

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



Sunday worship and weekly news
11 April 2021

EASTER 2

We Welcome our visiting priest.
Rev Andrew Frearson



Peace be with you. What a lovely greeting after all the drama of Holy Week. Peace. A time to recover. A time to catch our communal breath. A time to reconsider our purpose. Our passage from Acts provides us with an example of how the early church cared for one another. Our

Psalm proclaims the blessedness of unity. Our gospel reminds us we are among those who have not 'seen' and yet have come to believe. We believe today because the first apostles did not fail. As Jesus sent them so he sends us to share his peace and his purpose to our generation.

Lorraine Best

Please remember to hold in your prayers.

The representatives of St George's and St Margaret's as they prepare, along with Bishop Robert, Archdeacon Hilary and candidates, for the interviews on April 16th to appoint a new Vicar for the Benefice.

Today's service on YouTube

The service can be listened to as an audio file from the church website www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk. The service will be available from 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 to the congregation pre lockdown are still in place i.e.

- Wear a face mask.
- Sanitise your hands.
- No singing (except from the heart),
- Observe Social Distancing – the 2m rule.
- No mixing or socialising, either before or after the service.

Sorry to say these rules are necessary.

Next week we welcome.
Rev Adrian Slade

Peace and Purpose.

Processional Hymn

Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay.
*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son:
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.
Refrain

No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life!
Life is nought without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
Refrain

Prayer for Today

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father. Amen

Acts 4:32-35 The Believers Share Their Possessions



³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Prayer: Lord, following your example, first century believers were as open with their hands as they were with their hearts. Help us to not only keep in mind those in need, but to step out and help them. Amen.

Psalm 133

The Blessedness of Unity

1 How very good and pleasant it is **when kindred live together in unity!**

2 It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, **on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**

3 It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. **For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.**

Prayer: Grant to your people, good Lord, the spirit of unity, that they may dwell together in your love, and so bear to the world the ointment of your healing and the Jew of your blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."



The Purpose of This Book

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Prayer: Lord when it comes to your word the only thing we should doubt is doubt itself. Let your Holy Spirit enlighten us to your truths as we read your word. Amen

Reflection from Rev Andrew Frearson

I have always found the Easter story more difficult to talk about than say, Maundy Thursday or Good Friday.

But then, that is perhaps the way it is meant to be. Easter is the great mystery to reflect upon and enter into rather than analyse. It was ever the way of Jesus to tell a story with a paradox or metaphor and leave the listeners to work it out for themselves. And so must we work it out each for ourselves.

Thomas' doubts we hear about in the gospel today are a part of faith, we test and make something real for ourselves, not take it second-hand from someone else.

Ponder for a moment about what you admire most about the life of Jesus. He was deeply compassionate, brought good news to the poor and healing to the broken hearted. He used reason and intuition and included the marginalised.

He reached out to those physically and emotionally and spiritually wounded. He treated people equally, including those very different to himself and his culture. He brought understanding instead of judgement, forgiveness rather than revenge. He stood up to and spoke truth to power with courage for justice and fairness and respect for all people.



And he embodied hope, against the worst violent and selfish impulses than human beings live out. He showed, as have many of the best of us in following him, that love can be real, it can be divine, and that human goodness is possible. I think that's the Easter message we celebrate today, and it is we who claim to be his followers who are called to live that out to keep Easter alive, whatever difficulties we face together. Keep LOVE alive. Amen.

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 Linda Medwell

Dear Lord we ask that you direct our hearts and minds towards you and fill us with your spirit bringing us refreshment, renewal, peace and joy as we come before you today.



Lord in your mercy...

Lord, you call us to follow in the way of your Risen Son and to care for our friends and neighbours, not only with words of comfort but with love, compassion and practical support. We pray for all in our community who are isolated, vulnerable, sick or marginalised. For all who, during this difficult time, have lost income and jobs. Give them your comfort strength and peace.

As we emerge from the past few months and continue to feel uncertain what the next few months may bring, let us prepare our hearts for the healing you have for us and grant us patience, Lord, to take it slowly and continue to obey the current guidelines regarding COVID.

We ask for your blessing this week on all involved in the appointment of a new vicar, give them wisdom and discernment in identifying the leader to take us on the next exciting step of our journey here in Tuffley. We pray for all the candidates who will attend as they prepare for their interviews.

Lord in your mercy...

Dear Lord, your love sets no boundaries. Grant the leaders of all our nations wisdom, courage and insight at this time of great change and uncertainty. Give, to all who exercise authority, the determination to defend the principles of freedom, love and tolerance, strength to safeguard the innocent and clarity of wisdom to guide the

world into the path of justice and peace.

Lord in your mercy...

Lord, into the gentleness of your healing love we bring before you all those who are ill or suffering in any way. We thank you for the dedicated care of our doctors and nurses and our carers, especially those who struggle on, nursing those they love at home. We know you to be both Lord and healer and we ask that you touch with your goodness and generous love all those who are in our hearts and minds today because of their special needs.

Lord in your mercy...

We remember now all those whose earthly life has ended and all those grieving for their loved ones. Fill them with your love and let them be aware of you beside them. We give you thanks Lord for the loving way you provide for us even in our darkest times

Lord in your mercy...

Lord, as we go out into the world, we pray that we may reflect your loving in our church and community so that the world can witness that we are followers of Christ and draw others into his loving.

Merciful father accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Offertory Hymn

Now the green blade rises

from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth
many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the
dead has been:
*Love is come again, like wheat
that springs up green.*



In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,
thinking that he never would awake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for the three days in the grave had lain,
back from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958) © Oxford University Press

Preparing to receive Holy Communion.

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

Jesus lives! thy terrors now
can, O death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall
us.
Alleluia.



Jesus lives! for us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide,
glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluia.

Jesus lives! to him the throne
over all the world is given:
may we go where he is gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven.
Alleluia.

Please leave the building immediately after the priest.
**In view of the Rule of six please do not linger
outside remembering to keep 2 metres apart.**

News 11- 18 April

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 singing at the front of church, socially distanced of course. Helen is up for doing one or two of the hymns each week with a group. If you would like to be part of that group, please let Helen know and we'll get going as soon as we can.

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 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).



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, June, Daphne, Sylvia, Tony and Jean, Hedley and Rosemary, David and Angela, Carol, Margaret and Mark,

Anniversaries of Death:

Madeline Baxter, Joshua Webb, Charles Speke, Emma Bassett, Josephine Beard, David Cohen, Yvonne Gladwin, Joan Alderton, Albert Spiers, Henry Andrews, William Speck, Susan Webb, Francesco Gallo, Keith Stephens, Edith Robins, Gerald Halford, Mick Summerell, Myra Waite, Terrence Raybould, Margaret Winstone.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Oakley Byrne 14th, Dawn Dolphin 15th.

DIARY DATES

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|--------|---|
| Sun 11 | 9.00am | St M's | Parish Communion |
| | 10.30am | St G's | Parish Communion Crucifer: Roger Readers: Stuart / Susan Intercessions: Linda M |
| Wed 14 | 8.15am | Z | Morning Prayer |
| Thu 15 | 10.30am | St M's | Parish Communion |
| Fri 16 | | | Please pray for the Clergy Interviews |
| Sun 18 | | | EASTER 3 |
| | 10.30am | St G's | Parish Communion Crucifer: Sylvia C Readers: Derek/Linda M Intercessions: Susan |
| | 5.00pm | St M's | Evensong |

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

FOOD PARCELS (Please note 'Change of dates')

St George's Church, Grange Road, will now open for Food Parcel collections on two days a week as follows: -

Tuesday & Friday – 10.00am – 12.00noon until further notice.

The parcel is FREE OF CHARGE

Please be aware of social distancing guidelines.

CROSSROADS DEADLINE

Tuesday 13 April

Please send your article to Darrell by the above date to make sure that yours is included in the May issue

**Next
Benefice Standing Committee Meetings
on Zoom**

Tuesday 20 April – 4.00pm

Tuesday 04 May – 4.00pm

**Next
Benefice PCC Meeting on Zoom**

Tuesday 11 May – 7.00pm