Collect for Today

Almighty Father,

who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Readings for This Week (may vary)

Acts 3.12-19 (Psalm 4) 1 John 3.1-7 Luke 24.36b-48

Readings for Next Week (may vary)

Acts 4.5-12 (Psalm 23) 1 John 3.16-24 John 10.11-18

Verse for the Week:

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20 v29

Prayer & Reading Diary Belstone

Monday

Prayer: Acts 4.5-12 **Read:** For our church officers Michael, Sue, Sandra, Carol and Wendy.

Tuesday

Read: Psalm 23 **Prayer:** For ongoing fundraising activities to undertake quinquennial repairs.

Wednesday

Read: 1 John 3.16-24 **Prayer:** For the Italian evening on May 11th.

Thursday

Read: John 10.11-18 **Prayer:** For the work of Bernard's Acre retreat centre in the parish.

Friday

Read: Nehemiah 7.73b - 8.12 **Prayer:** For the "Songs of Love and Hope" service at St Marys Sticklepath in May.

Saturday

Read: Luke 24.25-32 **Prayer:** For engagement with our communities so that people feel these are "our" churches. Notices:



* There is a **Celtic Evening Prayer service** at Jacobstowe on Wednesday 24th April, at 7pm.

* Men's Prayer Rally

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14

To pray for our country to recover the Christian faith and for us to be encouraged to profess it in the public Sphere.

Sunday 21st April 3.00pm @ Simmons Park, Okehampton

Contact Revd. Adrian Brook 01837 861580 or your local church minister for more details

Dates for your Diary:



* Re-scheduled Date - Sticklepath Quiz Night Saturday 20th April

7pm for 7:30pm start at Village Hall. $\pounds 10$ per team of 4. Bring your own refreshments. There will also be a raffle. All proceeds to St. Mary's Church, Sticklepath. Please book in your team with Niki Wooldridge on 01837 840876

* An Italian Evening in Belstone Village Hall on Saturday 11th May, 6.30 for 7pm

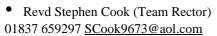
Join us for a relaxing evening of live music from "Moorland Mandolins", a two course Italian style home cooked meal, with a Bar and Raffle.

Tickets £15 to be bought in advance available from belstonevillage.net

For further information, or tickets, contact Edwina on 07967179769

(This event is in aid of St Mary's Church, Belstone.)

Contact Details:



Revd Adrian Brook (Team Vicar)
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• Revd Gill George (Curate) 07947 604160 <u>revgillgeorge@gmail.com</u>

Church Services:

Sunday 14th April (3rd Sunday of Easter)

9:30am

Belstone – Holy Communion Inwardleigh – Morning Prayer Jacobstowe – Morning Prayer Northlew – Holy Communion Bridestowe – Morning Prayer Bratton Clovelly - Holy Communion **11:00am**

Okehampton – Holy Communion Hatherleigh – Morning Service Meeth – Morning Prayer Lydford – Holy Communion Exbourne – Morning Prayer

Sunday 21st April

(4th Sunday of Easter)

9:30am

Northlew – Morning Prayer Exbourne – Holy Communion Meeth – Morning Praise Belstone – Morning Prayer Inwardleigh – Holy Communion Bratton Clovelly – Holy Communion **11:00am** Okehampton - Holy Communion Lydford – Morning Prayer Hatherleigh – Family Service Bridestowe – Joint Service with Methodists **7pm** Hatherleigh - Prayer and Praise





Our verse this week, which I've chosen from last week's Gospel, is the Risen Jesus addressing doubting Thomas, except by this point Thomas is no longer doubting. He has seen and believed, and Jesus turns his attention to the millions of believers who down through the centuries would believe without seeing.

This is a direct blessing from Jesus himself to us, reaching out his hand of blessing down two thousand years, which is both humbling and awe-inspiring. I don't know about you but I find blessings uttered by priests at the end of church services particularly important, sometimes moving. We are offered the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit as we leave worship and go out into the world as believers.

I'm one of those who makes the sign of the cross in response to those words of blessing, signifying that I have been marked with the name of the Triune God in my baptism and that I continue to try to look to and trust in the crucified and risen Christ. Tertullian, a third century theologian, encouraged the early Christians to trace the sign of the cross upon their foreheads "at every going in and out, when we put on our clothes and shoes, when we bathe, when we sit at the table, when we light the lamps, when on the couch, on a seat, and in all the ordinary actions of daily life."

Why? As a constant reminder of the Lord's blessing in our lives and the need to sanctify all to Him. *Michael Winter*