



DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

The Parishes of: Bishop Auckland || Newton Aycliffe & Shildon || Willington
Crook, Tow Law & Wolsingham || Tudhoe || Coundon, Ferryhill & Windlestone

ESCOMB PARTNERSHIP NOTE

Easter Sunday (C) : John 20: 1-9

Words don't do it. We need words. Hear them. Speak them. Jesus came, beyond words. His friends were visited. They experienced Jesus personally.

And they tried to tell us. They want us to know and experience the joy they came to know. They don't want us to miss out. What they want us to feel is almost incommunicable. Easter as head knowledge is clearly a vital first part of our understanding and acceptance, but the invitation is to allow the resurrection of Jesus to become a bigger part of us. His words to his first disciples give us the next step, "Come and see". Sit with him. Give him space to engage with us. Be fascinated once again by his presence with us. Take the time.

When the Lord appeared to his frightened Apostles they were spooked by his risen presence. He had to calm them down, give them reassurance and begin all over again to teach them with the Holy Spirit's help. They were traumatised by Jesus' death. They were exhausted, emotionally drained and shattered. On top of that they feared the authorities coming after them too. The post-crucifixion sight of Jesus on top of everything else is an excessive demand to take in. Their brilliant, caring Master must have taken time, individually and collectively with them, helping each and all to accommodate what no-one could have envisaged. Easter is about re-training.

His style hasn't changed. He does the same with us. For each of us to spend time with the risen Lord is more a requirement than an option. Easter we celebrate as a beautiful and joyous victory. But resurrection comes only after death. There are parts of us that we need to let die in order that we see and think beyond how we saw and thought before. The enormity of Easter takes time and patient effort, letting Jesus minister to us and continue teaching us.

We make special efforts during Lent - hopefully the efforts don't end with Easter - they were simply a preparation. Resurrection moves us into Easter efforts, but this period is about receiving more than about doing. It's about quiet prayerful time and very few words. Repeat - very few words. Let God do the talking, the loving, the teaching. Be receptive, recognising we need the gentle touch of the one who loved us into life in the first place. Give the time. We don't handle silence very well. Let your time with him begin with short periods but frequent. Let God be God for us. Happy Easter.

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Our Helpers on Camp are all volunteers who give their time and services freely. Many of them keep coming back, year on year, to give children a safe and enjoyable holiday on the Island of Lindisfarne. All helpers are subject to an enhanced DBS check and are given training for the varied roles of working in the kitchen, caretaking and working alongside the children as a dormitory helper in the Vinnie's Summer Holiday Camps.

Some of our volunteers help during Term Time Camps, where we provide support for organisations, using our centre, in the form of caretaking and kitchen staff. If you are interested in volunteering please visit our website for more information <https://www.svp.org.uk/microsite/holy-island/about-camp>

