

BENEFICE OF ARICONIUM

19th April
3rd Sunday of Easter

Collect

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Old Testament Acts 2. 14a, 36-41.
New Testament 1 Peter 1. 17-23.
Gospel Luke 24. 13-35.

Both Matthew and Luke use the text of Mark as a sort of scaffolding to underpin their own later narratives. Mark was a Roman Jew and Simon Peter was in Rome at the time. Peter had become a leader of Roman Christians, even their first bishop. So he gave Mark his recollections of life with Jesus But if Peter was the authority behind Mark's writing, what happened to the last 12 verses of Chapter 16? Perhaps the account would come to such an abrupt ending in A.D. 64 during Nero's persecution of Christians in Rome, when both Peter and Paul were executed. The oldest Greek texts of Chapter 16 end half-way through a sentence in verse 8, when the women were so terrified that they fled. Matthew and Luke, having used Mark throughout, was confronted with the awesome problem of finding a proper ending. Mark describes no activities by Jesus after his Resurrection except a message from the risen Lord delivered by the young man dressed in white. Luke, at verse 4 of Chapter 24, uses much of the detail from Mark, but somehow the young man become two men in dazzling clothes, who suddenly appeared with a similar message from Jesus. But Luke accepts the natural feelings of doubt shared by Christians in his day, brought up within the all-pervasive Greek philosophy which analysed and questioned if death, so dominant in all literature, had really been overcome. So the disciples asked why would anybody believe this tale by the women? A popular jibe in Luke's day was perhaps a Jesus look-alike had died on the cross, or that there had been a spectacular conjuring trick. This is expressed by "Doubting" Thomas. That he would doubt no more after meeting Jesus, is Luke's way of leading sceptics and waverers to move with Thomas to certainty. Luke's story of walking to Emmaus emphasised the deeply physical aspect of that meeting. Thus Jesus walked, explained the fate of the Messiah and afterwards broke bread with his friends. For Luke, physically and mentally the risen Jesus was still as real and acute as ever. In this chapter Jesus showed

his hands and feet to his friends. Later, he would invite Thomas to touch the wounds he still bore. One day, Luke is saying, when we are poised on the edge of that new life with God, we too will walk with Jesus to Emmaus, shed our earthly trappings, yet remain the people our friends will know.
Brian..

Services next Sunday 26th April – 4th Sunday of Easter

Weston-under-Penyard	Parish Communion	9.30 a.m.
The Lea	Children's Church	10.00 a.m.
Hope Mansell	Mattins	9.30 a.m.
Aston Ingham	Parish Communion	10.30 a.m.
Linton	Communion Service	11.00 a.m.
Upton Bishop	All Age Communion	10.30 a.m.

Forthcoming Services & Events

WESTON: BISHOP'S VISIT BENEFICE SERVICE AND BUFFET LUNCH 3rd May,
Any help with food donations for Buffet Lunch appreciated. Email Debs or Ewan.

HOPE MANSELL. 'St. Michael's Church, Hope Mansell Saturday 25th April at 10.30am to noon, Coffee Morning and cake including the sale of books and jigsaws. Please come along. Proceeds in aid of church funds.'

LINTON. The **Music at St Mary's** program for 2026 starts on Saturday April 18th at 7pm when we welcome Northwick Baroque. This ensemble from Worcester is coming to Linton for the first time with music for strings, woodwind and harpsicord. Admission free: interval refreshments & collection.

UPTON BISHOP Bingo Family Fun with Fish and Chips, April 18th @ 5.30 pm, Millenium Hall. £12 in advance (inc Supper) Tickets from Olivia 07496 685 960

LINTON. Bible Book Club Bible Book club is an informal monthly book club reading through the Bible one book at a time. Each session is stand alone and starts with refreshments at 10.30am, everyone welcome. Info Contact Charlotte

WESTON: The new season of Bible Studies will recommence at Penyard Rise, HR9-7PH on 22nd January 2026 at 2.30 pm. Tony & Mary Pitt 07534510614.

UPTON BISHOP have a BCP communion Service at 9.30 am on the first Wednesday of each month. A quiet midweek service. All welcome"

Please be aware that if you have any events you would like to advertise here, do please contact Debs directly (details below) and she will be pleased to include them.

Please pray for all who are sick,

Please pray for all who have died, Tony Butcher (AI)

Rev David Howell: 07903 790049 email: revdavidhowell@icloud.com

Rev Ewan Gillings: 07568 515628 email: revgillings@gmail.com

If you would like to receive this pew sheet via email, please email Debs

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