



## Useful Contact Details

### People at St Joe's

Minister	Tim Eady	01902 569625
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Children's Worker	Farrah Hunter-Coley	07702 837952
		farrah@pennfieldsparish.co.uk
Associate Minister	Graham Hartnell	01902 593086
Wardens	Chris Strange	Treasurer Hilary Bannister
	Steve Perry	Hall Bookings Andy Wynter
	Brenda Swatman	
	Jenny Green	

### And in the wider parish

Vicar	Peter Smith	01902 332749.	peter@pennfieldsparish.co.uk
Curate	Treena Larkin	07368423748	treena@pennfieldsparish.co.uk
Parish Office		01902 341943	office@pennfieldsparish.co.uk

**Regular at St Joe's:** *You are warmly invited to all of our activities.*

**Adventurers:** for Primary School age. Every Wednesday, 4pm - 5.30pm. Come and have fun, be creative, find out more about following Jesus.

**Joe's Cafe:** every Saturday morning, 10am - 1pm. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast - a range of options - and meet friends.

**Place of Welcome:** every Tuesday afternoon. Drop in for a cup of tea and a chance to chat with friends. 2pm - 4pm.

**Stay and Play:** every Wednesday morning during term time, from 9.30am-11am, for parents and 'tinies'. Just turn up.

**St Joseph's Playgroup:** Tuesday and Thursday mornings during term time for children 2 - 4 years. Drop in for a visit, or contact Caroline or Jayne for more details.

**Wednesday Circle:** twice a month at 2.00pm on Wednesday afternoons.

**Five Ways Lunch:** Monthly Lunch Club, Wednesday 8th January 12.30pm. Please tell Rose Brettell if you wish to come.

**Time Out: Tea and Coffee Afternoon,** Mondays 1pm-2.30pm for parents, grandparents, carers. Informal chat with tea/coffee and cake.

**Carpet bowls:** Friday afternoons at 12.45pm.

[www.saintjosephs.co.uk](http://www.saintjosephs.co.uk)



# Joe's Prose

## April 2020

News from St Joseph's Church

### 'I don't believe it.'

Thus went the catch phrase which featured that prototype grumpy old man, Victor Meldrew.

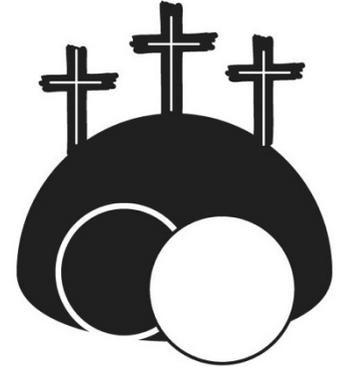
That is surely how Thomas felt on Easter Sunday. 'Resurrection? Unless I see the nail marks for myself, I will not believe it. Dead people don't just come back to life.'

To Thomas, it was impossible. Rising from the dead; coming back to life; that kind of thing just didn't happen. Not even to Messiahs. He couldn't believe it.

Poor old Tom had missed out on the first resurrection appearance. He wasn't with the other disciples when they first saw Jesus in the upper room, and consequently he has been typecast throughout history as Doubter in Chief.

'Unless I can see for myself, I can't believe.'

Of course, Thomas did get his moment. When he finally did see Jesus, when he got the irrefutable evidence of the resurrection a week later, he fell on his knees and exclaimed, 'my Lord and my God.'



Thomas got his proof. He saw and believed. But what about us? Do we find it easy to believe in the Resurrection? What evidence do we have for the truth of the resurrection?

The fact is, there is plenty of evidence for the resurrection. When we get to Easter, look at our website. There will be an 'Evidence for the Resurrection' document to read. But as we approach Easter, and live through Palm Sunday and Good Friday, take time to think about the Resurrection, so that you too, can kneel with Thomas and say to Jesus, 'My Lord and my God!'

### **What is the church?**

St Joseph's Church holds a special place in the hearts and lives of everyone who worships there. It is a greatly loved place, and in this strange season that we are living through, we miss our worship and fellowship. But as we communicate by phone, email, Facebook, maybe it encourages us to think afresh - what does it mean to be 'The Church'?

Of course the church is people, not buildings. We are the Body of Christ. We are the church whenever and however we meet together, whenever we pray, and whenever we reach out to serve other people. Jesus came amongst us as one who serves. He tells us to do likewise.

So as we pray for everyone who is caught up in this coronavirus epidemic, we are reminded of the importance of prayer, of the importance of being the church, whether we can meet together, or not.

In seeking out prayers to help us through this crisis, I found the following prayer/affirmation on the Church of England website. For me, it expresses who we are, and what we can be doing at this present time:

**We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.  
We are not people who protect our own safety:  
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.**

**We are not people of greed: we are people of generosity.  
We are your people God, giving and loving,  
wherever we are, whatever it costs  
for as long as it takes wherever you call us.**

Be at peace and remember your identity in Christ!

### **All about St Joseph's Church**

All of our normal events are suspended at the moment. Watch this space – they will resume as soon as we are able to do so. Meanwhile, look on St Joseph's Church Facebook page for daily prayers that you can join in, whenever you wish. If you wish to begin the day with prayer, join Tim daily at 7am for the 'live streaming' of these prayers. (Or look later – just the same). On Sundays, and Good Friday look at Facebook for a sermon, and a 'Butch Broadcasting' All-age special. If you have paid for the Passover Meal on April 6<sup>th</sup>, your money is safe! Tim has it and will return it to you when we meet.

### **Palm Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.**

We have a reading of Mark's Gospel planned for Palm Sunday. This will still go ahead, on our Facebook page! Tune in at 6pm and share in this live reading.

### **Alpha Course**

An Alpha Course – for anyone who is interested in discovering what the Christian faith is all about will begin after Easter, as soon as we can meet together again. Look out for details.

### **The Prayer Course**

Whilst we are all housebound, some of our focus groups are managing to meet online. Now is a good time to look at the Prayer Course. Go to [www.prayercourse.org](http://www.prayercourse.org). There are 8 short videos, and the website even gives you discussion questions and additional resources. Do watch. After Easter, our sermons will be based upon these 8 sessions.