

**St George's, Tuffley
with St Margaret's, Whaddon**

**Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering
'Growing God's Kingdom'**



Sunday worship and weekly news

10 May 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

God's People Power

Dearly loved worshipping community

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity", says Psalm 133.

And how good it is to unite in looking to our Lord as we worship together at home. For the more we continue to focus on Him, the more we find we're united with each other. I've been discovering this is true for us here in Tuffley as week by week our differences fall away in the face of Christ. What a wonderful sign of God's Kingdom among us. Glory be to God!

Enjoy your worship.

Bruce

**To prepare for the service, open the Easter
[liturgy booklet](#) [copies in vicarage porch]**

We light *a candle*...

We sing: [holy holy holy](#)

[if you're reading this through email,
follow the hymn with a click, or ctrl-
click, on the title]



Now play the Easter Season Communion [video](#) or
DVD [first 6 mins]

Prayer for Today

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life.
Give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Psalm 31

¹ In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

² Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.

³ Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold;
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

⁴ Take me out of the net
that they have laid secretly for me,
for you are my strength.

⁵ Into your hands I commend my spirit,
**for you have redeemed me,
O Lord God of truth.**

*Lord Jesus Christ,
when scorn and shame besiege us
and hope is veiled in grief,
hold us in your wounded hands. Amen*

1 Peter 2 God's Chosen People

² Rid yourselves of all malice, and all guile, insincerity,
envy, and all slander.

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk,
so that by it you may grow into salvation— ³ if indeed
you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by
mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵
like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual
house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual
sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶ For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

⁷ To you then who believe, he is precious;
but for those who do not believe,
"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,"⁸ and
"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they
were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy
nation, God's own people, in order that you may
proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of
darkness into his marvellous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

*Lord we are Your people and we have tasted your
goodness; build us together into your spiritual house as we
proclaim your goodness among all. Amen*

You can listen to the gospel and short sermon [here](#)

John 14 Jesus the Way to the Father

Read by Sylvia Chamberlain

¹ Jesus said: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.

² In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going."

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Lord Jesu, we believe and know You are the way to the Father. Help us to pray and live boldly in the power of Your love. Amen

Short Sermon from Helen McGeoch

Things were getting weird for the disciples. Jesus was a bit weird anyway and they had got used to that but here, in this room with him tonight, the things Jesus was doing and saying were really tough to understand.

He had washed their feet as they came in, as only the servants did; he had spoken of one of them betraying him and he had even said that Peter would deny him – such a committed follower as Peter!

He'd also said that he was leaving them. But they had given up so much to be with him – and where would he go without them anyway?

In this passage, which is small part of the teaching Jesus then gives them, he instructed them –

- do not be worried and upset
- believe in me and in God and that we are one
- pray to me and ask for what you want me to do in my name

Yes, the disciples answered back with more questions, typical of Peter earlier, but here it was Philip and Thomas speaking their bewilderment out loud.

So Jesus illustrates why:-

- He might be going but he is coming back and they will be with him
- He is the way to the Father (they will later understand that it is his death and resurrection that made that way open to all)
- He will answer their prayer and, in doing so, bring glory to the Father.

Jesus was then crucified and resurrected. He spent 40 days with them. After he went to be with the Father he sent the Holy Spirit.

The disciples learned and were empowered. They did greater things - they went out from Jerusalem and spread the gospel, bringing new life to people far and wide.

This scripture is for us today. We know Jesus is with us, his spirit empowering us. Dare we pray for our hearts' desires and ask in his name? We should remember that it is God who puts the desires within our hearts. Then we shall pray with confidence.

Helen sings a prayer-song [here](#)

Intercessions from Linda Medwell
 [You can also listen [here](#)]

Lord as we enter into the stillness
 calm our hearts and our minds, let
 the storms within us cease and
 enfold us in your peace.



Lord we give thanks for the
 kindness, love and generosity in evidence in abundance
 in our communities. May your love, continue to be
 shared through the kindness of strangers looking out
 for each other, as we recognise our shared
 vulnerability in the midst of this turmoil.

We pray for the many people who have contracted
 the coronavirus. Bring comfort to all who are grieving
 loved ones, peace to all who are fearful. Be with our
 doctors, nurses, researchers and medical professionals
 seeking to heal and help those affected and who put
 themselves at risk in the process. Be with all leaders of
 nations, give them foresight to act with charity and
 concern for the well-being of the people they serve.

Help us to play our part, to be responsible in the
 things that we do in our lives by taking heed of the
 recommended precautions and avoiding situations
 which may make things worse, especially at this time
 when the government is looking at ways of easing the
 lockdown.

Lord you walked among the sick, the lonely and
 distressed and approached them with arms
 outstretched. Come now and touch all who are in
 pain and distressed, heal the damage done to them in
 body, mind and spirit.

Lord you know our hearts and you share in our
 sorrows. Surround all who mourn this day with your
 continued compassion. Renew us all when the days
 seem full of darkness and the future empty of hope.

As we approach this new week, calm us lord even in
 the fiercest storms, give us the inner confidence that
 you will be with us whatever challenges we have to
 face.

Amen

This week we remember with thanks:

those who've recently died:

Josephine Beard, June Addis,
 Bill Dowdeswell, Garry Jeffrey RIP

those whose anniversary of death we mark

Edwin Allen, Valerie Dyer, Susan Michell, Harry Young,
 James Beck, Edward King, Albert Grech,
 Barbara Williams, Dudley Harben, Roy Alderton,
 Margaret Woollen, Raymond Wilson, Barbara Bayliss,
 Alan Holder.

Now please resume the [video](#) or DVD [from 6 mins:
 10secs) for *the Peace and the Eucharist*.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Kieron O'Loughlin 12th (Coffee Pot).

Our **Review of 2019** is now available [here!](#)

- The vicar's overview,
- reports on our varied activities, and
- finances.

Copies also in vicarage porch. A must-read!

Purposeful Exercise: anyone like to **deliver some**
 Sunday service and weekly news sheets during your
 daily walk? Tell Bruce and we'll bring you a bundle.
 Thanks!



We've put back the
 launch of our **Prayer**
for Tuffley initiative till
 next weekend, while we
 gather contributions

from each of the churches. The materials are definitely
 worth waiting for – but don't put back your praying for
 Tuffley!



Keep picking up the phone!



People are finding phone calls with
 friends invaluable to combat loneliness.
 Thank you everyone; please keep up the
 good work!

Know someone who:

- ❖ Is stuck at home without support?
- ❖ Can't make ends meet?
- ❖ Just wants to talk?

Contact **Gloucestershire Community Help Hub**
 on 01452 583519.

Christian Aid Week 10-16 May

“Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all. It’s during crises like Covid-19 that the vulnerabilities of those living in extreme poverty are even more evident. This Christian Aid Week we can fight against Coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty.”

Love never fails

Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope.

Love compels us to fight against coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty.

Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far.

Love compels us to give and act as one.

Now, it is clear that our futures are bound together more tightly than ever before.

As we pray in our individual homes – around the nation and around the world – we are united as one family.

So, let us pause and find a moment of peace, as we lift up our hearts together in prayer.

“Together with its local partners, we are working quickly to limit the impact of coronavirus in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world.

- We are drawing on our experience from the Ebola crisis and helping communities to prevent and delay infection.
- We are providing essential soap, water and handwashing training.
- We are ensuring urgent health messages get through to help keep people safe.
- We are working through our networks of church partners and faith-based organisations to reach the most vulnerable at this critical time.

With your help we can do even more.

We're responding now to the coronavirus outbreak in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

We're working together with partners and faith leaders to inform people about the risks, offering hygiene and hand washing sessions, equipping health facilities with supplies and providing training to frontline aid workers.

We're providing food packages to some of the most marginalised families and ensuring protection for women affected by domestic violence.”

Please send **your gifts** clearly marked, through vicarage front door. Thank you.

CONTACTING US:

Vicar: Revd Bruce Clifford Tel: 01452 520851
Email: vicar-bruce@outlook.com

Reader: Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis –
Tel: 01452 502174

Pioneer: Helen McGeoch – Tel: 07729 615993
Email: tuffleypioneer@gmail.com

Website: www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk

Facebook: St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon

Administrator: Glenda Stevens – Tel: 01452 307456
Email: stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com

The Administration office is not open until further notice. Please contact the Church Administrator by email or leave a message on the office telephone and our Administrator will get back to you.

We are part of the **Church in Tuffley**, working in partnership with English Martyrs (Roman Catholic) and Grange (Baptist).