

Dear Friends,

I have always liked the month of April for amongst other things my mother's birthday is at the start and I especially like it when Easter falls in the month and we are surrounded by the fullness of Spring as we celebrate the joy of renewal and the message of Jesus risen from the dead. My grandmother, a fully lapsed Irish Catholic always came to stay with us at Easter bringing her bustling laughter into the house and somehow her barely five foot stature filled it up adding to the abounding sense of freshness and enthusiasm.

That same energy and joy will fill each of the churches in the Burnham benefice when we hold celebrations on Easter Sunday. The churches will emerge from their bare walls and Lenten sombreness to a burst of colour light and music. In particular at St. Clements Overy Town where during the family service we will retell the Easter story - with the help of the Easter garden, eleven knitted disciples who need to be retrieved from their hiding places, songs to sing and lots of candles to hold. Oh - and there may be some Easter eggs to search for

Easter is for everyone and the choir and our musicians are keeping a good Lent by practising special hymns and music to accompany the morning Communion services and for those of a quieter disposition there will be an evening service at Sutton also with Communion.

Mary Coleridge wrote a poem set later to music by Charles Villiers Stanford which captures the moment of Mary Magdalene going through the garden, treading lightly over the dew filled grasses the heads of the lilies bent in sadness preparing the scene for what we know is to come and we need remember that Easter is a moment of totally unexpected discovery - Mary walks sadly, mournfully and tearfully to the tomb yet Jesus' resurrection is already accomplished, the tomb is empty. Jesus on this morning is about to change our perceptions and understandings forever. It is a new beginning for us all. So in our services we celebrate this instant of discovery, when Mary recognises Jesus, there before her walking the same grass as she.

Please come and join us and may I wish you all a very happy Easter.

Steve

Telephone 01328 259 316

E-mail vicarsteve1@gmail.com

Mobile 07704 922 984

Twitter @vicarsteve

Facebook The Burnham Benefice