Home Group Discussion Questions
Sunday 8th April 2018
Based on Matthew 28:1-15

Read Matthew 28: 1-15

1. Each of the four Gospels offer a slightly different account of Resurrection Day. 'They display an intriguing mixture of agreement and independence' (R.T.France). From your knowledge of the other Gospels, what features of this account seem unique to Matthew?

2. One distinct feature of this account is the explanation of the angel rolling away the stone (v.2-4). It is often said that God rolling the stone away was not 'to let Jesus out but to let the witnesses in'! What, for you, has been one of the most convincing pieces of evidence for the truth of the bodily resurrection of Jesus?

3. The Gospels never tell us at what point the resurrection actually happened. All we know is that by early Sunday morning he was 'not there'! How do you think the women felt? (v.5-7). (n.b. There is a striking combination of 'fear' and 'joy' v.8)

4. All the Gospels stress *women* as the first witnesses to the Resurrection. In Matthew they are not only the ones who discover the empty tomb but are promised to see him ('there *you* will see him' v.7). The women see him in Jerusalem (v.9) – the disciples have to wait until Galilee (v.7, v.10). This is hardly likely to be a fictional invention as in their day women were not seen as credible witnesses. (It also detracts from the standing of the male disciples). What do you think we are meant to see as the significance of this?

5. Re-read v.9-10. The meeting of the women with the now risen Christ is profoundly moving. What strikes you about what happened and what was said?

6. The repetition of 'go to Galilee' (v.7 and v.9) paves the way for the climax of the story in v.11-20. Notice the beautiful touch – Jesus calls these failed disciples 'my brothers'. What does that say to us?

7. The story of the guards and the cover–up story (v.11-15) is also unique to Matthew's account. What do you think is Matthew's purpose in telling these details?

8 How have you experienced the risen Christ this Easter?