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# Church Link

## Easter II

No. 108  
24 April 2022

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

Alternative Collect for Easter II

**The 10:15am Sunday Eucharist on 24th April will be at St Michael's Church, Compton Martin and will welcome George Gay into the family of the Church by baptism. Next Sunday's Eucharist will be at St Andrew's Church, Blagdon.**

We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Yours in Fellowship,  
Revd. Simon Lewis  
Laura Williams

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### Worship in May

**Sunday Worship**

**Sunday 1st May - Easter III**  
10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Andrew's, Blagdon

**Sunday 8th May - Easter IV**  
9:00am - Holy Communion, St Michael's, Compton Martin  
10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Bartholomew's, Ubley  
4:00pm - Messy Church, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

**Sunday 15th May - Easter V**  
10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Andrew's, Blagdon

**Sunday 22nd May - Easter VI**  
10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Michael's, Compton Martin  
5:00pm - Evening Worship, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

**Sunday 29th May - Easter VII**  
10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Hugh's, Charterhouse

**Weekday Worship**

**Mondays**  
8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew's, Ubley  
9:15am - Intercessions Group, St Bartholomew's, Ubley

**Tuesdays**  
10:00am - Mini Melodies toddler group, St Andrew's, Blagdon

**Wednesdays**  
8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Michael's, Compton Martin  
5:00pm - Evensong, St Andrew's, Blagdon

**Thursdays**  
8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Blagdon  
12:00pm - In the Spirit of Iona, online via Zoom

**Ascension Day - Thursday 24th May**  
7:00pm - Ascension Day Worship (non Communion)  
St Bartholomew's, Ubley

## Reading and Reflection

### Easter II

**Reading:** John 20.19-31

#### Jesus Appears to the Disciples

When it was evening on that day, 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.'

#### Jesus and Thomas

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.'

#### The Purpose of This Book

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.

#### A Reflection

After Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene, two themes in John explore the responses of disciples on that day. Although Thomas is often cited as the doubter, he had much in common with all the disciples; they come across as being in two minds. The Holy Spirit strengthens them even though not all are convinced.

Thomas is not there for the first encounter; they tell him as Mary Magdalene told them, 'We have seen the Lord.' After Mary's statement the disciples remain behind locked doors because they were afraid and only respond with joy after Jesus shows them his hands and his side. Although "doubting" Thomas is remembered for this story, the disciples were no less doubting at first.

The disciples are not pictured as people who believe, even after Jesus' resurrection; they are behind locked doors for a second week; they say 'We have seen the Lord!' but are paralysed. Although the writer says that the one who has not seen and yet has believed is blessed, John gives us a picture of the disciples as still not really convinced.

Thomas's makes that glorious statement 'My Lord and my God', (20:28) but John records a little later that that he is among those who do not recognise to begin with; then understand him but then ask questions about his identity. The disciples seem never quite to understand what really has happened. That understanding lies in the future.

Such may be the condition of many hopeful Christians in today's world when the very fabric of society is threatened. Jesus leaves his authority in the hands of disciples; we are ordinary human being with much good and some bad; John seems to understand this in today's gospel as they struggle to understand and grow in a resurrection faith. Today's disciples are also called to do much more than they are capable of. Sometimes there is great clarity; then we live in the joyful light of the resurrection. We are an Easter People; Alleluia is our song.

#### And prayer for Sunday

Almighty Father,  
you have given your only Son to die for our sins  
and to rise again for our justification:  
grant me so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness  
that I 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.

## Online Worship

### Easter II - 24th April 2022

The Church of England online worship will be broadcast from the Benefice of Trelawny in the Diocese of Truro, led by the Rev Richard Allen. It will be live streamed at 9:00am on Sunday and remain for viewing on the Church of England's Youtube channel.

[Click here to join](#)

## Children's Corner

This week's Young Church Mag is about Thomas. There's a crossword, maze, riddle and wordsearch to help you explore the story. It can be downloaded and printed by clicking [this link](#).



The Link - Parish Magazine for Ubley and Compton Martin - is currently without an editor. If you would be interested in knowing more about this role, please contact [rachel.branston@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.branston@gmail.com)



Whilst The Link is unavailable, readers may like to access the sister publication, Blagdon Newsletter. The online edition for April 2022 can be accessed by clicking the banner image above, or please email the [Church Office](#) for a PDF copy.

Subscribers to The Link have received a printed copy of Blagdon Newsletter this month.

THE CASSIOPEIA ENSEMBLE PRESENTS ...

# AN EVENING OF CHAMBER MUSIC

SATURDAY 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 7:00PM

Mozart 'Dissonance' String Quartet K 465  
Schumann Piano Quintet Op. 44

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, BLAGDON, BS40 7SJ  
ANY ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT: 07879 193517

TICKETS | £6  
WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM

## Prayer within our Community

#### We have been asked to pray for:

In the Parish of Blagdon, please pray for Britta and her parents Roger and Kathy, Neil and Margaret and Joyce.  
In the Parish of Compton Martin, please pray for Ann and Robert, for Ceinwen and Robert.

Please pray for George and his family as they prepare for baptism, and Toby and Aimee, Harry and Camila as they prepare for marriage.

*O Holy Jesus  
O most merciful Redeemer,  
Friend, and Brother,  
May I know thee more clearly,  
Love thee more dearly,  
And follow thee more nearly  
Day by day  
Amen.*

If you have someone or something that you would like us to pray for, your requests can be passed onto them and included in our prayers. Please click [here](#) to send us your requests.

## Community Support and Help Details

Support is available in all our villages for anyone who is self-isolating:

#### For those who live in Ubley

**Ubley Cares**  
Landline: 462827 speak to Jonathan Longhurst  
Email: [jl1andjl2@sky.com](mailto:jl1andjl2@sky.com)

#### For those who live in Compton Martin:

**Coronavirus support in Compton Martin Parish**  
Email: [comptonmartin.cy@gmail.com](mailto:comptonmartin.cy@gmail.com)  
Landline: 221415 speak to Jean Luckett  
Mobile: 07968 861118 speak to Jean Luckett  
Email: [peterandjeanluckett@gmail.com](mailto:peterandjeanluckett@gmail.com)  
Landline: 220102 speak to Rachel Branston

