

2nd SUNDAY of EASTER: Sunday 16th – 22nd April 2023

Easter Greetings from Eileen

Dear Friends, Perhaps the best way to express the Easter joy celebrated by congregations on Easter Sunday is to share photographs of what was experienced in each of our parish churches. Thank you to all who had helped to lovingly clean, prepare, and decorate with Easter gardens and flowers.



This week I shall be sending each parish a separate dedicated letter in readiness for our **Annual Meetings** and to highlight matters specific to each church. So this is a brief. Brian and I celebrate our 38th wedding anniversary this week and are away to enjoy this for 2 nights!

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER:

9.15am Staindrop St Mary welcomes ARCHDEACON The Venerable Rick Simpson (Holy Communion)

9.30am Winston St Andrew; 10.45am Gainford St Mary (Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop) Communion

No service in Ingleton St John the Evangelist Church.

MESSY CHURCH 3.30pm Gainford St Mary

Last opportunity to contact me about CONFIRMATIONS by Thursday 20th April: please email stmarys@gainfordwinston.church



4 parishes came together on **Easter Monday to walk across Raby Park** and have fun with the Easter bonnets and eggs competition. Thanks to Staindrop's team for hosting and leading the walk.

May God who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

Rev'd Canon Eileen Harrop

Collect for 2nd SUNDAY of EASTER

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.
Amen

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.
Amen

The first reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32

¹⁴ Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— ²³ this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ For David says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰ Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

³² “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

The Gospel: John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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.”

²⁶ 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.” ²⁷ 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.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ 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.”

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.