



Wix window

white who told them “He (Jesus) is not here, He is risen” and reminding them that Jesus had told them He would rise again. (With slight variations this is recorded in all four Gospels.)

The beautiful narrative stained-glass window shows three women: probably, Mary Magdalene, one of the other Marys, and Salome or Joanna looking distraught and confronted by the angel.

One woman holds a jar of spices while a jar of oil rests on the ground. A little extra detail shows in the distance, above the head of the left-hand woman, “Calvary” with two of the crosses standing there. Below is written “He is not here, He is risen” so that viewers should be in no doubt about Jesus’ resurrection and the story this is depicting.

Last month we looked at depictions of the Crucifixion and Jesus’ death which took place late on a Friday, the eve of the Jewish Sabbath and in this case the Feast of the Passover.

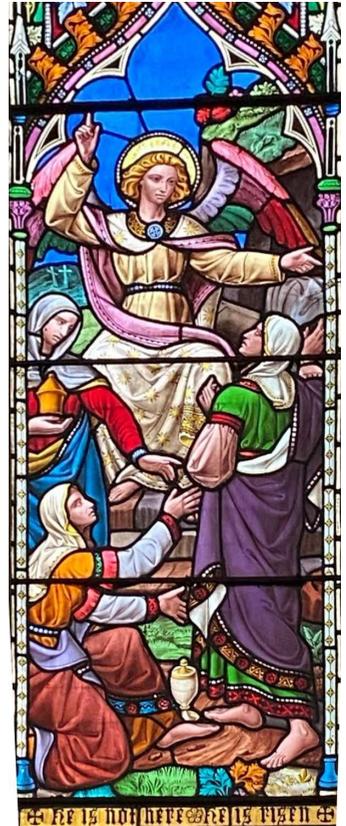
There was therefore, little time to properly prepare Jesus’ body and formally bury Him before the holy rest day. So, Joseph of Arimathea got Pilate’s permission to take the body, and he hastily wrapped it in cloth and laid it in a tomb, which was sealed with a large stone. This can be seen in a stained-glass window in Wix church. (Mark 15: 42 – 47 / Luke 23: 50 – 56)

Now we return to St Mary’s Church, Dedham to see what happened next and look at two testaments to the resurrection depicted in stained-glass windows there.

The first is in the central panel of the furthest side window of the South aisle. As soon as the rest day of the Sabbath, was over, women went to the tomb with oils and spices to anoint Jesus’ body.

When they got there, they were shocked to find the tomb open and only the cloths which Jesus’ had been wrapped in remaining.

However, they were met by a figure dressed in



Dedham Church, central panel of South Aisle window.



Dedham Church, first window on South side of the Chancel

resurrection was not generally understood. These two disciples wrapped in their grief initially failed to recognise Jesus, who as he walked with them, explained these scriptures. When they reached Emmaus they persuaded Jesus to stay and dine, and only when He is breaking bread with them do they realise who He is. (Luke 24: 13 – 35)

This story is shown in the three panels of the first window on the South side of the chancel, best viewed by sitting in the choir stalls opposite. The window shows Jesus in the centre, at the rather lavish dinner table, breaking bread.

One can just make out the 'stigmata' on his hands. At each end of the table Cleopas and his friend have jumped to their feet and their faces clearly show their shock and amazement, as they realise that they are with the "Risen Christ".

Within this main window in the left-hand panel, is a small vignette showing Jesus and the two travellers in their hats and cloaks, (also depicted removed and draped on the bench in front of the dining table,) walking the Road to Emmaus together.

Having started at the end of the Gospel stories of Jesus, next month we shall go back to look at some depictions of Jesus' early life.

After His resurrection Jesus appeared in various places, mainly to his close disciples. However, Jesus also met with Cleopas and his companion as they walked the Road to Emmaus, on their way out of Jerusalem, having witnessed the terrible events of what we now call Good Friday.

They were downcast at the death of Jesus. To Christians the Resurrection is fundamental, but to the Jews of the time the interpretation of the prophecies in the Psalms and Isaiah predicting much of Jesus' life, death and



Detail - on the Road to Emmaus

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