

Meeting the risen Christ!

Once again we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead! But is this enough?

Quite simply no, it isn't. It isn't enough just to *keep the feast* as if it were somebody else's anniversary, somebody whom we're not likely to meet. Truly to celebrate the resurrection is to encounter the risen Christ himself, nothing less. We're not in the realm of nice ideas but of actual experience here.

So how do we do this? Well, far be it from me to second guess how our Lord might choose to encounter you, he may, of course, do this in all manner of ways and believe me I've heard about a few over the years. But as far as you and I are concerned the Church has provided us with a few ways designed to help us do precisely this and it has called them the Seven Sacraments.

Hence our Sermon Course on the Sacraments which constitutes the veritable feast David and I have got lined up for you over the next few weeks; you lucky people!

We have tried to link each Sacrament to the readings for the Sundays in the Easter Season when the risen Lord speaks to us today, precisely because the Sacraments are all about a living Christ and not a dead Jesus. They are none of them about the past; all of them are about the present. Actually, I suppose, they are all about eternity and what it holds for each of us, should we remain faithful.

Hot on the tail of the Resurrection

comes the Ascension, when, you will remember, the risen Lord didn't just leave his disciples bereft, he promised to be with them for ever.

My confessor's former church in north London (also the place where Barbara grew up) has a concrete altar on the front of which in the boldest letters imaginable is written, **I AM STILL**



WITH YOU, referring to the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. But one way or another he is present in every one of his sacraments, present as the Risen Lord come to be with and alongside his people, with and alongside you.

To find out more, make sure you are here not just on Easter Day but on all the Sundays of the Easter Season.

Happy Eastertide!

Fr Stephen

Simon Burton-Jones to be next Bishop of Tonbridge

The Venerable Simon Burton-Jones, currently Archdeacon of Rochester, is to become the next Bishop of Tonbridge.

Simon will be ordained bishop on Tuesday 3 July at St Paul's Cathedral.

Commenting on the appointment, James, Bishop of Rochester, said: "Simon is of course already well-known across our Diocese, having served here since 1996 and for the last eight years as Archdeacon of Rochester and Canon Residentiary at our Cathedral.

"Simon has in the last few years played a very important role in helping to frame 'Called Together', our new diocesan framework for mission and ministry across the communities of our Diocese."

Women's World Day of Prayer 2018

Last month, Edenbridge's indomitable women and one man made their way through snow, ice and wind to the Eden Church, there to celebrate the World Day of Prayer.

In this year's service, the women of Suriname urged us to cherish God's exquisite gift of Creation and to commit ourselves to caring for our world responsibly so that we may pass it on, unspoiled, to future generations.

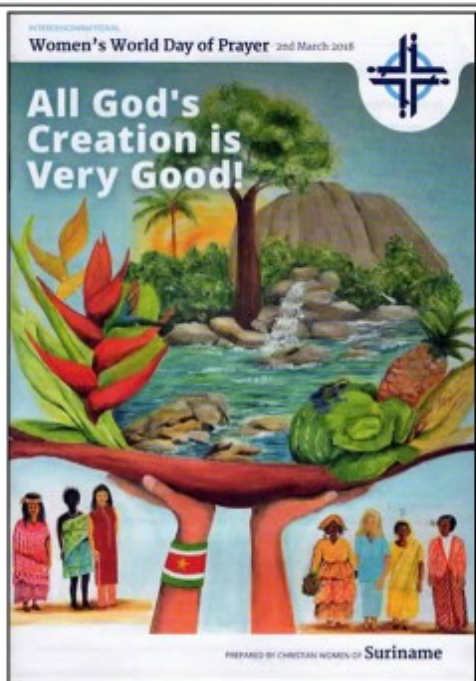
In their Sranan dialect they said: "*A heri grontape di Gado meki bun doro, doro!*" meaning "All God's Creation is Very Good!"

We began by reminding ourselves of the story of the Creation in Genesis ch. 1 vv1-13. Each reader presented a focal object for prayer and reflection to accompany this.

The Service Leader reminded us that "We are made in God's image and we are worthy just because God loves us. However, we have responsibility; we are the caretakers and the Creator holds us accountable for how we look after the world and everything in it."

We should take time to reflect on our personal responsibilities and accountability to God as his stewards and ways that we, as human beings, have wasted, misused or taken for granted what God has provided.

Among the wide range of issues and the many things to think about and to pray for, this service led the way by asking God in prayer to help us: to care for those suffering in darkness, despair or depression and to care for one another in body, soul and mind; to think of those who still do not have access to clean water or who worry about climate change and its effect on sea levels (90 per cent of the population of Suriname live in coastal areas which are less than two metres above sea level); to change our minds and behaviours so that



we minimise waste; to protect our crops and environment from floods, drought and chemical damage; to press for legislation to stop the pollution of our seas and rivers; to create safe places and to bring an end to the misuse of His creation; and to be there for all those for whom life is difficult.

The subject of this service is a huge topic encompassing many of the current concerns about the earth and the abuses and misuses of its natural resources.

The women of Suriname believe that the Christian faith community can make a great contribution to the preservation of a living, healthy and safe environment.

Helen Vaughan

Coffee morning

A coffee morning, and a cake and plant sale will be held at the church on Saturday 14 April from 10am to 12 noon. As well as cakes, we will be very grateful if you have any garden plants that you could pot up. ►

Violinist Julia Hwang returns to Edenbridge

Internationally-acclaimed violinist Julia Hwang is making her third appearance at Edenbridge Parish Church with the City Chamber Ensemble in a Gala Concert on the evening of Saturday 28 April.

The concert, organised by Edenbridge Music and Arts Trust (EMAT), will feature a programme that includes Wagner's Siegfried Idyll, Bruch's Violin Concerto No1 in G minor op26, Mozart's Symphony No41 in C major, 'Jupiter', and David Gammie's Elegy for Strings.

Says Mary Elliot of EMAT: "During the last three years [Julia] has taken Cambridge by storm where she has studied at St John's College and has become an international artist in much demand. It is a huge pleasure to welcome her here once more and to know that in the midst of her



international acclaim she loves coming to Edenbridge!"

The concert starts at 7pm. Tickets are £15 (schoolchildren are £2) and available from Farrington's Jewellers, The Square, Edenbridge TN8 5AU. Tel: 01732 863934. More information from EMAT at 01732 862418.

Posies for the bereaved

Each year posies are delivered on behalf of our Church to those who have been bereaved during the past calendar year. This year we'll be taking posies along with invitations to the Service for the Bereaved (to be held at 6.30pm, Sunday 6 May) and on Sunday-Monday 8-9 April.

It is anticipated that posies will be grouped by localities/roads so the ministry team is hoping that members of the congregation will be able to assist with delivery by taking posies away after the 9.30am service on Sunday 8 April. Obviously the more people who offer assistance the less the task will be for everyone. More information from Sue, Hilary or Linda.

Rebuilding Mexico takes off


The Rebuild Mexico team – Katy Mulhere, Katie Hill, Hannah Nunn, Matt Greene, Thomas Parrish and mission leader Stuart Parrish – set off for the Americas on the Saturday during Easter to again construct a simple house for a needy family.



They were flying to Los Angeles before travelling to San Diego and Tijuana in Mexico, where they are camping.

Fund raising was successfully completed at the beginning of March with a Quiz Night at St Paulinus that raised a total of £1,008.69. Says Stuart, "A big thank you to Fr Stephen for doing a fantastic job as quiz master and to Barbara for compiling the questions."

The Electoral Roll annual revision

Last chance for those who want to be included on the Electoral Roll will be on 

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► Sunday 1 April. Those who are not already on the roll but wish to be included can fill in a form and give it to Fr Stephen or Andrea Shipwright. Forms are available at the back of the Church.

All Age Service for April

The third All Age Service will be held at Edenbridge Parish Church on Sunday 1 April from 11.00 to 11:45am with the morning's topic being 'Easter'.

Living in the Dynamic Cycle of Grace

This is a Quiet Day for Ascensiontide led by Revd David Flagg on Tuesday 8 May from 10am to 4pm in the Church of Christ the Healer, Burrswood. To book please contact Reservations 01892 865988 or reservations@burrswood.org.uk There is no charge for this day, but voluntary donations of around £15 towards the work of Burrswood would be greatly appreciated.

BRIDGES work can be part of DofE

If you are 13 years old or more, and are looking for ways to bolster to your Duke of Edinburgh awards programme, contact BRIDGES in the High Street, which still urgently needs helpers to serve, cook or wash up. BRIDGES is offering 'work experience' or 'service' that can be part of the DofE scheme. Anyone keen to help is also welcome. Shifts are from 9am to 12 noon or 12 noon to 2.30pm (9am to 12.30pm on Wednesday or Saturday). Call Mary Perrett at BRIDGES on 868186 anytime to leave a message for her.

Holiday activities at

St John's Marsh Green

Activities for children and young people at St John's, Marsh Green will be held on Wednesday and Thursday 11-12 April

from 9.20am to 12:30pm. There will be two separate programmes: 'Jesus loves Allsorts' for primary school children (year R to year 5) and 'Rock Solid' for those in year 6 upwards 'Rock Solid' will be run by Anthony Shipwright, from the ECT. There is no charge but you will be invited to make a contribution in the box provided. More information from Sam Omurca (sam@omurca.co.uk). Forms should be returned to Sam by March 29.

Reduce wasteful coffee cups

Hilary Morgan, as part of her campaign to reduce waste, is this year potting up her plants in coffee cups that cannot otherwise be recycled. So if you have plastic or paper cups from Waitrose or Costa, don't throw them away: throw them in Hilary's direction.

Diary dates

Easter Sunday 1 April

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Eucharist

11.00am All Age Service

6.30pm Easter Festal Evensong

Wed-Thurs 10-12 April

Holiday activities, St John's Marsh Green

Saturday 14 April

Coffee morning, Parish Church, 10am

Saturday 28 April

EMAT Gala Concert, Parish Church, 7pm

Sunday-Tuesday 6-8 May

Chiddingstone Literary Festival

Tuesday 8 May

Quiet Day for Ascensiontide, Burrswood

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