



The Kingswood Benefice of Clothall, Rushden, Sandon, Wallington, and Weston

Welcome to the Easter Edition of In Touch

I hope you all had as good an Easter as possible with the restrictions? Hopefully, things will continue to improve over the next few months as the weather improves and the vaccination count goes up. In this issue we are focusing on the Easter flowers in the churches as they were amazing and so heart lifting – so my grateful thanks to all those who spent time doing the displays that have welcomed people returning to church and the many visitors we have had. I would especially like to thank Janice Darton and her daughter Holly who made a wonderful Easter Garden at Sandon and created quizzes and other activities for all who came. Thank you both for all that you have done. Thank you as well to Hilary Bailey for doing the lovely Easter Garden at Weston. I hope the weather warms up and that we will soon be out and about even more. Stay well and safe. **With blessings, Fiona.**



Sandon daffodils



Rev Nick Lyness, Rushden



Clothall Easter flowers



Sandon Easter flowers

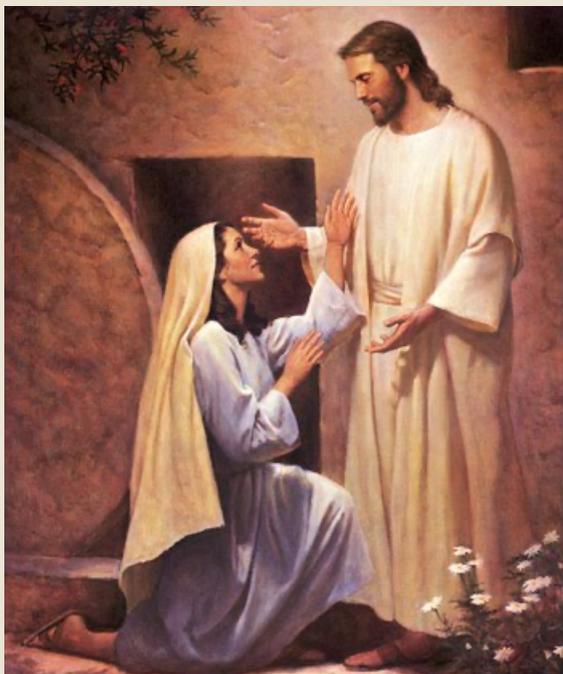


Weston Easter flowers



Clothall Easter Altar

Easter morning, the 'Other' Mary



As the traditional Easter story is rehearsed again this month, you may notice that there is one name that frequently occurs. It is that of the 'other' Mary – not the mother of Jesus, but Mary of Magdalene, who stood by her at the cross and became the first person actually to meet the risen Christ.

That's quite a record for a woman who, the Gospels tell us, had been delivered by Jesus from 'seven devils' – New Testament language for some dark and horrible affliction of body, mind or spirit. As a result, her devotion to Him was total and her grief at His death overwhelming.

In church history Mary Magdalene became the 'fallen woman' a harlot who was rescued and forgiven by Jesus but there is no evidence to prove she was a 'fallen woman' but the contrast is sublime, Mary the virgin mother, the symbol of purity. Mary Magdalene, the scarlet woman who was saved and forgiven, the symbol of redemption. Surely, we all fall somewhere between those two extremes.

The dark cloud from which she was delivered may have been sexual, we are not told. What we do know is that the two Marys stood together at the cross, the

Blessed Virgin and the woman rescued from who knows what darkness and despair.

The second great moment for her was as unexpected as it was momentous. She had gone with other women to the tomb of Jesus and found it empty. An angelic figure told them that Jesus was not there, He had risen – and the others drifted off. But Mary stayed, reluctant to leave it like that. She became aware of a man nearby, whom she took to be the gardener. She explained to him that the body of 'her Lord' had been taken away and she didn't know where to find Him.

The man simply said her name 'Mary' and she instantly realised it was Jesus. She made to hug Him, but He told her not to touch Him because His resurrection was not yet complete. She was, however, to go to the disciples and tell them she had met Him. She did – but they wouldn't believe her.

Her words – 'I have seen the Lord' – echo down the centuries, the very beating heart of the Christian gospel.



Clothall Easter flowers



Wallington Easter flowers



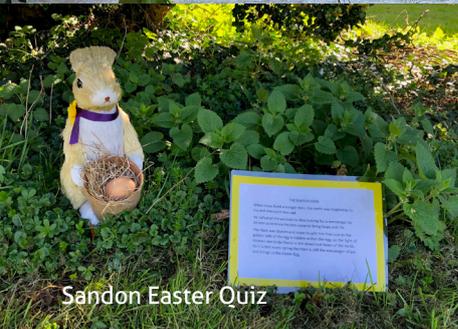
Wallington Easter flowers



Rushden Easter flowers



Rushden porch



Sandon Easter Quiz

The Enkindled Spring
 By D.H. Lawrence
*This spring as it comes bursts up in bonfires green,
 Wild puffing of emerald trees, and flame-filled bushes,
 Thorn-blossom lifting in wreaths of smoke between
 Where the wood fumes up and the watery, flickering rushes.
 I am amazed at this spring, this conflagration
 Of green fires lit on the soil of the earth, this blaze
 Of growing, and sparks that puff in wild gyration,
 Faces of people streaming across my gaze.
 And I, what fountain of fire am I among
 This leaping combustion of spring? My spirit is tossed
 About like a shadow buffeted in the throng
 Of flames, a shadow that's gone astray, and is lost.*



Sandon Easter garden



Sandon welcome



Weston Easter flowers



Rushden altar



Sandon porch



Weston Easter flowers

If you would like to donate to any of our churches in the current crisis - details are below. We would be very grateful in your help to keep our churches going.
Thank you.

PCC OF RUSHDEN
 LLOYDS BANK: 30-94-30 A/C 01845350

SANDON PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
 BARCLAYS BANK: 20-73-26 A/C 53610802

PCC ST MARYS CHURCH WALLINGTON
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WESTON PCC
 BARCLAYS BANK: 20-41-12 A/C 40946850

PCC OF CLOTHALL
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Helena and Joe, Rushden