

## KEY VERSE:

"... What are you doing here? This is a tomb and tombs are for dead people.  
**Jesus isn't dead anymore! He's alive again.**"

*Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 & John 20*



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# FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

EASTER SUNDAY

27th March, 2016

*Rejoice!*  
*He is Risen!*



CHALFONT  
ST. PETER  
PARISH CHURCHES

## KNOW WHAT:

- Today is Easter Sunday, when we celebrate the fact that Jesus rose from the dead.
- On Good Friday Jesus was killed and placed in a sealed tomb guarded by Roman soldiers.
- Some women followers of Jesus prepared spices to take to the tomb on Sunday.
- Early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb but found it empty with Jesus gone.
- Two angels appeared to them saying that Jesus was no longer there: he had risen.
- The women were very excited and ran to tell the other disciples.
- It had always been God's plan to bring Jesus back to life, just as Jesus said it would be.

## SO WHAT:

- God's plan to save the world through the death of Jesus came true just as Jesus had promised. We can trust God to keep his promises.
- Death is defeated. In rising from the dead Jesus offers eternal life to those who believe.

## NOW WHAT:

- Let us celebrate that Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today.
- Let us accept the eternal life he offers to those who put their trust in him.

## JIM'S JOTTINGS

The Roman and Jewish authorities hated Jesus of Nazareth. He challenged their leadership and way of life. He opposed the abuse of authority and championed the poor and exploited. The authorities feared an uprising so there was only one option – to get rid of this troublemaker. The problem was that he was very popular and a wrong move might easily start the uprising that they feared. So they stood aside on Palm Sunday as Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem on a donkey and as the people hailed him as their king. During the next few days they looked for an opportunity to make their move. Then, one of Jesus' followers, Judas Iscariot, came to them secretly and offered to sell his master's movements for 30 pieces of silver. They readily agreed and, on the Thursday night after Palm Sunday, whilst Jesus was praying with his disciples in the solitude of the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, they brought a force armed with clubs and spears to arrest him.

Over that night and into the next day in religious and civil trials they tried to find fault in him, but could not do so. Even Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, washed his hands of the matter. But in the end the pressure from the mob, paid and incited to hatred by the priests, meant that Jesus was convicted and crucified between two thieves. To make sure he was really dead a sword was thrust into his side. His body was wrapped in cloths, placed in a tomb and a huge boulder put across the entrance. Then the authorities sat back, sure that they had achieved their goal. The troublemaker had been eliminated and his followers scattered.

But on the Sunday morning a group of women went to the tomb to embalm the body. When they got there it was empty and an angel stood there instead. Jesus had risen, he had conquered death and subsequently made several appearances to more than 500 people in total.

That same Jesus is alive today, in heaven, but promises us new life if we put our trust in him. That is the message of Easter. Jesus rose from the dead and we can find new life in him.