

The Newsletter

April 2021



*“Alleluia! He is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”*

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<https://mary-magdalene-church-s-molton.weebly.com/>

Readings this Month

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| 11 th April - | The Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 4.32-35; 1 John 1.1-2.2; John 20.19-31 |
| 18 th April - | The Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 3.12-19; 1 John 3.1-7, Luke 24.36b-48 |
| 25 th April - | The Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 4.5-12; 1 John 3.16-24; John 10.11-18 |
| 2 nd May - | The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 8.26-40; 1 John 4.7-21; John 15.1-8 |

Prayer & Worship

The church building is usually open for *private prayer on Wednesday mornings between 11am and 12 noon*. However, because of funerals the church will not be open for private prayer on 14th and 21st April.

We will be continuing our *11am Sunday services* over the *internet and by telephone*. Please contact the Rector if you would like to take part and he will explain how to join in and send you the details.

Alongside this, we will be having *Sunday services in the church building at 9.15am*.

The Church of England has a dial-in telephone line (“Daily Hope”), with a weekly service, hymns and other daily options. (Dial 0800 808 8044.)

Please check our [website](#) for updates.

You might also like to use this simple form of Daily Prayer, using one of the Bible readings given above. You could perhaps start by lighting a candle or playing some gentle music to ‘settle down’, and then continue by saying the words out aloud or in your head. Take your time!

Daily Prayer

Opening Sentence

In your resurrection, O Christ, let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

(Be still and quiet for a moment or two)

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As once you ransomed your people from Egypt
and led them to freedom in the promised land,
so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

Bible Reading(s)

Prayers

(Speak to God whatever is on your heart. You might like to include this prayer, and then the “Lord’s Prayer”.)

God of life,
who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son
 to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father ...

The Conclusion

May the risen Christ give us his peace. Alleluia. Amen.

Services this month

Sunday services in church at 9.15am

We have short reflective Sunday services at 9.15am, with occasional Communion services.

Anybody is very welcome to attend, but in order for us to keep everyone safe please book a place by emailing southmoltonchurch@gmail.com or by leaving a message on 579492, preferably by the Thursday (and at the latest: lunchtime Saturday).

For all services in church we need to wear a face-covering, and in order to assist the NHS Test and Trace programme a record of attendance is kept securely for 21 days. (It is important that if you have a cough, temperature or any other sign of a possible infection, you stay at home.)

11am Sunday services via the internet or telephone

This is a 30-40 minute 'live' service, where we can share in worship together at home. We sing hymns and there is a short reflection on the Bible passage. If you would like to join in, please let Michael know and he will explain how to do so. Why not give it a go?

Easter Lilies and Flowers

Over the Easter period we remembered those among our family and friends who have died. Thank you to everyone who gave a donation to the Easter Lily Flower Fund.

Thank you to the Flower Team (Angela Hulme, Tessa Cockram and Pat Richards) who provided and arranged such beautiful floral displays in church, and also to Angela for the Easter Garden.

It was wonderful to be able to worship God in such inspiring surroundings!

Some brief notes from the February PCC meeting

- The PCC met as it normally does on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (on Zoom).
- Our bank balances are much reduced from this time last year (by over £35,000). With the pandemic we have lost income from donations and our usual fund-raising activities. We are encouraging people to join the Parish Giving Scheme: an easy way of giving a regular donation to the church (on which we can claim gift aid from eligible taxpayers at no extra cost to the individual). Please contact Bob Redwood (Churchwarden) for further information.
- We now have a QR code in the church building for those who would like to donate electronically from their smart-phones.
- We also have a QR code for those visiting the building who use the NHS Covid App.
- We still have vacancies for school governors at the Church of England Primary School. Please speak to Michael if you would like to offer this valuable service. (Thank you to the person who has already responded since the PCC meeting.)
- We discussed and approved the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year 2020. These have now been submitted to the accountant for independent examination.

The 200 Club March results

Eighty-five numbers were entered into the draw. The 1st prize (£85) was won by Steve White (no.8), the 2nd prize (£51) by Claude Squire (no.20) and the 3rd prize (£34) by Margaret Dullam (no.78). Thank you, all members, for your support of the church.

There is plenty of room for more members! To join in, contact Margaret White (573558), Sally Ann Kingdon (574278) or Printworkx (2 King Street).

Annual Meetings

Each year around this time of year we have our Annual Meetings. The first is the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (open to anyone who is on the electoral register of the civil parish) at which Churchwardens are elected for the year. This is immediately followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (open to anyone on the church Electoral Roll) at which various reports and the financial accounts are presented, and at which members of the Parochial Church Council are elected.

The provisional date of the Annual Meetings is Wednesday 14th April at 2pm (though it may have to be put back to the 21st April). *The meeting will be on Zoom and you are welcome to join us. Please contact the Rector if you would like to take part so that he can send you the Zoom link.*

Please pray for the PCC, and consider whether you are being called to this important role. The PCC does an essential job in supporting the Rector in the whole of the mission and ministry of the church and in being responsible for maintaining the fabric of the ancient Grade 1-listed building (and also the Church Hall). To be on the PCC you need to be on the Electoral Roll of the church, be a regular member of the church family, be eligible legally to be a trustee of a charity, and be willing to undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service check for safeguarding purposes.

If you would like to explore this further, Michael would love to hear from you.



"We had hoped"

(From The Right Revd Jackie Searle, Bishop of Crediton.)

We had hoped ... to sing our Alleluias in Church on Easter Day, to gather with our friends and families, to be 'back to normal'.

We had hoped ... some of the most poignant words of scripture, words of grief and longing, that were spoken on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24). Two travellers, walking away from Jerusalem, entrust their sadness to a stranger.

We had hoped, they said, that Jesus would be the one to save us. Unknown to them, he is the very person to whom they are speaking. The one in whom they had hoped, the one they had witnessed dying on a cross. He was here now walking beside them, and they didn't recognise him. But at his invitation they are telling their story.

This is still the invitation of the risen Lord Jesus – tell me how it is, let me hear your story. As we look back over the past year, we have had hopes that have risen and fallen. The risen Lord Jesus is interested in our hopes and our disappointments. He invites us to share them with him.

As the three draw near to the village of Emmaus the couple invite Jesus in to eat and stay. 'When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened.' Like those disciples, may our eyes be opened and hearts set on fire by the risen Jesus giving us new hope and faith. For whether in sadness or joy the truth is this – that Christ is risen from the dead, and the way to life stands open. So let us shout and sing our Alleluias however and wherever we are. For we are Easter people and Alleluia is our song.

Cream Teas!

Due to popular demand Stella is offering to deliver Cream Teas once again on Sundays on 4th April (Easter Sunday!), 18th April, 2nd May (May Bank Holiday Sunday), 16th May, 30th May (Trinity/Spring Bank Holiday Sunday), and 20th June (Fathers' Day).

For details see the flyer, and to order contact Stella on 0789 143 2462 / stella.scoins@gmail.com before 6pm the day before.

Mothers' Union: a note from the Branch Leader

The AGM of South Molton Mothers' Union will be held on Thursday 15th April at 2.30 pm on Zoom. Please get in touch with Deborah (579407) if you would like to take part by email or by telephone.

(Deborah Bayliss)

The Newsletter and keeping up-to-date

We are keen to keep people informed with what is happening at St Mary Magdalene – and just generally ‘to keep in touch’. The website is kept up-to-date, but we would also love as many people as possible to receive the Newsletter.

It helps keep down our costs for the Newsletter to be emailed out to those who have email, but if you don't have email we would be pleased to deliver/post it to you. If you know of anyone who would value the Newsletter please ask them to contact Michael with their details, and we will gladly add them to the list.

We would also be happy to make printed copies available to anyone on request - though we would appreciate a small donation to cover the cost of printing and delivery.