

ST MATTHEWS

'IN TOUCH'

THE GHASTLY BATTLE

The day the world stood still followed the day of great human tension. The forces of chaos and destruction determined to break the will and heart of love. Within the confines of space and time it appeared that it did. The traumatic clouds dancing their rage, were determined to have the last say and their final and fatal act of destruction. The temple ghastly dark and thick with rage was too much for the holiest curtain, torn by humanity's deepest interior struggle echoed the external battle on that hill far away, until finally, the limp and battered body of Jesus, declared, 'it was finished.' He breathed his last, with head bowed low and body of 'word made flesh' hung motionless.

A stunned silence reigned in the darkening evening across the hills of Jerusalem until the few caring grievers stood motionless by and speechless for worlds.

Few really remembered much about the removal of the body to the tomb. Minds were dazed. Humanity's greatest injustice had been committed. Prepared with such care and devotion the body was laid on the rock floor, the rock door rolled shut. With the passing time cruellest event with sight out of mind closed the curtain to history.

A STIRRING BEGINNING

In the deepest darkness, the cold and damp removed the movement of time and perception of sight. This world had closed. The motionless moment followed dark moment after moment. Yet from this deepest silence a stirring began, not to the way we all live day after day. This was a stirring of the deepest awakening, a birth of new life with a brightness of a 'Son'. A life not as we know it. But one of a love, untarnished in its perfection, known in our hearts just for a start grew in intensity with sight and a knowing of a world never known.

EASTER

Who can imagine what really took place in Joseph's new tomb. It's gift to humanity is unparalleled with love. With no reference to time in the world of human perception the daily 'Sun' was greeting our world with a gentleness of awakening. In the most intimate moment dear Mary of Magdala was humanity's mid-wife. She welcomed this mystery of new life. Our Christ we thought so absent was as present as for ever. As present as we want it, whether we know it or not.

Mary, John, Peter, disciples and Thomas, Emmaus and Galilee, bore witness to resurrection. Across humanity each has a story, from century to century, nation and continent, city and suburb, our homes and our churches, whether lockdown or not, we celebrate our Lord.

So let us cry

Alelulia, Alelulia, Alelulia, Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed. Alelulia.

Fr Geoff

2020 OUR YEAR OF HOPE
LET'S WELCOME VICAR COLLEEN CLAYTON
Stephen, and Hannah, even Matthew in Russia

Their arrival will be one of the strangest.

They will gradually move into the vicarage over the coming weeks.

The advertised commissioning on April 28th will not proceed as advertised.

In our new world of new normal she will make her 'declaration and oaths' on that day
online with Bishop Paul Barker

For perhaps several months she will commence her new ministry as our vicar in the quietness
of isolation until special distancing is removed.

I would suggest the reopening of the church might be a special day of celebration and
welcoming of Colleen.

I will encourage her to begin with a telephone ministry.

**SO, I AM INVITING PARISHIONERS TO SEND A GREETING CARD OR LETTER
TO VICAR COLLEEN.**

**INCLUDE A PARAGRAPH OR SO, INTRODUCING YOURSELF AND PERHAPS
YOUR SPECIAL PEOPLE (YES AND ANIMALS) AND SOMETHING OF YOUR
LIFE**

**MOST IMPORTANTLY INCLUDE A PICTURE OF YOURSELF
HOW HELPFUL THIS WOULD BE WHEN SHE TELEPHONES YOU**

Don't forget your contact detail.

Telephone

Email (sign up to Zoom)

For the record your residential address

Post to:

The Revd. Colleen Clayton

St. Matthew's Anglican Church, 161 Park Road, Cheltenham, 3192