

MALBOROUGH
BAPTIST
CHURCH

MINISTER
REV TIM SKILLMAN

Fellowship News

Volume 4, Issue 5

May 2011

Morning Service 10:30 am Communion service held on the first Sunday of the month.

Pastors Comment ...

I expect the Easter holiday and additional Royal holiday have been a real time to celebrate amidst much of the turmoil that continues in the Middle East and the economic downturn that many are finding a hard struggle. It was amazing to hear so much of the scripture spoken and sung throughout the wedding ceremony and I'm sure it drew the hearts and minds of millions in England, and around the world, to remind them of our Christian foundations and hope in Christ. Let us pray that Prince William and Kate will never forget their Christian heritage and that they may know Jesus personally. As 1 Tim 2:1 says *"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."*

Once again, this Easter, we were blessed with beautiful flower arrangements in the Chapel—thank you Rachel for such a display! Thanks also to Bryan & Janice, Richard & Hywel, Jacqui and Enid—your work is appreciated! I know that many of us have been sick over the past few weeks and several of us still need prayer such as Sandra and Ros. Please pray that Ros will be strong enough to visit Botswana in August.

Going back a short while, the Art & Faith evening was very encouraging featuring a video interview and commentary on 'the descent'. Graham Fish spoke about how his faith influences everything he paints which probably explains why so many are attracted to his amazing pictures of the sea. Thank you Denis for organising this inspiring event. If you have any inspiration for events like this, let us know. *Pastor Tim.*

Services

May

1st Rev. Tim Skillman
8th Rev. Brian Jago
15th Rev. Tim Skillman
22nd Rev. Tim Skillman
29th Mr Dennis King

June

5th Mr Mark Page

Flowers

May

1st Easter Flowers
8th Mrs. G. Sterry
15th Mrs. M. Hallworth
22nd Mrs. S. Jones
29th Mrs. K. King

June

5th Mrs. E. Putt



Door Stewards

May

1st Kate
8th Kate
15th Peggy
22nd Peggy
29th Sarah

June

5th Sarah

Hoovering (week ending...)

May

7th Ms. J. Brown
14th Mrs. E. Putt
21st Mr H. Jones
28th Mrs. K. King

June

4th Mrs. G. Sterry



So what if the Easter bunny wins the hearts of children everywhere? So why not strike "Easter Holiday" from the vocabulary of our schools and substitute "Spring break"? What difference does Easter make anyway?

It makes a lot of difference to those who are in touch enough with reality to take life and death seriously. It made a lot of difference to a very real woman named Mary. Let me tell you her story.

Mary had the heart-wrenching honour of washing the dried blood from Jesus' lifeless body as two other followers prepared the tomb cut into Jerusalem's cold limestone.

Mary wept as she washed—wept and remembered....

She had been born to luxury, heiress to a textile fortune, a native of Magdala, a town along the coast of Galilee. "Little good it did me," she mused. Money had brought the opposite of happiness. She look back at her teen years as a blur of painful, compulsive acting out. Her parents had thrown up their hands in despair, she recalled. She recollected the gnawing fear, the self-loathing that ate at her very core. And she could remember the caring boldness in Jesus' penetrating eyes as he had confronted the demons that tormented her and commanded them to be gone forever. That had been the last of the frantic, distraught Mary. A gentle, peace-filled Mary had taken her place.



Until today.

Today she had seen her Lord die an excruciating death, his body weight hanging limp from the nails driven through his hands and feet, suspended from a cross like a common criminal. Her heart caught in her throat as she remembered and wept and washed away the caked blood with her tears. She wept, too, as she watched the men lift Jesus' corpse onto the tomb's carved ledge, and roll a massive stone across the doorway.

Was all her hope for nothing? What of all the thousands of diseased bodies he had healed? The broken lives he had restored? The promises of the Kingdom of God?

But early Sunday morning she was back at the tomb to finish anointing his body. When she arrived the tomb stood open, stone pushed to the side, ashes of the Roman guards' watch fire still smouldering. "How can they be so cruel?" she cried as she ran to tell the apostles. So cruel.

But it wasn't cruelty that rolled away the stone that Easter morning. It was the powerful hand of God as Jesus Christ stepped forth brimming with Life.

Mary saw him, mistaking him for the gardener. But there was no mistaking his familiar voice--"Mary." She fell at his feet, tears of grief melting into tears of joy. "Rabboni," she said as she looked into his face. "Teacher."

Yes, Easter bunnies still capture the hearts of children and schools talk about Spring break, but you and I know what really happened on Easter.

In an instant history changed forever, because where once the human mortality rate had held stead at 100%, now it skipped a beat as Jesus, Saviour of all mankind, stepped out of dead statistics into life. Death is the last word no longer for Jesus' followers, life is.

"Believe in Buddha," some still insist amid the marketplace of the world religions.

"Confucius," say the Chinese. "Mohammed," cry the Muslims. "Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh," shout his followers, and on it goes.

"Jesus," Mary would tell us, "He changed my life." And millions around the globe would echo, "Mine, too. He touched my life, too."

For while religious leaders have come and gone, the fact remains: only One stepped forth from the tomb. Only One has risen from the dead. Only One has conquered death. Only One offers the promise of eternal life to those who follow him.

"I am the resurrection and the life," Jesus said. "He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

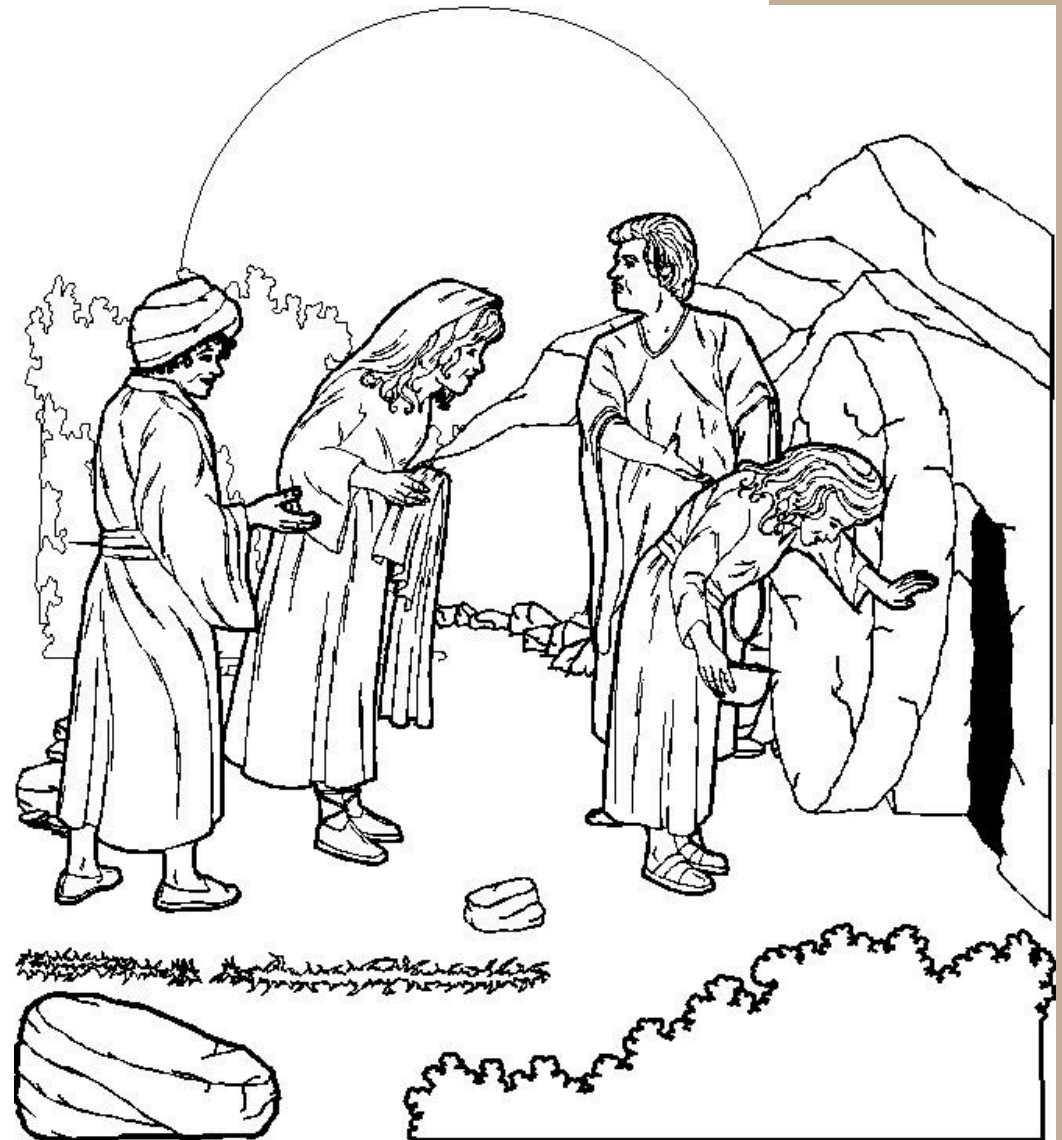
So why do Jesus' followers gather in churches on Easter morning? To show off their Easter finery? God forbid. Rather

- To celebrate the victory of Life over death,
- To help their children and grandchildren share their faith that Jesus is alive, and

To declare that Jesus Christ is Lord indeed!

John 11:25 (New International Version)

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;



For you to colour in, cut out and stick on the wall to remind you about Easter

Communion for the first Sunday in May will be led by Rev. Tim Skillman, who will be assisted by Dennis and Kate. All those who love the Lord are welcome to join us for communion. It is our practice to eat the bread singly, but to drink the wine as one fellowship.

And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.