

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



Sunday worship and weekly news
2 May 2021

EASTER 5

We welcome our visiting priest
Rev Canon Dr Mike Parsons



To bear spiritual fruit is the aim of the Christian life. Our readings illustrate how that is done.

We must allow ourselves to be trained and pruned by our heavenly Father, the vine-dresser. We must abide in Jesus, the True Vine. And we must allow ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Philip did that, as we learn in the Acts reading. He dropped everything to respond to the Spirit's call and ended up doing the Lord's work in a different place ... after his unexpected bible study with an important stranger.

Where is the Lord calling us, this week and beyond?

Jonathan

Today's service on YouTube

The service can be accessed from the church website www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk on Monday. Click on the blue banner at the bottom of the page. Enjoy, and sing aloud to your hearts content.

Are there restrictions now we are open?

Sadly.... Yes! The same rules that applied pre lockdown will be in place i.e.

- Wear a face mask
- Sanitise your hands
- No singing (except from the heart),
- Observe Social Distancing – the 2m rule.

Socialising outdoors is now permitted, with no more than 6 people in the bubble

Sorry to say these rules are necessary.

Next week we welcome
Rev Adrian Slade

Order of Service

Bearing much fruit

Processional Hymn

Christ Triumphant, ever reigning
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
Hear us as we sing:
*Yours the glory and the crown,
The high renown, the eternal name.*

Priestly king, enthroned for ever
High in heaven above!
Sin and death and hell shall never
Stifle hymns of love:
Chorus...

So, our hearts and voices raising
Through the ages long,
Ceaselessly upon you gazing,
This shall be our song:
Chorus...

Michael Saward (born 1932) ©
Michael Saward/Jubilate Hymns

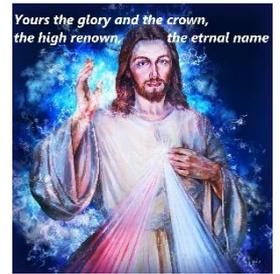
Prayer for Today

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

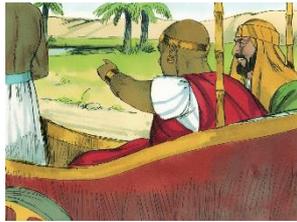
Acts 8 Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

*'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.'*



³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water; and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.



Prayer: Dear Holy Spirit, give us the courage and wisdom to speak to others of the good news of Jesus. Amen.

Psalm 22 The Praise of the Messiah

25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; **I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.**

26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; **those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall live for ever.**

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, **and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.**

28 For the kingdom is the Lord's **and he rules over the nations.**

29 How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship, **or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?**

30 He has saved my life for himself; my descendants shall serve him; **this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.**

Prayer: Restless with grief and fear, the abandoned turn to you: in every hour of trial, good Lord, deliver us, O God most holy, God most strong, whose wisdom is the cross of Christ.

John 15 Jesus the True Vine

¹ I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.



Prayer: Lord Jesus, the true Vine, train us as your branches and tend us that we may do your will. Amen.

Reflection from the Rev Canon Dr Mike Parsons

The Vine and the Branches.

It is the pruning and growing season – my front hedge, long a disaster area, has had dead wood removed and the neglected beech pruned right back. If we are the branches of Christ's vine then we expect to be pruned. To make us better, more fruitful, more productive. Do we like it? Covid has pruned back so much in our church life, in family, social and every aspect of life – and it hurts for many. But there are signs of new life growing back. Where is the new growth coming from in the church here, in your life? Has it started yet?

But how do I know that I'm not part of the dead wood, cast out into the fire and burned? How do we know that we really do 'Abide in Christ' and he in us, particularly if we are all too well aware of our failures and our weakness and half-heartedness at times?

The epistle for today (1 John 4) tells us, "By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit... God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God."

Can you say, maybe sometimes in tears, "Jesus is my Lord" – even as you know you have failed him. When you catch the - maybe so infrequent - glance of the great glory of God in Christ, can you say, "This is what I want, this is what I most desire"? Even in my failure, even with so much I valued seeming in ashes about me, you are still all I really want. Yet I cannot seem to reach you!

Then YOU DO ABIDE IN HIM – and he in you. His blood runs in your veins.

We declare together our commitment to faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory, to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life who proceeds from the Father and the Son who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Intercessions from Sylvia Chamberlain



We pray to God our Father who through the risen Christ gives his people the power for good.

Father, grant that your church, constant in faith and love, may

bring forth good fruit. Give unity to all her branches in the strength of Christ the true vine. Give to those who minister wisdom in the transmission of on-line worship, that by word and sacrament your people may grow in faith. We pray for the appointment of a new priest for our benefice that we may all enjoy faith, fellowship and fun.

Lord in your mercy...

Father, we continue to pray for all those affected by the pandemic virus. We especially remember those in India and pray that their suffering will soon be alleviated. We also pray for others who are ill or troubled, those we can name and those known only to you.

Lord in your mercy...

Father we pray for those men and women who are planning the way forward out of our crisis. Give wisdom to our Prime Minister and the government, courage and insight to all those who will enable us to regain our lives again. We thank you for our research scientists as they find permanent solutions for our well-being, and give them the knowledge that they need.

Lord in your mercy...

Father, we remember those we have loved and see no longer. We thank you for their good examples of love and faithfulness. Be with those who mourn and comfort them in their sorrow.

Lord in your mercy...

Father, we pray for ourselves. We rejoice in warmer days and signs of growth in our beautiful world: give us joy and hope that the risen Christ may live through each of us. Give us each day the reassurance of your saving love in Christ.

Merciful Father... Amen

Offertory Hymn

Love divine, all loves excelling

Joy of heav'n to earth come down,

Fix in us thy humble dwelling,

All thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesu, thou art all compassion,

Pure unbounded love thou art;

Visit us with thy salvation,

Enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Never more thy temples

leave;
Thee we would be always
blessing,

Serve thee as thy hosts above;

Pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,

Glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,

Pure and spotless let us be;

Let us see thy great salvation,

Perfectly restored in thee.

Changed from glory into glory,

Till in heav'n we take our place,

Till we cast our crowns before thee,

Lost in wonder, love, and praise.



After the priest says to us all: "the body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life", we all respond Amen.

A steward will guide you forward.

We each receive a wafer, the priest alone receives the wine on behalf of us all.

We receive Communion with arms outstretched, and in silence.

Please maintain a 2 metre distance at all times.

Final Hymn

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my father

There is no shadow of turning with thee
Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be

Great is thy faithfulness,
Great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new
mercies I see,
All I have needed thy hand hath
provided,
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me



Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love
Chorus

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside
Chorus

Please leave the building immediately after the priest.
Please remember to keep 2 metres apart.

WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:

❖ Keep bringing items for the **Foodbank**; **new collection point is the Church Centre hallway on a Friday morning from 9.30am – 11.30am.**
Toiletries now accepted at the foodbank, in addition long life milk, long life juice, cup a soups, pot noodles and tinned carrots needed.
Thank you!

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!



CONTACTING US:

Vicar: Vacancy (please pray for new appointment)
Reader: Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis 01452 502174
Pioneer: Helen McGeoch 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 01452 307456
Email: stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com

The Administration office is open on Friday mornings from 9.30am until 11.30am 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), Grange (Baptist) and St Barnabas (Anglican).



News 2 – 9 May

In Memoriam:

Patricia Fivash, Hedley Ringrose (priest),
John Perris, Robert Mayo RIP

We pray for all who are ill or in need at this time mentioning by name:

Margaret, Angela, Susan, Mike and Laura, Lynne,
Bill, Sarah, Pat, Christine, June, Daphne, Rosemary,
Carol, David and Angela, Tony and Jean, Sylvia, Margaret & Mark.

Anniversaries of Death:

William Saunders, Gillian Cox, Charles Bell,
Lewis Powell, Royston Bodimeade, Ronald Ellis,
Elsie Hyett, Dennis Macey, Ronald Mouldsdale,
Ronald Cole. Joan Webb, Hazel Morgan,
Dennis Baker, Jack Crawford, Charles Badham,
John Bruton. Annie Monaghan, Paul Mayne,
Richard Wright, Gilbert Smith, Edwin Allen,
Valerie Dyer, Susan Michell, Harry Young,
James Beck, Edward King.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Daphne Reeves 3rd

If you would like your birthday or anniversary mentioned in Signpost please let Glenda know.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE:

1st calling at St Margaret's

Ian Philip Arthur Maysey & Kimberley Jane Porter

DIARY DATES

Sun 2	10.30am	St M's	Family Praise
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion Crucifer: David Readers: Joceline/Helen Intercessions: Sylvia C
	5.00pm	St M's	Evensong
Mon 3			MAY DAY
Tue 4	4.00pm	Z	Benefice Standing Committee
Wed 5	8.15am	Z	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Z	Mission Group
	7.00pm	Z	Church Centre Management Committee
Thu 6	7.00am	St G's	Election Day until 10.00pm
	10.30am	St M's	Parish Communion
Sun 9			EASTER 6 Christian Aid Week
	9.00am	St M's	Parish Communion
	10.30am	St G's	Parish Communion Crucifer: Jayne Readers: Dot/Sylvia E Intercessions: Derek

St G's = St George's St M's = St Margaret's

Z = Zoom

Food Parcels: St George's Church, Grange Road, is now open for Food Parcel collections on: -

Tuesday & Friday from 10.00am until 12.00noon until further notice

The parcel is FREE OF CHARGE

Please be aware of social distancing guidelines

Singing Group... There are still quite a few weeks to go before we are all given permission to sing as a congregation, but we are allowed to have a group of socially distanced singers at the front of church. If you would like to be part of that group, please let Helen know.

Rev Hedley Ringrose Funeral recording: "The funeral of the recently departed Hedley Ringrose was streamed from Calne church last week and is still available to view until July.

For those members without a computer and/or a PC who would like to listen to a sound recording of the service, please contact Hans.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to record the vision."

UP AND COMING MEETINGS

Benefice Standing Committee

4.00pm Tuesday 4 May

Joint PCC

7.00pm Tuesday 11 May

Benefice Standing Committee

4.00pm Tuesday 25 May and

4.00pm Tuesday 8 June

All on ZOOM

SERVICES THIS COMING WEEK

Wednesday 5 May

8.15am Morning Prayer on ZOOM

Thursday 6 May

10.30am Parish Communion at St Margaret's

all are welcome

Next Sunday

9 May 2021

9.00am Parish Communion at St Margaret's

10.30am Parish Communion at St George's

both with Adrian Slade



Our APCMs

will take place on

Sunday 11 JULY 2021

More details soon