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**Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead  
38**Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. **39**“Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days.” **40**Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” **41**So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. **42**I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” **43**When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” **44**The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”  
**The Plot to Kill Jesus  
45**Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

**Sunday 26th March 2023  
The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Gospel Reading**

**John 11: 1-45**

**The Death of Lazarus  
11**Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. **2**(This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) **3**So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.” **4**When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” **5**Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **6**So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, **7**and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.” **8**“But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?” **9**Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light. **10**It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.” **11**After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.” **12**His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” **13**Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. **14**So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, **15**and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” **16**Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

**Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus  
17**On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. **18**Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, **19**and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. **20**When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. **21**“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. **22**But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.” **23**Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” **24**Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” **25**Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; **26**and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” **27**“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.” **28**After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” **29**When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. **30**Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. **31**When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. **32**When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” **33**When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. **34**“Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. **35**Jesus wept. **36**Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” **37**But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

**Benefice Noticeboard  
April**

**Primrose Tea – 1st April, 2pm-4pm All Hallows Church, Hargrave** – come along and enjoy the beautiful primroses in Hargrave’s churchyard.

**Easter Services –** Please see your church notice boards for all the services across our Benefice this Holy Week and Easter.

St Mary’s will be holding their **APCM on the 23rd April** straight after their 10am Holy Communion service. Please do stay to support your church.

**St Peter’s Spring Lunch –** St Peter’s Church will be hosting their spring lunch on **Sunday 16th April at 12 noon**. If you would like to attend please put your name on the sign up sheet at the back for the church and tick your menu choices.

**Readings for Sunday 2nd April**

**Palm Sunday**

Isaiah 50: 4-9

Psalm 118:1-2,19-end

Philippians 2:5-11

Matthew 21:1-11

**St Peter, Raunds**

Churchwardens

Mike Turner Tel. 623289, Andrea Haseldine Tel. 624644

**Today 10am Service for All Ages/3pm Civic Service**

This week

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday 11am Ashfield House   
 2pm St Peter’s Academy Easter Service  
 6pm Methodist Brownies Church Visit

Thursday 2pm Park Infants Easter Service

Friday 10am-12noon Coffee Morning in the Enterprise Centre

Saturday 3pm Messy Church

Sunday  3pm Service of Communion for All Ages

**All Hallows, Hargrave**

Churchwardens

Savitri Pollard Tel. 626960, Helen Parry Tel. 622959

**Today: 10am Service for All Ages**

This Week

Monday

Tuesday 7:30pm Homegroup at Xanadu

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday 2pm-4pm Primrose Tea

Sunday 10am Holy Communion

**Nativity of blessed virgin Mary, Ringstead**

Churchwardens

Cliff Harris Tel. 625126, Rosemarie Coles Tel. 624262

**Today: 10am Holy Communion**

This week

Monday 10:25am Collective Worship in St Mary’s Church

Tuesday 9:30am Experience Easter

2pm Tea with Friends

Wednesday

Thursday 10:30am Collective Worship in Ringstead Primary School

Friday

Saturday 10am Coffee Morning

Sunday 10am Morning Worship

**St Laurence, Stanwick**

Churchwardens

Lisa Adair Tel. 778967, Sam Chambers Tel. 623855

**Today: 3pm Service of Communion for All Ages**

This Week

Monday

Tuesday 4pm to 5.30pm Bell ringing practice

2:30pm Stanwick Primary School Easter Service

Wednesday

Thursday 9:30am Little Treasures

12noon Lent Lunch

7pm Film Night – ‘Dream Horse’

Friday   
 Saturday  
 Sunday 9:30am Café Church