



The Parish of Thorpe St Andrew

MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR The Fifth Sunday of Easter: 10 May 2020



I may have told the story of Billy Graham going to a small town in North Carolina to preach, just a couple of times before, but it's worthy of repeating! He tells that he arrived early and had time to post a letter. He goes into the main street and finds a little boy and he asks him the way to the post office. The little boy is delighted to help and Billy Graham feels that he wants to help in return, so he tells the young man that if he

would like to attend the First Baptist Church (where he is preaching) he will learn the way to the Kingdom of Heaven. The little boy, somewhat incredulously, turns to the great preacher and says, **'Don't worry. I won't be coming. You don't even know the way to the Post Office!'** The gospel reading for this Sunday begins with the familiar passage, often used at funeral services, where Jesus reminds his disciples, which includes us, that he is not the 'direction giver' but that he is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He is the destination. We are celebrating a victory which concluded a war which has given us peace. 75 years in fact. We've sung Vera Lynn's song with nostalgia before because it was sung 'in the war' – but we now, in this current crisis, for the first time (for many) find ourselves on a wartime footing and looking for direction – so that Vera's words have added meaning for us. The Bishop of Norwich has issued some directions on one person (me) going into church to pray. More directions will inevitably follow. **As we look for ways out of this crisis it is abundantly clear that the road to peace and love is Jesus. More** and more people are recognising this and it is for us to share with them in that journey to faith. **Due to the Bank Holiday and no post on Saturdays** you are getting this early. There may be things which we would like to have added and **they can be added next week.** In the meantime. Happy VE Day and God Bless You. *Fr James*

SERVICE DETAILS and PRAYER INTENTIONS for 10 May

READINGS Easter 5: 10 May - Acts 7:55-end; John 14:1-14

HYMNS How sweet the name of Jesus sounds; O Jesus, I have promised

INTERCESSIONS *Please pray for*

- **Our Ministry Team** James Stewart, Patrick Kerley, Nicole King, Taylor Wilton-Morgan (from end June onwards)
- **Our Bishops** Graham, Alan and Jonathan
- **Ecumenical** 10 May - Baptist Church: Regional Minister Beth Powney.
10-16 May - Christian Aid Week – all workers and projects.
- **Anglican Communion** Anglican Church of Kenya, Bp Jackson Ole Sapit
- **All who live in-** Spinney Close, Spinney Road, St Andrews Avenue,
- **Our Civic Leaders** as detailed before.
- **All those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic**
All key workers in NHS and all other fields of frontline work
10 May All who work in our food shops, including Sainsbury's, Coop, Londis, Fish's, Thorpe Convenience Store and our post offices at Thunder Lane (Mr Gurney) and Yarmouth Road (Mr and Mrs Dhalla)
- **Those who are sick or in need**, including
Brenda Debenham, Brian Riseborough, Mark Little, Paul Carter, Monique Rowland, Jennifer Jones, Janet Fancy, Colin Hicks, Glenys Paflin, Audrey Camp, Alan Harrison, Jill Hall, Grace Howes, Peter and Gaynor Garrood, Anne Farthing
- **The recently departed** Janet Godfrey, Alan Heelas, Beryl Licence
- **Those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time**
(*All dates in May*) including Kathleen Mann (8th), Barry Hastings (15th), Mary Harris (15th), Joan Cornish (17th)



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 May

Words from their website: *Love never fails. Coronavirus impacts all of us. But love unites us all.* There still things going on online, but for those who like something in church – we will try and do something when we are back. In the meantime please donate via the Christian Aid website, if you are able: www.christianaid.org.uk

VE DAY 75 CELEBRATIONS: Schedule



9.00am HYMNS AND PRAYERS FOR VE DAY At this time I will publish a short video with prayers and hymns for VE Day on Facebook.

10.30am FACEBOOK LIVE A short live message from the Rector to ensure people know what is happening later in the day.

11.00am TWO MINUTES' SILENCE Join the nation in paying tribute to those who lost their lives that we might live in peace.

12.00 noon MESSAGES FROM MAYOR AND RECTOR In conjunction with the Town Council this will happen around this time.

2.45pm THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF VICTORY BBC One will present a programme remembering Winston Churchill's famous victory speech given at 3pm on 8 May 1945. Concludes at 3.45pm.

4.00pm ZOOM TEA PARTY FOR VE DAY 75 Join us in the Parish of Thorpe St Andrew on Zoom for some fun on VE Day. Including tea and cake (your own) and a song practice of 'We'll meet again'. See below.
Zoom invitation will be send out on Wednesday 6th May.

7.00pm THE CHURCH BELL WILL BE RUNG We now have very limited permission for one person to enter church to ring the bell.

8.00pm VE DAY 75: THE PEOPLE'S CELEBRATION BBC One celebrations continue. A recorded message from HM The Queen will be delivered at **9.00pm** (the same time her father gave his historic address). This is followed by the nation joining in on our doorsteps with a national rendition of 'We'll meet again.'

OTHER NOTICES AND USEFUL INFORMATION

RECTOR'S RAINBOW CHALLENGE I'm **extending** my Rainbow Challenge, because the response has been very good and a number have asked if they can have extra time and also so that we can celebrate VE Day properly. If you have so far missed this I am making a plea to all our young people (Junior Choir, Cafe Church, family members of parishioners, schools/nurseries, Girlguiding / Scouting contacts) immediately to get painting, drawing, crafting, creating rainbows in whatever way you can, so that we can send as huge cards (various entries put together) to the local nursing homes and, depending on how many there are, we can then go on to send to residents of our community who are self isolating at home - and hopefully have some to display in our three church noticeboards. Prizes will be awarded in five categories – Early Years, Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, Secondary School and Adult (because I know there will be some adults that want to join in!) Huge thanks to Cllr Ian Mackie for giving the first prizes. It would be good to have some to show on Facebook on Sunday (3 May) at our weekly online service, with another lot the following Sunday (10 May). The deadline is the end of the day on **14 May 2020** (11.59pm). Please enclose with the entry (preferably on the back) - name, age (if under 18) and email or phone contact. Please post through the letter box (using appropriate precautions) or send by Royal Mail to:

The Revd James Stewart, The Rectory, 21a South Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew, NORWICH, NR7 0EY

PARISH LIFE There is no May edition of Parish Life, due to the restrictions on delivery. We hope to be back for June! If you require a copy of the extended 16-page newsletter, sent out last week, please let me know.

PLANNED GIVING AND COLLECTIONS We have had several questions about planned giving whilst our church buildings are closed under the COVID-19 restrictions. We are not currently able to receive, nor count, Free Will Offering / Gift Aid envelopes. If you have been thinking about setting up a Standing Order, or wish to make an online payment, please contact Sally, our Treasurer, for details, on treasurersa@gmail.com. When the situation with Covid-19 becomes clearer, we will give further guidance. I would encourage all to consider prayerfully how we each can contribute to what is going to be a financially difficult time when we return. There is much hope for new possibilities in the future but we need to meet our obligations to the Diocese and have money left for our mission and ministry.

DO YOU NEED OUR HELP? If you need food delivering/ medication collecting, please contact Fr James we can signpost a volunteer.

FOODBANK Thank you for all those who brought things in for the FoodBank. I am receiving items for the FoodBank at the Rectory, for onward transmission to the FoodBank. Please leave on the doorstep and I will add them to our collection. This is only for whilst churches are closed!

100 CLUB This is currently suspended. We will let you know more when we are back. Please bear with us.

ANYONE FOR AFTER CHURCH COFFEE?! We are doing our very best to offer as much as we can to our parishioners and residents as we possibly, using as many means of communication as we can. We had a lovely coffee morning on St George's Day via Zoom and are now hosting after church coffee each Sunday at 11.00am. **PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME.** I have had a number of comments that there needs to be a break between the service and coming onto Zoom. Since this newsletter is uploaded on the Parish Life website the zoom invitation is sent out in the weekly email – so that we know who is in the potential invitation list.

AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR, 31 OCTOBER 2020 (11am-3pm) Subject to restrictions operating at the time this is the replacement for all the stallholders who had booked for our Spring Craft Fair. More details later.

KEEPING CONNECTED You can keep connected by:

- Tuning into our (technology permitting) Facebook live streamed service every Sunday at 9.30am, worshipping together electronically.
- Receiving our weekly emails and other updates. Please supply your email to rector@thorpeparishchurch.org. Hard copies are being posted out.
- Finding resources/updates on Thorpe St Andrew Parish Church Facebook page and on our Parish Life website - www.parish-life.co.uk

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact our Rector,

The Revd James Stewart (Fr James)

Tel: 01603 439160 or email him at rector@thorpeparishchurch.org