



## APRIL 2021 Newsletter

### GLBC April 2021 Newsletter

According to Geoffrey Chaucer, April is the month when, despite the showers (or perhaps because of them – people need to drink) Christian people start to think of going on pilgrimage. That is not such a common practice now as it was in Chaucer's Day and certainly Canterbury Cathedral is no longer made rich by donations from pilgrims who have arrived to visit the tomb of Thomas à Becket. However, this year Easter falls in April, rather than March and for many of us, part of how we mark the Easter events includes joining in the walk of witness / stations of the cross event in the town centre. This is the second year in a row when physically walking with those from other churches has not been possible and gathering in crowds is forbidden. For those who have internet access, this year there is a virtual walk to access online, which is advertised on the church website, under the services tab:

<http://greenlanechurch.org.uk/service-videos>

On Palm Sunday, Jesus came into Jerusalem with a crowd who were all on pilgrimage to be in Jerusalem ready for Passover. On the night before he died, which we mark as Maundy Thursday, Jesus instituted a new meal of remembrance for the fledgling church, in which bread would be broken and wine poured out to forever symbolised the way on Good Friday, his body would be broken and his blood shed.

Maybe, this year, especially if you cannot join in the online walk event, you might choose to walk around your neighbourhood, envisaging Jesus in the garden, at the High Priest's house, in front of Pilate, on the cross and in the tomb. As you reflect on the journey Jesus made, may you, by the Spirit, encounter again the deep truth of the gospel – that God loves you so much, that He was prepared to die for you.

Alleluia, He is Risen! Happy Easter!

Rev.Sarah

### News and bits and pieces

*The church tribute to Stella Moffatt at her funeral:*

Stella was not known for being quiet, though she was a faithful follower of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Now her shepherd has led her to the greenest pasture and stillest of cool waters. The road there was not always easy – especially in these last few years, where Alzheimer's led her to lose much of herself, along with her memories. Like every life, hers included times of going through dark valleys.

That is true also for all the family. These days are one of those dark valleys. We can be thankful that through the prophet Isaiah, God said he would carry the lambs that were unable to walk, which surely included Stella in her last days. Yet, for those who love God, they do find renewed strength; they do find they have everything they need; they do find comfort and protection from the presence of the shepherd, though these gifts are only fully experienced when they go to dwell in His presence.

Stella looked forward to the day when she would join the heavenly banquet – when she would be welcomed as a guest yet know she was finally home. She has led the way, following the shepherd and if we also follow, we can look forward to seeing her again. (small edit, though perhaps without her walking stick!)

### **The Boiler**

Alleluia! The gas fitters finished installing the new boilers 3 days before the funeral and the building, despite having doors open for ventilation, was warm. Hopefully you have all been able to see when we are holding a dedicated Gift Day not as an opportunity to bring your envelopes or regular giving, but to make a special donation towards the costs of installation. It's a big ask, but our own fundraising will help us to apply for grants or loans from others.