

St. Peter's Parish Church Monthly Newsletter

Easter Season 2021

The weeks after the first Easter Day brought with them a mixture of emotions; joy, doubt, and confusion as people tried to comprehend Jesus' death and resurrection. I reflected on this on Easter Day this year and how for me this resonated with current times of mixed emotions as we come out of lockdown: a mixture of joy, apprehension, and grief. The joy of new freedoms, especially as we meet in person with loved ones; *apprehension* at thought of going a step too far and having to return to lockdown again; *grief* as we reflect on what we have missed or lost over the last year.

Communities gathered on Easter Sunday (at a safe distance) to celebrate, some inside church, some in the churchyard. Some who recognise themselves as followers of Christ others who may not, but all deeply valuing gathering together, the sense of comfort and strength that comes from belonging in community and the sense of release, of being set free. The beautiful sunny weather certainly helped. And yet the mix of emotions in the following days was heightened with the sad news of the death of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. The mix of emotions continuing as the bell tolled in Tilton on the day of Prince Philip's funeral. Sadness due to the occasion and yet uplifting to hear a bell for the first time in over a year (a single, half muffled bell tolled skilfully and respectfully).

It was certainly a joy for me to see familiar faces and new at St Andrew's, Owston. And for my colleague, Nicky, to be with those in St Peter's Knossington and Tilton on Easter Day. It was also a pleasure to get to know the family and friends of the late Mrs June Coulson as we gathered to pay our respects and give thanks for her life in St Peter's, Tilton on the Hill. I look forward to seeing more of you as the churches continue to re-open for services in the coming months (weddings and Christenings included). And if you can't make it in person, you are welcome to join in the Sunday services online – you can dial up and listen by telephone if you don't have the technology.

A brief update: The future of the church is evolving through a series of conversations at regional and local level. **On 5th May at 7.30pm there will be a local meeting (online or via telephone link) to include local villagers.** If you regularly attend church or rarely attend church but care about the role of the church within your local community then I would like to encourage you to check the Tilton Church website where an invitation link will be posted in the coming weeks. If you have any questions about joining in, please contact me.

With my prayers and best wishes as we journey through this Easter Season and continue to emerge from lockdown.

Revd Jayne.

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