

THE STARTING PLACE

The word *resurrection* can be understood in different ways: as something that had disappeared being brought back into use or existence; as Jesus Christ returning to life on the third day after his death; or as the promise that all people will be raised to life at the end. Which of these matters to you most this Spring?

LISTENING TO ACTS

Read the first sermon preached by Peter in [Acts 2:14a, 22–32](#). Do you think Peter is speaking more in metaphors about resurrection or more as an eyewitness?

LISTENING TO THE GOSPEL

Read about Thomas meeting the risen Jesus in [John 20:19–31](#). Think of three things you would ask Thomas about these moments.

LISTENING TO PETER

1 Peter is a New Testament letter, between CE 60 and 90, in the name of the apostle Peter. Scholars differ on whether Peter himself wrote it or whether it comes from a later writer in his tradition. The letter is encouraging believers to live with living hope grounded in the resurrection of Jesus even amid hardship. Read our first extract that follows and look out for the excited words that Peter uses to talk about the resurrection. You might like to use a highlighter pen!

1 Peter 1:1–12

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who have been chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ and to be sprinkled with his blood: May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious

than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, inquiring about the person or time that the Spirit of Christ within them indicated, when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

THE THRESHOLD

If the living hope Peter describes — new birth, joy, glory, salvation, and an inheritance that cannot fade — were ten out of ten, what score would you give your own sense of that hope at the moment?

MOVING FORWARD

In this spring season, what might you nurture, and what could you prune back, so that this living hope can blossom for you?

A Prayer for this Week

God who awakens each spring of our lives, you have given us new birth into a living hope by raising Jesus Christ from the dead: root that hope deeply in the soils of our own times and seasons, that we may live with joy in the life you have begun; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**There are ABIDE groups
this week at the Vicarage**

WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL AT 7PM

FRIDAY 17TH APRIL AT 10.30AM