

From the Vicar - April 2025

I hope you are well and enjoying spring?

In recent months, a number of new clergy have joined our worship rota, and are leading services around the Benefice. I have therefore invited the Revd Caroline to introduce herself in this month's 'From the Vicar', and I hope to invite other clergy to introduce themselves in future months.

With my very best wishes for a holy Lent and a blessed and happy Easter.

Tom

A SHORT INTRODUCTION

My name is The Revd Caroline King, it has been my privilege over the last few months to join the worship rota in this benefice. I have recently retired from parish ministry. I am familiar with the area; indeed, I have served all my ordained ministry in this area. Most recently I was a Team Vicar in the Dorchester Team with responsibility for Newington, Stadhampton and Warborough. I look forward to getting to know you as my ministry develops with and alongside you all.

AN EASTER MESSAGE FROM REVD. CAROLINE KING

This year Easter falls very late on 20th April. The reading most often used on Easter Day is from the gospel of John (John 20.1-18). Do read it at home if you have the chance. John gives us a deeply personal account of the resurrection. Jesus looks Mary in the eye and gently utters her name. In that moment of naming, Mary recognises and responds Teacher. At that very same moment Mary is challenged by Jesus not to cling to him. Jesus tells Mary to go and tell; she is to share the risen Lord.

The Easter story is not just history; we are co-participants in that same revolution. We too are met with love and patience. Perhaps amidst our

trauma in the garden commissioned not to cling to Jesus and keep him to ourselves; we are commissioned to see the one gently calling to us to go and tell! Alleluia Christ is risen. These are quiet words of revolution and rebellion against forces of terror and poverty and against racism, sexism, against any number of isms and injustices still prevailing today. Jesus confronted those forces with love and outstretched arms. On Easter Day we affirm that love wins through.

The message of Easter is Go and tell.

Go and tell of the one who blessed the broken and welcomed the outcast.

Go and tell that God has work for us to do.

Go and tell that God is calling us gently by name!

Go and tell that love has found a way and that through us it will continue to do so.

With very best wishes for a happy and blessed Easter.

Caroline