



St Mary's Eaton Socon

THE CHURCH ON THE GREEN

Church Weekly News
19 February 2021

Dear all,

As we come to the last two sermons on Ezekiel, you will be pleased to know that we turn from messages of judgement to ones of hope. We also arrive at one of the passages in Ezekiel that you probably know - even if you didn't realise it is from Ezekiel. 'Dem dry bones' is a well-known negro spiritual. Ezekiel is sent to preach in a graveyard where the bones of fallen Israel are lying.

As he preached a message of resurrection and life, flesh came onto the bones and then the Spirit of God gave life. A prophecy of a restored Israel, but so much more than that. This passage is the beginnings of belief in the resurrection of all Israel at the end of the age – the sort of hope that Martha expresses in John 11.24.

We have a resurrection hope that is centred in Jesus raised from the dead. We look forward to not just our personal resurrection, but that God will restore the whole universe spoilt by sin as Paul explains in Romans 8. 23ff. Ezekiel also spoke of a restored Eden and we see that in Revelation 22.

So we can begin to see Ezekiel not just as a prophet of God's judgement on nations long dead, but one who gives to Israel and us hope of the ultimate blessing that God has for his people.

Blessings

Rev'd Ray Porter

Church News:

- **Weekly Challenge**

Your challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to send us a photo or picture of something positive that has come out of your time in lockdown. Please send to: jenny@barrett.cc by Saturday 20 Feb 12noon.

- **Lent & Easter 2021**

[Click here](#) to visit our Lent & Easter Resources webpage. Do check it regularly as we add resources to it.

- **Call to Prayer**

The Archbishop of Canterbury has called for four weeks of prayer for the nation (from 1 Feb). Resources are available on the Church of England by [clicking here](#). These can be prayed anytime, however the Archbishop encourages everyone to join together in prayer at 6pm daily.

- **APCM**

This year's Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday 7th March @ 11.15am. [Click here](#) to view the various Notices and the Annual Report. The Accounts, Agenda and Zoom link for people to attend will be available next week.

- **Sunday 21st February Service**

After the service, please join us on Zoom for 'Zoffee and Zea' for a time of catching up with each other at **11:45am**.

Under Aslan's paw,

Tim

Vicar, St Mary's Eaton Socon