

A reflection from our Licensed Lay Minister, Jenny, for week commencing Monday 11 May 2020

Good morning everyone

The Peace of the Lord be with you

This is a lovely chance to share worship this morning, with so many of you in our benefice. Last week Reverend Tim led our reflection, this week it is my turn.

We start by lighting a candle:

I have chosen a special candle for today – it's called a Paschal Candle, and it is lit for the first time every year in our churches either on Easter Sunday morning or sometime during the night of Easter Saturday. This is because the Bible doesn't tell us exactly when it was that Jesus rose from the dead.

The word "Paschal" means Easter – so this is our Easter Candle.

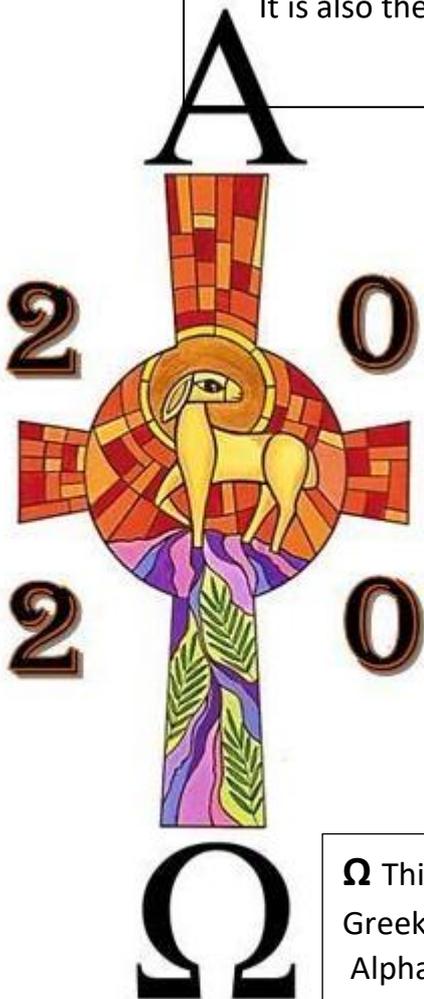
It is lit at every service in a church from Easter through to Pentecost, and then on special occasions like Baptisms, to keep reminding us that Jesus is the Light of the World.



Let's have a closer look at the decorations: Paschal Candles come in different designs, but they always have the same symbols. These all have a special meaning for Christians.



You will recognise the letter A at the top - the first letter in our alphabet.
 It is also the letter Alpha – the first in the Greek Alphabet.
 Now look at the box at the bottom of the picture.



The Paschal Candle has the date of the year when it is first lit at Easter.

There is always a cross on the Easter Candle, to remind us that Jesus died on the Cross, and rose again 3 days later.

Ω This is the Greek letter Omega – the last letter in the Greek Alphabet.
 Alpha & Omega together remind Christians that God is eternal – he is the beginning and the end of all things.

“I am the Light of the World.”

Jesus wanted to comfort his friends when he knew they would be feeling sad and lonely or frightened.

He said to them: “Remember, I am always with you – right to the end of time.”



Those words are for us, as well, so if we close our eyes and sit quietly for a moment, we can remember that the Light of the World will always be with us, all of us, and all the people that we mind about, even though we may not be able to see them or be with them just now.



Let's pray:

Lord Jesus, we thank you for being our Light – a light that will always shine out to bring us comfort and to show us the way.

Amen

