

“The Newsletter”

For MARTLESHAM & BRIGHTWELL

Sunday 29 March 2026



The Disciples of Jesus (Lent lunch talk)

For the last lent lunch we were thinking about the disciples and their encounters with Jesus, These were ordinary men... fishermen, a tax collector, a political zealot... people who, at the beginning, were often confused, fearful, even doubtful. All the disciples met with Jesus, walked with Jesus, learnt from him... followed him... they met with him after the resurrection and they then all, except one, went on to be executed.

Now, I think this is one of the most compelling arguments as proof of the resurrection. You see, not one of disciples, under pressure, recanted their testimony. Not one of them whilst being tortured, or on their death bed said, “It was made up.” Not one of them abandoned the claim that Jesus had risen from the dead, that’s the impact of the personal encounter with Jesus, that they wouldn’t stop proclaiming his good news, even to death. You see a person may be willing to die for something they believe to be true... But no one willingly suffers torture and dies for something they know is a lie. So, if we think about it, and whatever else we can say about the disciples, this much is absolutely clear... they truly believed they had seen the risen Jesus.

So who were they....? First off, Andrew is often thought of as the earliest disciple of Jesus, he was at first a follower of John the Baptist and he hears John when he points to Jesus and say, “Behold, the Lamb of God.” Andrew follows Jesus, and then does something simple but profound: he goes and finds his brother, Simon Peter.

Peter meets with Jesus on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, after a miraculous catch of fish Jesus says “Follow me,” and he did. Andrew would go on to be crucified in Greece. Peter, in Rome, would be crucified upside down... because he did not feel worthy to die like his Lord.

At the same time John and James are called from a fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee. They leave nets, family, livelihood... everything. John, lives a long life. He is exiled to Patmos, suffers much, but ultimately dies of old age, the only one not killed for his faith. James becomes the first of the twelve to be martyred, killed by the sword in Jerusalem.

Then comes Philip, called in Bethsaida with just two words: “Follow me.”

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Sunday 29 March (Palm Sunday)

10:00 am – Holy Communion – St Michael’s

Monday 30 March

8:30 am - Morning Prayer - St Mary’s

Friday 3 April (Good Friday)

10:00 am - Short service then walk of witness;
St Mary’s to St Michael’s for soup and hot
cross buns

3:00 pm Hour at the cross - St John’s

Saturday 4 April (Holy Saturday)

6:30 pm - Vigil service - St Mary’s

Sunday 5 April - Easter Sunday

10:00 am – Holy Communion – St Michael’s
(This is NOT a breakfast service)

11:00 am – Holy Communion – St Mary’s

Monday 6 April - Easter Monday

There is NO morning prayer service

Wednesday 8 April

10:00 am - Holy Communion - St Michael’s

Sunday 12 April

10:00 am – Holy Communion – St Michael’s
3:00 pm – Evensong – St John’s

Monday 13 April

8:30 am - Morning Prayer - St Mary’s

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Philip brings his friend Bartholomew, who is sceptical at first... "Can anything good come from Nazareth?" But one encounter with Jesus changes everything. Philip is later martyred, likely in Asia Minor.

Bartholomew, tradition says, is brutally killed... flayed and beheaded. Next, we meet Matthew. He's sitting at a tax booth in Capernaum... a collaborator, an outsider, someone people would have avoided. Jesus walks up and says, "Follow me." And Matthew gets up and leaves everything behind. He later dies for his faith... tradition says by the sword or spear.

Thomas... we remember his doubts, but not his courage. He travels as far as India, where he is killed with a spear. James... little is recorded, but he remains faithful and is believed to have been martyred by being stoned or clubbed to death.

Thaddaeus... also largely hidden in the Gospel story, yet faithful unto death, where he was killed with arrows or clubbed to death. Simon the Zealot... once a political radical, now a follower of the Prince of Peace... dies, tradition says, by being sawn in half.

And then there is Judas Iscariot. Chosen like the others. Trusted. Even given responsibility. But his story ends in betrayal... and tragedy. But in a way, that's the point. These were not perfect men. They were fishermen, sceptics, tax collectors, revolutionaries. They all met with Jesus in the middle of ordinary life... by a river, on a boat, at a desk. And yet, after walking with Jesus, they became people who would carry the gospel to the ends of the earth... whatever the cost.

That is what we read about as personal encounters with Jesus and what the devotion of the disciples leads them to. As we come to the end of the Lent lunch series, I really want to encourage you to talk about your personal experiences and encounters with Jesus, or God, or the Holy Spirit. If you would be willing, write up your testimonies, your encounters with Jesus...

Whether it be from when you became a Christian, or what Jesus has done for you since being a Christian, and if you are willing... write it up and send it to me. it's the sort of thing that we want to put into our newsletters... sharing our stories... will encourage others. God is alive and at work... we should celebrate and talk about it.

Rob

Can you help?

We have had some feedback and requests from people and are now looking to see if anyone can help. The three questions were:

- **Could someone print the newsletter for those not as computer literate?**
- **Could anyone help set up tables for midweek groups at St Michael's?**
- **Is there anyone who could offer lifts to church on a Sunday?**

If you are able to offer to help with any of these, or want more details, please speak to Toby or Rob.

Update: we have had an offer of help for printing, see below.

Following feedback about the Newsletter, there will now be a few copies of the Newsletter printed and placed in the lobby at St Michaels. If reading the Newsletter on your phone or laptop is difficult, please do help yourself, they are completely free but a small donation for print supplies would be welcomed.

SOS - The Martlesham MU Friendship Group needs YOU !!

The MU Friendship Group is a group of MU members and friends who meet in the Committee Room at St. Michael's on the first Wednesday of each month to share companionship, refreshments and chat. We occasionally invite a speaker to talk to us on a variety of topics. Our meetings run from 10 am to 12 noon on the first Wednesday of each month.

We enjoy being together but as we are not so young as we used to be we need to ask for a little help to set up the room for our meetings.

Would YOU be able to help by arriving about 9.45 am to set up just two tables surrounded by about 16 or so chairs? This would be greatly appreciated.

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, 1st April.**

For more details please contact **Sue Lambert** on 01473 624130.

Away day at home

18th and 19th April

**Remember
to sign up**

As a reminder, the plan is to gather at St Michael's on **Saturday 18th April**, start the day with coffee and pastries, have a time of worship and some teaching, followed by lunch together.

In the afternoon we plan to have more interactive teaching sessions, some free time with suggested activities like a prayer walk, bible journaling, board games etc. and to close with worship.

All food and drink will be provided, and the day will be from **9.30am – 5pm**. There will be no charge for the days but donations towards the cost of food are welcome.

On the Sunday we will start with breakfast together for those that want it, followed by an informal communion service at St Michael's.

Apologies

In last week's newsletter it was incorrectly stated that the last Lent Lunch was on 31st March. It should of course have said 24th March. **There is NO lunch on the 31st**. I am sorry if this caused confusion and/or you missed the lunch last Tuesday. **Editor** (will try harder to keep the gremlins away)

Electoral Roll

If you filled in an electoral roll form last year for Martlesham and/or Brightwell, you will **remain** on the rolls for this year.

However, if you are **not** on the church electoral roll and would like to be, **please ask Toby or Roger for a form**. To be eligible you need to be baptised, over 16, a member of the Church of England and resident in the parish or have habitually attended public worship in the parish for the past six months. You have until **the end of April to hand in a completed form** to be entered onto the roll for this year, which will allow you to vote at the APCM in May.

Roger Goffee, Electoral Roll Officer

The Runway - Easter opening times

The Runway will be closed for Easter on Good Friday 3rd April & on Saturday 4th April. We will reopen again on Tuesday 7th April at 9.00am.

Please join us on Thursday 2nd April for **'Free Cake Thursday'**
- get a free cake or scone when you purchase a hot drink.



Liz Howard

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