

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

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



Sunday worship and weekly news

17 May 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

The Power of the Spirit

Dearly loved worshipping community



The vicarage stock of bamboo sticks looks unimpressive. Many have already been well-used; they are varied sizes, and most look pretty flimsy.

But put them together and my, what a difference! They're now providing a firm framework to support a hopefully bountiful crop of vicarage runner beans.

It's like this for us I reckon; for alone we may feel tired and a bit hopeless, but put us together in worship, and who knows what wonderful 'harvest' can emerge!

So keep faithful dear ones in worshipping together at home; for in this we will continue to find strength in the Lord.

"Don't fear, for I am with you; don't be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10)

Bruce

[if you're reading this through email, just click, or ctrl-click to follow the underlined [internet links](#)]

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

We light a candle...

We start with a rousing hymn,
[Alleluia sing to Jesus](#)

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



Prayer for Today

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples. Help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. Amen



Acts 17 Paul inspired by the Spirit in Athens

²² Paul stood in front of the leadership council and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.'

What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

²⁶ From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and investigate him in his creation and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

²⁸ For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

²⁹ Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed. The assurance that God has chosen this man is this: he has raised him from the dead."

Prayer: Lord help us proclaim with courage to our friends the amazing assurance we have of the resurrection and how this transforms our living every day. Amen

Psalm 66 Thank you Lord

[If two of you, you may like to read a half-verse each]

7 Bless our God, O you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard,

8 Who holds our souls in life
and suffers not our feet to slip.

9 For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.

10 You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

11 You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place of liberty.

12 I will come into your house with burnt offerings
and will pay you my vows,
which my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

13 I will offer you fat burnt sacrifices
with the smoke of rams;
I will sacrifice oxen and goats. [R]

Pause in his presence

14 Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has done for my soul.

15 I called out to him with my mouth
and his praise was on my tongue.

16 If I had nursed evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me,

17 But in truth God has heard me;
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer
nor withheld his loving mercy from me.

*How generous is your goodness O God,
How great is your salvation,
How faithful is your love;
Help us to trust you in trial
And praise you in deliverance;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



*“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” (John 8:32)*

You can **listen** to the **gospel, sermon, and song** [here](#)

John 14 The Promise of the Holy Spirit

read by Georgina Wood from St Margaret's

Jesus said to his disciples: ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Prayer: Lord we pray for wisdom to follow your commandments, and we thank you for your unconditional love. We rejoice that you live with us, and we in you. Amen



Short Sermon from Fr Gerry Walsh, priest at English Martyrs Tuffley and St Augustine's Matson

On 75th Anniversary of VE Day Queen Elizabeth II spoke to the nation. She reminded us to never give up to never despair, just like the country did during World War II.

But what really touched me was when she said ‘But our streets are not empty; they are filled with the love and the care that we have for each other.’

Knowing she is a practising Christian I immediately thought of the Holy Spirit which unites the Christian family whether we are separated by denomination or isolation. Jesus says to his disciples in the Gospel ‘I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate or Paraclete to be with you for ever.’

The essential idea behind ‘Paraclete’ is that of someone who stands beside you in time of difficulty, providing a comforting, supportive and encouraging presence. One thinks perhaps of a highly respected person whom you might ask to go to court with you and act as character witness. Such is the idea that the Gospel applies here to the Spirit.

Though Jesus may no longer be physically present, the comfort and assurance his presence gave the disciples during his lifetime will continue in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

In the face of constant trial and rejection from the world, the Paraclete will be for his disciples the 'Spirit of Truth' in the sense of imparting to them a conviction that what they believe and hold on to is indeed reality in the most profound sense.

The Gospel begins and ends with the sense that believers have entered into the same reciprocity of love that unites the Father and the Son.

When the community is indeed one, where love prevails, the atmosphere of love that it experiences is nothing other than a sharing in the communion of love that is the Godhead.

Indeed, our streets are not empty they are filled with love.

Loving Jesus, thank you for asking your Father for another 'Paraclete' and together pouring that Spirit of Truth upon us. Thank you for the love that has been filling our streets during the Pandemic.

Spirit of Truth, enable us to have our answer ready for people who ask us the reason for the hope that is within; and help us to be love in our streets. Amen.

Song:



*Spirit of God, unseen as the wind,
gentle as is the dove;
teach us the truth and help us believe,
show us the Saviour's love!*

You spoke to us long, long ago,
gave us the written word;
we read it still, needing its truth
through it God's voice is heard.

Without your help we fail our Lord,
we cannot live His way;
we need Your power, we need Your strength,
following Christ each day.

IN MEMORIAM:

June Addis, Bill Dowdeswell, Garry Jeffrey,
Des Wilkins, Terry Raybould, Josephine Beard, Paul
Mayne RIP

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:

Barbara Bayliss, Alan Holder, Mary Jenkyn,
Charlie Wild, Henry Venour, Margaret Dunn,
Dorothy James, Olive Collier, Tracey Eroglu,
Russell Heard, Gordon Aston, Judith Ford,
Betty Boulton, Margaret Mills, Ernest Marns,
Lucy Wreford, William Willerton, Evelyn Chaloner.

OUR PRAYER COLUMN

You can **listen** to the intercessions [here](#)

Intercessions by Sarah Kingscote
from St George's



Lord, rainbows in the sky remind us of the promises you made to your people. Today, during this pandemic, pictures of rainbows in windows are symbols of hope. Now let us pray our own rainbow.

RED reminds us of the fire of the Holy Spirit and the blood of the martyrs. We pray for your church in Tuffley and give thanks for modern technology that enables us to worship together at home.

ORANGE is for the harvest. We pray for all those bringing us our food from the field to our forks and volunteers serving in food banks and delivering food parcels to those in quarantine.

YELLOW is for sunshine, and the warmth, smiles and love of relationships. Bless our families and friends whom we cannot visit. We pray for those living alone finding isolation difficult and those working at home finding family life stressful.

GREEN is for creation. Thank you for the pleasure of gardening and the nature and wildlife we can see through our windows. Help us to steward your wonderful world wisely.

BLUE is for our blue planet. As the corona virus is worldwide we pray for all governments as they try to contain the risk, keep their citizens safe and preserve their economies.

INDIGO is the dark colour of suffering. Comfort and heal those afflicted by the Covid-19 virus. Strengthen all the medical staff working so hard to care for them.

VIOLET is for sorrow. We pray for those who have died and ask that those who are mourning may feel your love to support them at this sad time.

All the colours of the rainbow combine in the white light of the dazzling presence of our Saviour, Jesus. Lord of the rainbow, in your mercy, *hear our prayer. Amen.*

Let's join together in: [I will sing the wondrous story](#)

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

You may like to finish by joining the thousands singing:
[My hope is built on nothing less](#)

This week's News

This weekend we're launching **Tuffley Prayer 24/7** to encourage us all to join together in crying to God through this period of distress and confusion. The idea is that each one of us reserves one hour a week to pray, for Tuffley and the world.



To help us all, we've just published a little 'Tuffley Prayer Resources' booklet. You can find it [here](#); and there are copies in vicarage porch. Do use it.

Give God a chance. Sign up and Pray.

To book your chosen hour, see instructions in the Tuffley Prayer booklet. Or book direct by ringing Linda Medwell on 01452 302590.

And why not join our weekly **Morning Prayer** on Thursdays at 8.15? By internet or phone. Contact Bruce for details. This Thursday we'll be marking **Ascension Day**.

Our monthly **Refresh** is on Wednesday 27 May, 7.30pm, on Pentecost! Promises to be exciting and enriching. Contact Bruce to be sure of your invite.

Remember, our **2019 Review** is still available [here](#)! With the vicar's overview, reports on our varied activities, and finances. An important read. Copies also in vicarage porch.

And remember our [May Crossroads magazine](#) – when you've read it pass it to a friend or give them a copy

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.

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!

IDEAS TO DO for THIS WEEK:

- ❖ Show your gratitude to someone who's caring for others or working for the community
- ❖ Keep bringing items for the **Foodbank** to vicarage
- ❖ Borrow a good book (some are new) from Sarah's church library – in vicarage porch (we can deliver)

Giving generously

TAP Fund news: we've been able to buy two taps with hygiene training, for £120: thank you donors!

St George's Toilets fund: thank you for Lent donations of £700+. Watch this space...

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."

Thank you for your donations. Any more, please pass to treasurer, or drop them in vicarage door, by Wednesday.

A prayer from Christian Aid:

Loving God,
instil in our shaken souls
the belief and hope that all things
are possible with your creative love
for strangers to become friends
for science to source solutions
for resources to be generously shared
so everyone, everywhere, may have what they need
for your perfect love that knows no borders
may cast out any fear and selfishness that divides.

May your love that never ends
be our comfort, strength and guide
for the wellbeing of all and
the glory of God.
Amen.



*Blue tit mum and five eggs
in Pauline Deeley's bird box*

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Linda Medwell 18th, Matthew Taylor 5 on 21st,