

Rector's Ramblings – April 2026 (A Journey Back and the Path Ahead)

One of the great joys of being your priest is the opportunity for occasional reflection, often sparked by the simplest of things. I've just returned from a short break to Newquay in Cornwall, somewhere I hadn't been since I went there with my grandparents when I was ten or eleven!

The last time I stood on the cliffs overlooking Fistral Beach was nearly forty-three years ago, and yet as I walked the familiar coastal paths, I was struck by the dance between change and constancy—a theme that feels particularly poignant as we enter April and prepare for the glory of Easter.

Newquay has certainly moved on since the early nineteen eighties. The skyline is now punctuated by modern architecture and sleek glass balconies designed to catch every drop of Atlantic light. Where I remembered modest, lace-curtained guesthouses, there are now stylish hotels and vibrant street art. Perhaps it is simply because I am an adult now, looking beyond the immediate allure of sandcastles and mint-choc-chip ice cream, but the town feels renewed; it brims with a creative, entrepreneurial spirit that I didn't see as a child.

It is easy to feel a slightly adrift when the landmarks of our memory are replaced by the "new and improved." Yet, as I stood by Huer's Hut - that iconic, white-washed lookout that has watched over the bay since the 14th century - I realised that the essence of the place remains untouched.

The Atlantic still thunders against the rocks with the same timeless rhythm. The sharp tang of the salt air, the haunting cry of the gulls, and the stubborn grit of the sand underfoot are exactly as they were four decades ago. Even in a world that moves at a frantic pace, there are "permanent things" that the passage of time simply cannot erode.

This experience remains with me as I prepare to begin to lead our Benefices annual journey through Holy Week. Our lives change - often faster than we would like. We grow older, our families evolve, and many of the people we shared our first holidays with have now died. At times, the world can feel unrecognisable compared to the one we knew as children. We face new challenges and modern anxieties that my grandparents could never have imagined.

But the "shoreline" of our faith remains steadfast. On Easter Sunday (5th April), we celebrate the ultimate "permanent thing": the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Just as the tide inevitably returns to the Cornish coast, the promise of new life and hope returns to us every spring.

Easter tells us that while change is inevitable, and, as we know through the lens of Good Friday, sometimes deeply painful, it never has the final word. The light of the risen Christ is the same light that shone on that first, world-changing morning, and it is the same light that guides us today in 2026.

Whether you are currently navigating a season of great change or seeking comfort in the familiar, remember that the heart of our faith is a story of renewal. I look forward to seeing many of you at our services as we celebrate this "Greater Love" together.

May the peace of the Risen Lord be with you and your families this April.

Mark

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(Rector)