

Prayers: Gracious God, we praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus. We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection. We praise you for the light of new life that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray especially for:

Sick: Lolita Alvira, Inez Bennett, Dawn Forey, Hanna Librato, Jack Mannix, Marion Mason, Ken Peters and Sam White.

May we walk as children of light this Easter and always. Amen.

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The Parish Office is closed but Karen is replying to emails:
parish@stjohnschurchstanmore.org.uk

**Matthew and Jonny are continuing to say
Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer
in their homes every day.**

St John's Church

Alternative Pew Sheet

12th April 2020

Welcome!

The Church of England continues to follow Government advice. Sadly it is not possible for services, baptisms, weddings and funerals in church to take place. We also have to keep the church closed.

This is the fourth edition of our alternative pew sheet. We are committed to keeping in touch with everyone at St Johns and offer some resources: [here](#).

If you need any help or assistance from Matthew or Jonny, please be in touch (see page four).

**Do not be afraid:
I know that you are looking
for Jesus who was crucified.
He is not here; for he has been raised.**

Matthew 28:5b-6

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST - MISSION STATEMENT

Drawn together by Christ's love, we seek by his grace to live out his commandments to love the Lord our God with all of our being; and to love everyone we come across as we love ourselves.

www.stjohnschurchstanmore.org.uk

Please do check our website for future updates

St John's

Easter Day

The 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.

Bible Readings (click on links to access passages):

[Jeremiah 31:1-6](#)

[Psalm 118:14-24](#)

[Acts 10:34-43](#)

[Matthew 28:1-10](#)

Sermon (by the Revd Jonny Rapson)

I have been reflecting recently on the importance of Easter when everything is so different from what we are used to. Even as you read this sermon, I'm sure you can't help but be reminded how strange it is that we're not meeting together on the most important day in the Christian calendar. But this gives us time to reflect, possibly more than ever, on the importance of Easter. This week we have walked with Christ on his journey to the cross as he takes on the sins of the world. On Friday we explored how the sacrifice of Christ on the cross reminds us that we are infinitely loved by Christ and that we are, first and foremost, his.

As we were reminded of that, we are left with this sadness that, ultimately, Christ suffered on the cross. However, Christ's journey was not complete without the resurrection. The resurrection is essential to the crucifixion and, in our Christian faith, we need to hold both of those things together with equal importance.

Chapter 28 of St Matthew tells us of an angel that speaks with Mary confirming that Christ had risen from the dead. As they return home confused and afraid, Christ appears to them resurrected as the angel had said.

Even though Christ took every sin upon himself, which pulled him to

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the grave, it was not enough to keep him there. For Christ to fully conquer sin and death he needed to be raised to new life, and he was. He emerges from the tomb victorious against the powers of sin and death so that we can be confident in the saviour that we have put our trust in. People struggle to believe in the resurrection because it is so seemingly impossible. People do not just get up after being crucified, so how could it possibly be true? Well, Christ can do the impossible, and he does the impossible for you. He does not do it to show how great he is, but because the impossible is what is needed so that we may be bought closer to him this Easter.

We will all be missing loved ones this Easter. I know I have been missing the opportunities to spend time with my family over this period. But we find new ways to talk to each other that we usually would not do, having to have a cup of tea over Face Time, or celebrating a birthday on Zoom, or just picking up the phone and catching up for hours!

And even though we might not be used to doing it in these new ways, we do it because we love our family deeply and we want to speak and connect with them.

Christ did the same with us. He did the impossible, he tried a new way never tried by anyone on this planet before, all so he could speak with us, because we are his family whom he loves. He undertook this impossible new way so that we may have a relationship with him, today and in the years to come. Even though we can't see him face to face now, we will one day be with him, as he welcomes us into his loving arms.

This Easter we have much to celebrate. God fought for us. God has saved us. And God is with us. So, I encourage you, wherever you are today, take the time to celebrate this joy that we have. We have a loving heavenly father who wants a relationship with us and is by our side now and always.

Amen.