (and perhaps us) think but keep to themselves.

It was Thomas also who asked Jesus what on earth he was talking about when he said he was going to 'prepare a place for them.' We are fortunate that Thomas voices the questions which we all have and in so doing shows us that it is alright to have doubts and fears in our faith. Faith is like a muscle it grows by stretching. It is good for our faith to be stretched like Thomas and as it is we learn to understand that there many things which we just do not and never will understand.

**Risen Lord, give me strength to trust that in your mercy,
you have gone before us from the darkness of the tomb,
to lead all people back to God.**



**Friends of St. Mary's, Long Crendon
and**

Aylesbury Opera Group presents

A Night at the Opera

St Mary's Church, Long Crendon

Saturday 9th May 2015 at 7.30pm

A concert programme featuring a quartet of local, professional singers accompanied at the piano by Anthony McCarthy. The programme will comprise famous and popular arias and ensembles from across the opera repertoire, including Handel, Mozart, Rossini and Verdi.

www.FSMLongCrendon.org

for tickets at £10 each e-mail Friends@FSMLongCrendon.org
or just call Lindsey Kennedy on 290602.

It will be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy popular opera music in a brilliant setting. See you there.

Loving Lord, we need the power of your Spirit in our lives to build on what is good, and to help change what needs to be changed. We pray that we may be faithful in responding to your call to grow as the people you have called us to be, that we may ring out your praises through the way we live each day. **Amen.**