



# The Parish of Thorpe St Andrew

## MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR The Sixth Sunday of Easter: 17 May 2020



### God is close at hand for us all!

As the weeks go on – many people are getting used to a new normal. For some of us our way of life is very different and for others not much has changed. We celebrated VE Day in a ‘socially distant’ manner, which honoured the past and looked forward to the future and as we ‘digest’ the Government’s understandably complex

guidance about ‘coming out on the other side’, on the whole, people are being very patient. Something which is frustrating for one person doesn’t bother another and vice versa...! These ‘lockdown’ days will go down in history as a time when old practices were challenged and (perhaps) new practices begun. The transitional nature of our world finds people looking for something to hang onto, when everything else is so distant and close family members can’t even hug one another. As we approach Pentecost (when the Church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit) the readings for this Sunday offer a vision of God and God’s relationship that is just that - God who is close at hand and not unknown. Jesus speaks to his anxious disciples (which includes us) with words of assurance, by enjoining us to love one another. Our task is to bear witness to the love that has been in our midst - not to retreat from the world or to condemn it, but to love it, as God loves it, to immerse themselves fully in it, and, above all, to be a community that mirrors the very life of God. To enable and breathe life into this ‘project of love’ comes an advocate - a good lawyer - the ‘Spirit of truth’, who will abide with and in us – providing an intimate and ‘close at hand’ relationship, that comes as a gift not only to ‘the least, the lost and the lonely’ (as Bishop Graham often helpfully describes the most vulnerable in our communities) but also to **all of us** – inspiring us, educating us and calling us on to new and wonderful possibilities. Love is all around, as the song goes, so let’s hold onto it and embrace it for all it’s worth. May you know God’s love this week and for ever! God bless you all!

*Father James*

## SERVICE DETAILS and PRAYER INTENTIONS for 17 May

**READINGS** Easter 6: 17 May Acts 17:22-31; John 14:15-21

**HYMNS** A new commandment; All my hope on God is founded

**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** Our Salvation Army colleagues locally, Russell and Alison Day
- **Anglican Communion** Anglican Church of Korea, Bp Moses Nagjun Yoo
- **All who live in** St Andrews Business Park, St Andrews Cl, St Andrews Ct
- **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 All public transport workers – drivers of trains and buses, office staff and those working on the infrastructure of rail and road.*
- **Those who are sick or in need**, including  
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, Joy and Andy McCall, Rita Ward, Len Bennett, Alison Gibson
- **The recently departed** Janet Godfrey, Alan Heelas, Beryl Licence, Brenda Debenham, Margaret Vine, Cesaltina Mendes, Joyce Smith
- **Those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time**  
*(All dates in May)* including Joan Cornish (17th), Richard Allington-Smith (19th), Michael Ireland (19th), Len Davies (24th), Mary Jackman (24th)

## PARISH REGISTER – FUNERALS for 17 May

- 6 May** Janet Godfrey, burial in the Thorpe St Andrew Burial Ground.  
**14 May** Beryl Licence, burial in the Thorpe St Andrew Burial Ground.  
**20 May** Alan Heelas, St Faith's Crematorium  
**20 May** Cesaltina Mendes, burial in the Thorpe St Andrew Burial Ground.  
**22 May** Derek Gray, Earlham Crematorium  
**26 May** Margaret Vine, St Faith's Crematorium  
**27 May** Brenda Debenham, St Faith's Crematorium

## OTHER NOTICES AND USEFUL INFORMATION

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK (10 – 16 MAY)** Christian Aid locally are making the following suggestions: (1) for those who are able to make on line donations, Christian Aid Norwich have set up a Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/norwich-christianaid> (2) People can also phone Christian Aid to donate on 020 7523 2492 (3) For those who are unable to make online donations, they suggest that they set a little money on one side ready for a Christian Aid envelope when we return!

**RECTOR'S RAINBOW CHALLENGE** This has been a great success. I hope some of you saw the coverage of Hunter Henderson's entry in the EDP and EEN. We hoping to judge this over the weekend, so that some winners can be announced on Sunday. We will be putting on a display for when Church returns. Thank you to all who have shown such an interest.

**CAKE RECIPE CHALLENGE** Recipes have begun to come in. Those who watch online will know that I laid down a new challenge to provide cake recipes so that these could go in weekly newsletters during the lockdown. The challenge has been enlarged. We will now produce a 'Thorpe St Andrew Cake Bakers' Paradise – Recipes from the lockdown' booklet to raise vitally needed funds!! Please send these in. **Deadline Sunday 28 June.** Please post them to the Rectory or email: [rector@thorpeparishchurch.org](mailto:rector@thorpeparishchurch.org)

**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](mailto: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 do need resources.

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

**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!

**NORWICH EAST ASCENSION DAY SERVICE** We would normally meet as a Deanery for Ascension Day (in fact 2 years ago it was at Thorpe St Andrew). We obviously can't at the moment. People are doing different things in the Deanery and not everyone is doing our 'full virtual communion', so I was asked to put a document together for people to use at home. It is being shared widely so I will share that on email once the Sunday service has passed, so as not to confuse you!!

**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 and tea party on VE Day via Zoom and are now hosting after church coffee each Sunday at 11.00am. **PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME.** 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:rector@thorpeparishchurch.org)