

Thought for the Day

Thought for the day is based on one of the day's lectionary readings.

For the Bible online, go to: <http://bible.oremus.org/>

Choose your version (we use NRSV in church)

Copy and paste the reference into the search box and the passage will be displayed.

Monday 13th April

Acts 2.14, 22-32

'This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses.'

Today is Easter Bank Holiday Monday. Rather an irony in that term, bank holiday, at the moment when so many shops and businesses are taking an enforced and extended 'holiday' during the lockdown. Roll on the day when they can safely re open and resume activities. It's also a day when traditionally we go out and about to enjoy spring weather, to visit places, to meet up with friends and family. None of this is allowed today, and for very good reason. Lockdown continues and we maintain social distance.

There has been some talk about what may change for ever as a result of this time. Will we perhaps live in a different way afterwards, a better way? Will we change the way we work, or travel, or will we adjust our values in life? If we do make changes for the better, will they last? Will the huge wave of community support that we have rejoiced in, will it survive more normal times?

The reading from Acts records some of the early excitement of the young Christian community. How they went out in the street and talked about Jesus, spread the good news of his death and resurrection. Peter was speaking – yes the same Peter who only weeks before had taken a coward's way out and denied knowing Jesus. Now he speaks out fearlessly in public. And if you read on, you find that thousands responded and were baptised. It was what we call the birthday of the church.

All that was 2000 years ago and we still share that same faith. There have been countless changes and chances in the history of the church – of its many denominations – since those days, not all of it honourable or praiseworthy. Still the central faith is still here. *'This Jesus God raised up and of that we are all witnesses.'* This is the central truth of the Christian faith, without which the church would never have begun. Let's pray this Eastertide that all of us who survive the coronavirus outbreak will learn lasting lessons for good, and will take forward some positive, wholesome changes in our lives and in our communities.

*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort,
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*