

EASTER

Good News Parish Magazine

*for Eastling, Otterden,
Stalisfield and Throwley*

www.goodnews.rf.gd

APRIL 2026

- 1st Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 8th Egerton Arts Society
Egerton Millennium Hall 2.30pm
- 9th Local History Society meeting
Charing Parish Hall 7.30pm
- 16th Eastling Annual Meetings
Eastling Village Hall
Hall Trustees AGM 7.30pm
Annual Parish Meeting 8.00pm
- 18th Pizza and Praise for 11 - 17yrs
Lynsted Church 4 - 6pm
- 20th Deadline for May Good News:
goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 24th *Together in Boots* walking group
Doddington Church leave at 2pm

MAY

- 2nd May - 27th June Craft Flower Festival
Leaveland Church ME13 0NP 10am-4pm
- 6th Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 14th Stalisfield Annual Parish Meeting
Stalisfield Village Hall tbc

Holy Week Services

29th March Palm Sunday

Eastling 10.30am Benefice Communion

Holy Week Reflection

- 30th Monday 7pm at Oare
- 31st Tuesday 7pm at Newnham
- 1st April Wednesday 7pm at Throwley
- 2nd Maundy Thursday 7pm at Norton
- 4th Saturday 7pm at Lynsted

3rd April Good Friday

- Doddington 10.30am Stations of the Cross
- Teynham 10.30am Stations of the Cross
- Eastling 2 - 3pm Last Hour on the Cross

5th April Easter Day

- Wychling 6.15am Sunrise Communion
- Eastling 9.00am Easter Communion
- Stalisfield 10.30am Easter Service



St. Mary's Stalisfield Easter Service

Join us in joyful celebration on

Sunday 5th April 2026 at 10.30am

Come and share the hope and happiness of Easter with family, friends and neighbours. Everyone is warmly welcome!

Refreshments will be served after the service with a fun Easter Egg Hunt for the children

We look forward to celebrating with you!



Dear Friends

By the time you read this, the Church of England will have witnessed the enthronement of the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Sarah Mullally, the first ever female Archbishop. And in another historic first for modern times, she will have walked in pilgrimage from St Paul's Cathedral to Canterbury Cathedral passing through our villages and indeed visiting some of the churches here. When the new archbishop was a little girl contemplating her grown-up choices there was no such thing as the ordination of women within the Church of England, let alone consecration as a bishop or Archbishop. It has long been a controversial issue and if little Sarah articulated any such ambitions, they must have seemed completely unrealistic and beyond imagining.

So many things that we now consider commonplace must once

have seemed beyond imagining... putting dirty clothes into a machine that washes and dries them; communicating through cameras with family on the other side of the world; putting a human on the moon; the list is endless.

But someone imagined these things....things that seemed impossible, ideas that were probably laughed at.

However, for a new thing to come about there must be a death of the old thing. Some of these deaths are easily assimilated and welcomed – the death of unnecessary time and labour for example when a new machine is invented. But some deaths are painful and protracted. The acceptance of women's ordination necessitated the death of limiting ideas about women's place in the church (and the world).

If we look at history or the natural world we see that death, resurrection and renewal are the pattern of everything, the pattern

of life. And this can offer us a hopeful perspective when the world is looking dark. Nature shows us this at every moment if we care to see. By looking at a tiny seed, who could imagine the plant it might become? *Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just one grain. But if it dies, it produces much grain and yields a harvest.* (John 12:24) This is what the story of Easter teaches us: that Jesus passed through life into death and his resurrection into the ongoing Christ is the pattern for the whole of creation – us included! Our lives can contain many deaths and therefore many possibilities for renewal that may well be beyond our current imagining.

This Springtime spend a few minutes gazing at a flowering plant that catches your eye, contemplating its journey from seed or bulb buried in the winter soil to its beautiful incarnation. What is it that needs to die in your life so that Christ can bring about a vibrant new creation?

With love & light and the blessings of Christ

Lissie Bayford

Prayer Diary for Holy Week



Palm Sunday As we greet Christ with our hosannas today, help us to recognise how fickle is our allegiance when our faith is mocked, minimised or ridiculed.

Monday At the beginning of Holy Week, we pray that we might deepen our commitment to Jesus as we accompany him on the way that leads through the cross to the glory.

Tuesday Giving thanks for prayers which have been answered that we barely acknowledged and eyes to see you at work in our world. We ask you to give us an attitude of gratitude.

Wednesday Giving thanks for the quiet moments where we can find a sense of stillness and Christ's presence with us in the midst of a busy day.

Maundy Thursday Praying for all who have been betrayed by the people they thought would support them.

Good Friday Praying for those who will die today whether it is suddenly & shockingly; slowly & agonisingly; with peace & acceptance; or with fear & anger.

Saturday Praying for the darkness & emptiness in all our hearts; help us to fully recognise and name our fear & weakness and to know that there is nowhere that your presence is not.

Easter Day Hallelujah! Christ is Risen! Open our eyes to see resurrection and new life even in the bleakest of times and places.

Prayer Diary from www.kc-hd.org.uk

Eastling Church

April Flower rota

All Hands on Saturday 4th

12th - Janet,

19th & 26th - Julia M

3rd May - Aneta



Easter Lilies

Contributions to the display of beautiful Easter Lilies in memory of loved ones will be gratefully received by Bay Lees.

Your contribution and the names of your loved ones can be placed in the secure postbox outside The Manor or contact Bay on 07922 484648.

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THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

The Arts society brings people together through a shared curiosity for the arts

Wednesday 8th April at 2.30pm

(doors open from 2pm) in Egerton Millennium Hall,
Elm Close TN27 9DS

POTS and FROCKS - The world of Grayson Perry

Our lecturer **Ian Swankie** is a guide at Tate Modern, Tate Britain, the Guildhall Gallery and St. Paul's Cathedral and London Tour Guide.

Visitors are always very welcome at £8 (just turn up and pay on the door), refunded if you join. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

Visit our website

www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

Image provided by lecturer.

Kingsdown & Creekside and High Downs Churches

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Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

In March, we had a visit from Helen Kendal-Tobias who demonstrated "50 ways to tie a scarf", including how to fold a scarf and the different ways of tying a knot.

Membership for 2026 starts in April, with our A.G.M to follow on 6th May. At our April meeting, we shall be welcoming Kimberley Cunningham from the Friends of the William Harvey Hospital who seek to enhance the experience of patients, staff and visitors to the hospital through fund- raising.

W.I. membership is open to women from 18 years of age and we would really love to add to our small village group, so please come along if you would like to meet us and find out more. Guests are always welcome for a £5 fee which includes home-made refreshments.

Our group is very informal. We meet at Stalisfield Village Hall at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month. If you would like to come along, just turn up or contact Helen Brooks on 07477 580727 or Ellie Cameron on 07775 649337.

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From chapter 20 of St. John's gospel

Jesus Appears to Thomas

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

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

Poor Thomas – between Sundays

I'm lost and bewildered,
All hope is now gone.
I cannot imagine
How life can go on.

My mind's in a turmoil,
I can't understand
How this could have happened
To so good a man.

I'm tortured by thoughts of
Him hung on that tree;
The thorns and the nails;
In His face – agony.

It happened so quickly,
I still can't believe
He's dead and He's buried,
What did that achieve?

My friends are now saying
That Jesus has risen,
'We've seen Him and heard Him,
He's out of death's prison!'

I'd like to believe them,
I'm sure you would too,
But claims like they're making
Just cannot be true.

Whilst no-one likes losing
A valuable friend,
There's no point pretending
The end's not the end.

They *think* they have met Him,
But senses deceive;
Come. Show me His wounds, then
Perhaps I'd believe.

By Howard Webber



CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Fashion & History

Speaker: Sebastian Phillips

Why was Napoleon responsible for the little black dress? How did Rasputin give a boost to the French fashion industry? And why did British agents carry out one of the biggest diamond heists in history. This 45 minutes talk explores some of the connections between history and the world of fashion, jewellery and scandal.



Thursday 9th April 2026

Parish Hall, Station Road, Charing

Doors open 7.30pm Talk starts promptly at 8pm

Members free - Guests £3

Membership from £10/year

North Downs Walk

for Cancer Research UK



Rotary
Weald of Kent



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www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk/north-downs-walk

A sponsored walk, starting and finishing at Harrietsham Village Hall, followed by a ploughman's lunch and live music.
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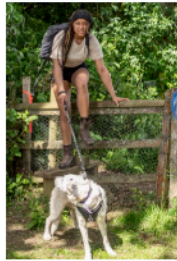
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Throwley sited in the old Telephone Box outside the Old Post Office, ME13 0PJ



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Annual General Meeting of the Trustees of Eastling Village Hall and Annual Parish Meeting of Eastling Parish Council

The AGM of the Trustees of Eastling Village Hall will be held at 7.30pm in the Hall on Thursday 16th April and will be immediately followed at 8.00pm by the Annual Parish Meeting.

Both meetings are open to the public and all villagers are invited to come along to hear what the Trustees and the Parish Council have been doing over the last year and to raise any issues for discussion.

Refreshments will be served. Please support the important work of these two organisations.

Stalisfield Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 14th May, time to be confirmed.

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden 07794 010
394

or 01795 890848

Police 101 Emergency 999

For any scam, cyber attacks or calls, please report them on
0330 123 2040

Again, I remind folk about having dogs on leads in the vicinity of livestock. As you have probably heard on media that, should there be any incidents on this subject, the dog owner will be subject to a limitless fine and the dog impounded and of course, if caught in the act, the dog may be shot. So please remind anyone visiting about the countryside code.

Fly tipping is becoming the curse of the countryside and needs to be stopped. Should anyone come across any vehicles that look like they may be committing an offence, please make a note of the registration and pass it on, do not approach the occupants.

The usual scams are about: There are still phone calls locally being received offering the world - they are after your hard earned money. If you receive any of these calls please report them, also any calls from 'the police' saying your broadband account has been compromised.

There are still the odd person or two who think they can drive through our villages as if they are on a race track; the police have been informed and hopefully the culprits will be surprised with a speed trap one day or night.

Have a good month
Take care
Alan

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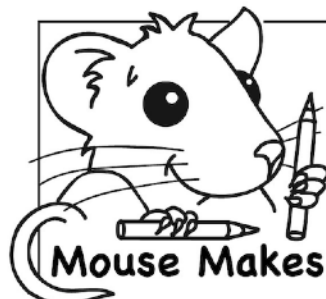
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EASTER WITNESS - I WAS THERE

I carried Jesus into Jerusalem
 Read Matthew 21:1-11

I handed Jesus over to be crucified
 Read Matthew 27:11-26

I nailed Jesus to the cross
 Read Mark 15:16-32

We watched Jesus die
 Read Mark 15:33-41

I laid his body in my tomb
 Read Mark 15:42-47

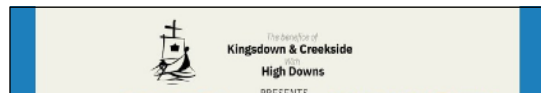
I guarded the tomb
 Read Matthew 27:62-66

We saw the empty tomb
 Read Matthew 28:1-10

and spoke to the angel


Jesus is alive!
 He ate a meal with me!
 Read Luke 24:13-35

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FOR ALL TEENS AGES 11-17



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Stalisfield Road, Faversham, ME13 0HY

Tel: 01795 890 256 Email:
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Services in our Benefice

29th March Palm Sunday

Psalm 118, 1-2, 19 - 29 , Matthew 21. 1 - 11
Eastling 10.30am Benefice Communion

Holy Week Reflections

30th Monday 7pm at Oare
31st Tuesday 7pm at Newnham
1st Apr. Wednesday 7pm at Throwley
2nd Maundy Thursday 7pm at Norton
4th Saturday 7pm at Lynsted

3rd April Good Friday

Doddington 10.30am Stations of the Cross
Teynham 10.30am Stations of the Cross
Eastling 2 - 3pm Last Hour on the Cross

5th April Easter Day

Acts 10. 34 - 43, John 20. 1 - 18
Wychling 6.15am Sunrise Communion
Followed by Bacon Rolls and Tea/Coffee
Eastling 9.00am Easter Communion
Stalisfield 10.30am Easter Service
Followed by refreshments

12th April Easter 2

Acts 2. 14a, 22 - 32, John 20. 19 - end
Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer
Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion

19th April Easter 3

Acts 2. 14a, 36 - 41, Luke 24. 13 - 35
Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship
Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

26th April Easter 4

Acts 2. 42 - end, John 10. 1 - 10
Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion
Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

3rd May Easter 5

Acts 7. 55 - end, John 14. 1 - 14
Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion
Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

High Downs Parish

Rector Revd Paula Jardine-Rose
07516 411269 paula.jardine.rose@kc-hd.org.uk

Parish Administrator Joyce Warren
01795 521831 joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk

Associate Priest Reverend James (Jim) Pye
01795 890726 jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk

Reader Caroline McIntyre (07799 538809)

Anna Chaplain Caroline McIntyre
ramshawcaroline@gmail.com

Reader Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

Church Contacts

Eastling Andrew Baxter, Warden (07749 403727)

Administrator E mail: stmaryeastling@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden

Jenny King, Warden (01795 890366)

Chrissie Webster, Administrator
(07590 351977)

Throwley David Elvin, Warden (07973 837122)
E mail: david.j.elvin@gmail.com

High Downs Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mark Harlow (07979 864000)
E mail: mark.harlow@kc-hd.org.uk

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the May 2026 magazine, send your submission by 20th April to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on www.goodnews.rf.gd

Anna Chaplaincy

Anna Chaplains are named after the biblical figure Anna, who dedicated her life to worship and prayer and was in the temple when Jesus was presented soon after his birth.

The main purposes of an Anna Chaplain are:

Offering spiritual support to older people who are living in care homes, their own home or sheltered housing complexes, their relatives and staff who look after them.

If you know someone who is elderly unable to attend church, someone who requires prayer, or a listening ear or would like to receive communion.

Please contact Caroline McIntyre at ramshawcaroline@gmail.com or 07799538809



Updates from Citizens Advice Swale

We're pleased to share that from 1 April 2026, Citizens Advice Swale will formally merge with Citizens Advice Canterbury District and Citizens Advice Thanet to form **Citizens Advice North East Kent**.

Deprivation levels across many parts of the area served are significantly above national averages. Thanet has the highest proportion of neighbourhoods in Kent within the 10% most deprived in England. Swale also has a large proportion of its communities in the most deprived deciles nationally, including on the Isle of Sheppey.

By joining forces, our organisation will be better equipped to:

- Expand frontline support for people facing issues with benefits, housing, debt and employment.
- Strengthen outreach to people who struggle to access services, including those who are digitally excluded or under 25.
- Work closely with partners, funders and elected representatives to improve systems that affect people's lives. There will be no changes to service delivery - all existing local offices and outreaches will continue to operate, and we remain committed to maintaining a strong community presence in each area.

Jude Lee, Chief Officer of CANEK, said:

"We are building a future-facing organisation rooted in local insight and community service. Together we will be more visible, more influential and more able to secure the resources needed to meet rising demand."

How can we help you? Drop-in sessions (no appointment necessary):

Sittingbourne

Mondays 10am-12pm - Swale House

Tuesdays 11.30am-1.30pm - Murston Family Hub

Sheppey

Tuesdays 10am-12pm - Sheppey Gateway (except the second Tuesday of every month, which is held at Sheerness East Working Mens Club)

Faversham

Wednesdays & Fridays 10am-12pm - 43 Stone Street, Faversham

Thursdays 10am-12pm - West Faversham Community Centre

Telephone advice: Call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979 (Monday-Friday 10am-3.30pm)

Email advice: Contact us online at www.citizensadvice-swale.uk/ email-general-advice

Specialist debt advice: Request a call back at www.citizensadvice-swale.uk/debt

To stay up to date with our opening times, please visit www.citizensadvice-swale.uk or follow us on Facebook.

citizens
advice



The Cowslip

By Audrey Keen

Pleasant it is to see this bloom
Where all was dull before,
A fragrant clustering of flowers
Upon the valley floor.
Bright butter yellow blossoms
Recline in wistful pose,
And how it is I love this place
Here, where the cowslip grows.
I listen to the many birds
And watch the larch boughs bend,
And touch the ivy on the beech
Here where the leaf paths wend.
I check the cloud pushed by the wind
Which cause the leaves to trip
And sketch with love the coyly
Shaking head of each cowslip.

Stations of the Cross



Teynham Church 3rd April

Meeting inside of the Church to start.

Arrive from: ... 10:15 AM

Pilgrimage Starts: 10:30 AM
Ends: .. 11:30 AM

Followed by an hour for refreshments, completing crafts, and socialising.

Accompanied by light music



An all age service, walking through Jesus' last days, to help us reflect on what he did for us. With music and craft for our young pilgrims of today to enjoy, while sharing scripture as a family together.

If the weather is good we will be taking our pilgrimage around the churchyard, so make sure to wear sensible shoes, and long trousers.

If the weather is not so good we will still be going ahead, but inside of the church.

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Helen Whately MP's Parish Update

Enough is enough. Faversham & Mid Kent's infrastructure can't cope with the extra 20,000 houses planned to be built on our green fields and farmland over the next few years. I know we need new homes for young people to move into, but taking all these developments together, this is an extraordinary scale of building in the countryside.

To put this into perspective, Faversham and Mid Kent is one of eighteen Parliamentary constituencies in Kent and Medway with less than 5% of the area's population, and yet it is in line to take nearly a fifth of the planned housing. This concentration of development in one rural part of the county is clearly wrong and should not be allowed to happen.

At the heart of the Garden of England, we are historically an agricultural area and we do not have the infrastructure to support this level of growth. Development here means building on green fields and farmland, rather than on brownfield sites in cities and towns where there are jobs, public transport and infrastructure.



Recent water outages in Kent have shown that we don't have enough water for current residents. Many of our roads are already gridlocked and the ubiquitous potholes show they can't support current traffic levels let alone more.

The Government reduced London's housebuilding targets and increased targets for counties in the South East, including Kent. I am calling on Ministers to look again at our housing numbers, reject massive developments on green fields, and build more in London.

We need to stand together to make clear to the Government that we cannot continue with this scale and pace of development. If you agree with me that enough is enough, please sign my 'Stop the Sprawl and Save Kent's Countryside' petition at www.SignHelensPetition.com.

As ever, if there is anything I can do to help you please contact me.

helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk
/ 0207 219 6472

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Marcus Hammond

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Phone or Text Mike on:

07746 220 998

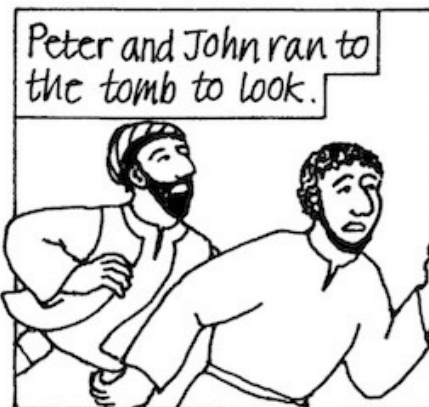
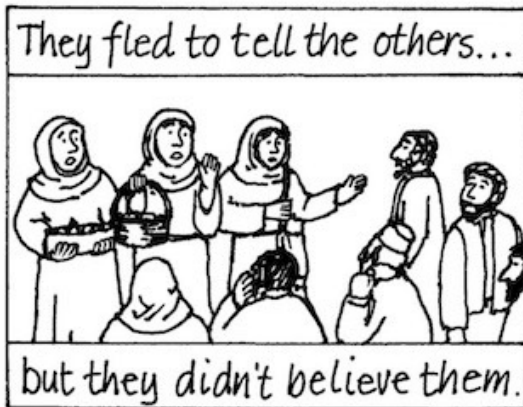
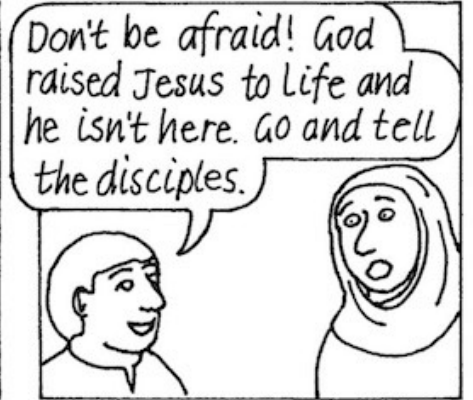
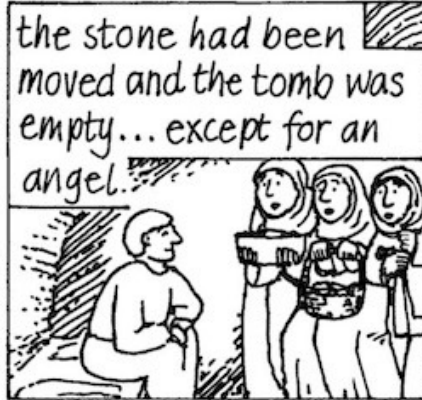
Email: michaelratcliff80@gmail.com

Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

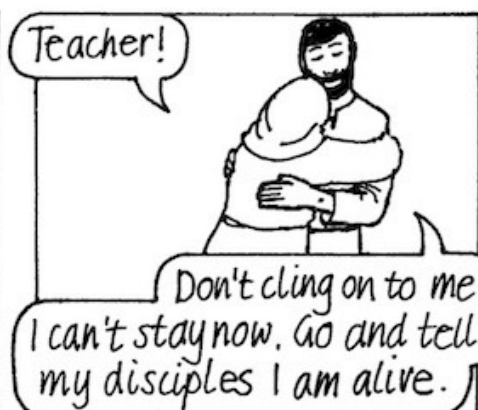
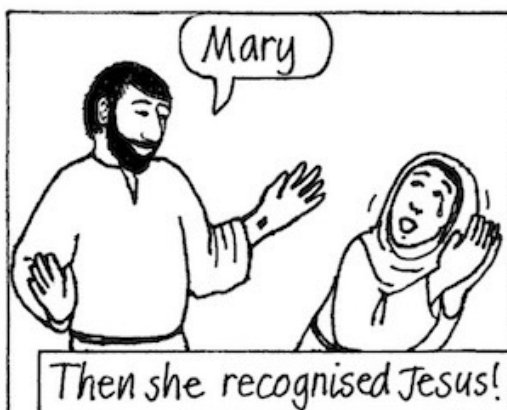
It can be read in the Bible in
Mark 16:1-8, John 20:1-18

Jesus' tomb had been sealed with a large stone.
Very early Sunday morning, some of Jesus' friends went to put spices on his body.



They saw the tomb was empty and only the cloths that Jesus' body had been wrapped in lying there. So they went back to the others.

Mary Magdalene stayed by the tomb, crying. She didn't understand that Jesus was no longer dead. When she looked in the tomb there were 2 angels.



a	l	i	v	e	j	e	s	u	s	v	j
s	p	i	c	e	s	u	n	d	a	y	o
o	j	q	d	l	w	s	p	t	p	y	h
y	u	g	n	i	o	r	t	o	m	b	n
u	n	d	e	r	s	t	a	n	d	e	k
e	m	p	t	y	o	c	h	p	f	l	d
s	a	e	a	c	m	i	i	s	p	i	b
d	r	t	k	r	e	m	q	p	a	e	o
s	y	e	e	y	o	d	o	r	l	v	d
m	o	r	n	i	n	g	f	v	f	e	y
t	s	t	o	n	e	a	n	g	e	l	s
r	e	c	o	g	n	i	s	e	d	d	y

John
 taken
 understand
 moved
 crying
 tomb
 wrapped
 recognised

Peter
 stone
 afraid
 alive
 cloths
 someone
 Mary
 spices

empty
 believe
 Jesus
 morning
 body
 disciples
 angels
 Sunday