

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

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

**Sunday worship and weekly news
24 May 2020**

Worshipping Together at Home

Order of service for 24 May 2020

**Sunday after Ascension
Easter 7**

We are One

Dearly loved worshipping community

"Lord give me patience, but hurry"

I guess we're all finding our patience tested right now.

Of course the early disciples had to learn patience too. First, their Lord had gone – cruelly and unjustly killed. Then, after that long Easter Saturday, he'd returned, wonderfully risen from the dead.

Yet now he'd gone again, "ascended to heaven", promising them yet another wonderful new thing way beyond their understanding.

How did they respond?

With great joy and delight, and by praying together; so when Pentecost came, they were ready.

By God's grace this pandemic will end, and we'll be free again. Meanwhile, we're called to patience with hope.

'We rejoice in our sufferings', Paul said, 'because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. ...And when we hope for what we don't yet have, we wait for it patiently.' (Romans)

Let's encourage each other to be patient and full of hope as we worship and pray. Then we'll be ready for that wonderful thing God will do!

Bruce

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

To follow the service, you may like to open the Easter Season [liturgy booklet](#) [copies in the vicarage porch]

We light a candle...

Let's start with the rousing hymn:
[Crown him with many crowns](#)
(recorded in the Albert Hall)



You may like to play the Easter Season Communion [video](#) or DVD [first 6 mins]

Prayer for Today

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Acts I

The Ascension of Jesus

⁶ When the disciples had come together, they asked Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."



⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them: ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

The disciples devote themselves to prayer

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James.



¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Lord grant us faith and perseverance to pray expectantly for you to come and bring in your Kingdom. Amen

[Click here to listen to the gospel and sermon](#)

Psalm 68

Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.
² As smoke is driven away, so drive them away;
as wax melts before the fire,
let the wicked perish before God.
³ But let the righteous be joyful;
let them exult before God;
let them be jubilant with joy.
⁴ Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds,
his name is the Lord - be exultant before him.
⁵ Father of orphans and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.
⁶ God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity,
but the rebellious live in a parched land.
Pause in God's presence
⁷ O God, when you went out before your people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
⁸ the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
⁹ You sent down rain in abundance, O God;
you restored your heritage when it languished;
¹⁰ your flock found a dwelling in it;
from your bounty, O God, you provided for the poor.

*Blessed are you, gracious God;
you make your home among the weak,
you deliver us from death,
you bring us joy beyond our imagining;
and we praise you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



John 17 Jesus Prays for His Disciples

¹After speaking with his disciples, Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Lord Jesus, thank you for your life that revealed the Father to us, and for leaving your Spirit that we may know you and the Father. Help us to become the united community you want us to be. Amen



Too many church buildings?

[signs on Epney/Grange/Tuffley Lane roundabout]

Short Sermon from David Crunkhurn, an elder at Grange Baptist

When I read this passage, it reminded me of something I heard on the radio this week, which went something like this: 'The safest place for a ship to be is in the harbour. However, that is not where it is meant to be!' This statement challenged my thinking about where as Church we are meant to be.

For me, the joy of a Sunday is always meeting up with Church family; sharing together, learning from God's word, worshipping and enjoying the relationship we have with each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.

However, is the Church building – the harbour if you will - where we are meant to be? Does Christ simply want us to be comfortable and safe together in our building? I'm not sure he does, for that does not fulfil the purpose for which we are Church.

The harbour is a great place for a ship to rest and to be prepared for launching. Through His teaching and His word, Christ has given us the resources we need to set sail into our community. 'For all I have is yours and all you have is mine.' How wonderful to know that we have all that the Father in heaven has to offer and he has given it to us through Christ.

As Christians, our journey may well start in the building, but it is from that point of preparing together, that we journey off for one purpose - to make disciples.

We are moved off from the harbour and into the vast sea of our community. That is where we are meant to be and that is what we are built up to be.

Verse 11 excites me greatly. Here, Christ prays protection through the power of His name on his disciples. This is exciting, because it is through the name of Jesus that we are one body in Christ.

How wonderful this is, when we consider the strength of the oneness of being built as the Church in Tuffley; our united Christian family. In His name we move together as one body of believers in our community, to bring the love of Christ and a relationship with Him into the lives of those we meet.



At this moment, possibly more than ever, the Church is being prepared to set sail from the safety of the harbour - our Church building - into our wider community. And following the example of Christ, it is through prayer and in His name that we have the strength and

courage to minister to those who need God's touch. We move as one body, extending His love for all.

As Christ prayed that we would be one, I thank God that as we grow together as Church in Tuffley; we journey as brothers and sisters across the waters of our community, steered by Christ our captain.

Lord Jesus, as you prayed that we would be one, we pray now for each other and for the work of the Church in Tuffley. Direct our path together as we bring your light into our community. For the sake of your Kingdom we pray. Amen.

[Click here to listen to the intercessions and hymn](#)

Intercessions from Pat Mitchell



Heavenly Father we thank you for your Son who came to Earth to live among your people to show us how to live a life of love.

We remember when Jesus was leaving his disciples he prayed for them to be of one heart and mind. Help us to think about what that means for us as Jesus went on to pray for all who followed him. Jesus often prayed to his Father, he couldn't work without doing that. Help us to know the amazing power there is in prayer and also to be silent and listen as well. We thank you for the Tuffley 24/7 prayer which has recently started and we ask for the Holy Spirit to help and guide us.

The world has changed so quickly in such a short time because of Covid-19 that there often seems a sense of unreality about it. Help us to remember that some things are a mystery and we don't know why they are allowed. However we know our Heavenly Father is in control because He can see everything not only on Earth but in the spiritual realm.

Jesus didn't answer his disciples' questions about when he would return; there are some things we are not meant to know, so help us to trust you in this crisis.

Heavenly Father we thank you for the many sacrifices people have made to help others. We pray for all who are suffering or whose hearts are breaking, not only in this country but throughout the world. Please help and comfort them by your incredible love. We hope and pray that this crisis will soon be over but also ask what we can learn from this in the future.

Amen

Jonathan plays and sings:

The head that once was crowned with thorns

is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heav'n affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
and heav'n's eternal Light:

The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

Now for the Peace and the Eucharist please return to the liturgy booklet and resume the video or DVD [from 6 mins:10secs]

This week's News

In memoriam:

Garry Jeffrey, Des Wilkins, Terry Raybould, Josephine Beard, Paul Mayne, Wilf Dautlich, Peter Minall (priest), Fannie Storr, Steve Dalley, Hugh Smith

Anniversaries of death:

Evelyn Chaloner, James Kemp, Cyril Anderson, Kathleen Lord, Terry Overthrow (priest), Jean Evans, Eunice Parks, Michael Spiers.

Birthdays & anniversaries:

Joceline Blunt 27th. David & Sylvia Chamberlain celebrate a wedding anniversary on 29th.

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

How long O Lord? The Gloucester Diocese website coronavirus [hub](#) has a wealth of info and guidance, updated daily.

One! As David Crunkhurn has brought greetings from Grange Baptist church, so Bruce is taking our greetings to English Martyrs as he preaches for them today.



Give God a chance: sign up and Pray – for Tuffley, and for the world at this critical time. We've published a little '**Tuffley Prayer Resources**' booklet. Copies in vicarage porch. You can also find it [here](#). Do use it.

To book an hour to pray, see instructions in booklet. Or book direct by ringing Linda Medwell on 01452 302590.

Why not join our weekly **Morning Prayer** on Thursdays at 8.15? By internet or phone. Contact Bruce for details.

Mental Health Awareness week has just ended. This year's focus is on acts of kindness. Let us be alert to those around us who are finding it difficult to cope in these days.

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

We're delighted to announce the Church Centre outside walls will be **painted** this week.

WHAT 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** – the vicarage porch is a safe drop-off point.
- ❖ Borrow a good book (some are new) from Sarah's church library –in vicarage porch (we can deliver)

Know someone who:

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

Then 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!

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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).