



# The United Benefice of St Helen, Burghwallis and St Mary Magdalene, Campsall

12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

This must be the strangest Easter the world has celebrated for centuries. All around the world Christians cannot go to church and yet we will still celebrate the most important event in history. We live at a time when we are joined by technology. Some of you are sharing this letter by email and have been watching our services using Zoom on your laptops and tablets. Across the world there are thousands of families for whom this will be the first Easter without a loved one or who know people who are ill or in hospital. So, it can be hard to be joyful.

As you know I have taken two funerals this week and it is particularly sad when so few mourners are allowed to be present and we are denied the comfort of a handshake from a friend or a hug from a loved one. But, at the heart of every funeral is a message of hope – the Easter hope that Jesus defeated death.

Our Gospel readings today tell of that morning when the tomb was empty and when Mary Magdalene encountered the risen Jesus. Her weeping was turned to joy at that meeting. Jesus called her by name and she recognised him as her Lord and Master.

In the dark times we face there is hope that death has been overcome. When the disciples met Jesus, they were convinced by what they saw and heard and touched. Jesus whom they had seen crucified and pierced with a spear on Friday was now alive. This experience so convinced each one of them that it transformed their lives so that they each went out into the world to proclaim the Good News and ultimately to suffer and die for their faith. May we each turn in our hearts to the risen saviour who calls each one of us by name.

**Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**  
**He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!**

## Contacts

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