

# WEEKLY SERMON

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## Extraordinary news!

My favourite story I spotted in the news last week reported on 'trespassing' seagulls causing 'travel chaos' at Brighton train station.

Apparently, an endangered Herring Gull had found its way onto the tracks which forced the closure of three platforms whilst the power was switched off and the bird was removed to safety.

Many travellers took to social media to ask whether it had been a belated April Fool's Day prank. It's incredible how something as ordinary as a bird landing in the wrong place can become something so extraordinary and newsworthy.

The Gospel reading for this Sunday is another resurrection appearance by Jesus from Luke 24 (verses 36b-48) which follows on from Jesus' appearance on the Road to Emmaus. The disciples were gathered together when Jesus, once again, appeared and stood amongst them.

The disciples were filled with confusion and doubt, thinking that Jesus was a ghost, so he sought to reassure them showing them the wounds on his hands and feet.

When that doesn't do the trick, Jesus transforms the situation by asking for something very ordinary ... to some food. He was given a piece of broiled fish and, as he did at the table in Emmaus, Jesus ate with them. Somehow the ordinariness of this action allowed the extraordinariness of God to break through and comfort them.

We know that many people in our communities have trouble believing in the extraordinariness of Easter. Perhaps they are waiting for something dramatic to happen which points to Jesus' victory?

Maybe headlines like ...  
'Terrorists repent and destroy all weapons'  
'Free cancer cure is now available for all'

I suspect in the midst of those high expectations they are missing out on seeing the extraordinary things God does which surround us each day. The passage ends with Jesus commissioning the disciples to be witnesses. They certainly didn't fully understand or have all the answers, but nevertheless Jesus entrusts them with this task.

Similarly, Jesus uses us just as we are, in certainty and confusion; joy and in despair and challenges us to bear witness to what God is still doing in our world.

**More/**

**2/**

HEALTHY CHURCHES TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

So, let's be witnesses to the most amazing, extraordinary news of Easter, sharing with others where the extraordinariness of God is breaking through in the ordinariness of our lives.

**Sarah Earnshaw - Diocesan Children's Work Adviser**