

Christ Church Freemantle

Sunday 4th April – Easter Day

Have you ever emerged from a dimly lit room into full daylight, and been dazzled by the brightness? Your eyes have been wide open, peering into the semi-darkness, then, as you come out into the open, they need time to adjust. I think that is what happened to Mary Magdalene, on that first Easter morning. But it was not only her eyes that needed to readjust.

Three days before, her world had been destroyed. Now, it seemed, even her Lord's poor, broken body had gone. "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." She was in despair. But it took just one word, spoken by the figure, possibly in silhouette, whom she imagined to be the gardener, for her despair to be ended. "Mary," he said, in that compassionate voice she knew so well.



Mary Magdalene's world had been turned upside-down by the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. On Easter morning it was turned the right way up again, but it was a radically changed world. She could not hold on to Jesus, and go back to the old life of following him, and listening to his teaching. The Bible does not tell us what part Mary Magdalene played in the huge task of spreading the word of Christ and building his Church, but I am sure that she gave the remainder of her life to it.

On this Easter Day, some 2000 years later, Jesus calls each of us to re-adjust our eyes and our lives. We are emerging from winter into spring as we do every year, but this Easter we emerge also from the gloom and isolation of covid-land, into a changed world. We cannot know what our roles will be in life after covid, but we can be ready to do what we can. The aftermath of covid is a changed world of loss and grief, isolation, disrupted lives and disrupted communities.

At Christ Church, Freemantle, I hope that we shall offer what support we can to each other, and to the wider community. It is important for the church to be open and welcoming, a place of refuge and support. More than that, we can help to rebuild the community, perhaps through being a centre for music and other community activities, and certainly through being a quiet place, a centre for prayer and faith.

Steve Every