



The Parish of Thorpe St Andrew

Weekly Newsletter and Service Sheet The Fifth Sunday of Easter 2 May 2021



Bearing much fruit!

It's a Bank Holiday so the weather has turned particularly 'Bank Holiday-ish', with rain predicted for Monday. Yet, although the people sitting outside in pub gardens will probably not be happy, our farmers and gardeners are delighted that much needed rain will fall. After the rain a good deal of sun and warmer weather would also be good so that plants may grow and flourish and begin to produce fruit. In our gospel reading this Sunday Jesus sets out to describe the interdependent relationship we have with him and he with the Father. If he is like a vine gradually spreading across a wall or a trellis, putting out new shoots and growing grapes then we, he

says, are the branches. Plants, whether they be vines, or indeed anything else need good conditions and so also with us, if we are part of what God is doing and he with us then we will flourish. God's 'plants' grow and produce a bumper crop of fruit if they are immersed in love. Whenever people 'go it alone' and forget to love as God has taught us things very quickly begin to fall apart. Being fundamentally rooted and grafted into Jesus assures us of lives which may be lived in great abundance, full of love, joy and peace. Enjoy the weather!

With every blessing for the coming week,

Fr James

A Service of Eucharist for The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Organ Voluntary

Hymn

The hymn is sung by the choir. The congregation may sit.

*Refrain: A new commandment I give unto you:
that you love one another as I have loved you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.*

By this shall all know that you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another.

By this shall all know that you are my disciples:
if you have love one for another.

Refrain:

You are my friends if you do what I command you.
Without my help you can do nothing.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.
Without my help you can do nothing.

Refrain:

I am the true vine, my Father is the gard'ner.
Abide in me: I will be with you.

I am the true vine, my Father is the gard'ner.
Abide in me: I will be with you.

Refrain:

The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Alleluia. Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Welcome *Words of welcome to those in church and those online are given.*

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection. In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing. In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven. In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

Choir Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading Acts 8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 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?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 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. 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.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Reading John 15:1-8

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.** Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 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. 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. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Creed

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. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

The response to the bidding, Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

At the end Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. The peace of the risen Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace. *All may exchange a Covid-19 secure sign of peace.*

The Preparation of the Altar

This hymn is sung by the choir

Love Divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, 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 heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.
Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

These opening responses are sung. Please sit or kneel.

The Lord be with you. **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

Choir Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Andrew and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread *The minister breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Agnus Dei *The Agnus Dei is sung by the choir as the bread is broken.*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The communion is distributed. Baptised communicant members of any church are welcome to come and receive the bread alone. If you would like to receive a blessing please bring this service booklet with you, or keep your arms folded.

A hymn is sung.

Invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice, like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life thou givest - to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish - but naught changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Notices *The banns are read and announcements are made.*

The Blessing

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

Organ Voluntary

Prayer Intentions

THE CHURCH

Our Ministry Team James Stewart, Taylor Wilton-Morgan, Nicole King, Jim Green (on placement) **Norwich East Deanery** Norwich Cathedral (Holy and Undivided Trinity) **Clergy:** Jane Hedges, Peter Doll, Andrew Bryant, Keith James, Aidan Platten **Lay Ministers:** Pamela Garrett, Frank Paice **Our Bishops** Graham, Alan and Bishop Designate Jane **Archdeacons** Karen Hutchinson, Steven Betts, Ian Bentley **Anglican Communion** The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East.

THE WORLD

All those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic particularly our Care and Nursing homes - Broadland View, Larchwood, Dussindale, Mary Chapman **Vaccination** Giving thanks for those who have already received vaccines and the rolling out of the programme. **Royal Wedding Anniversary** For Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge on their 10th Wedding Anniversary.

THE COMMUNITY

Streets of the Parish Newbury Way, Newcastle Close, Northside **Our community** All within our community who took part in Giant Litter pick yesterday. Also our civic leaders on Town, District and County Councils – our new Mayor, Sue Lawn and Deputy Mayor, Jane Fisher. All those who are standing in the County Council elections on Thursday in Thorpe St Andrew and Woodside Divisions and the candidates for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk.

THOSE IN NEED OF OUR PRAYER including Paul Carter, Mark Little, Graham and Monique Rowland, Jennifer Jones, Janet Fancy, Colin Hicks, Grace Howes, Peter and Gaynor Garrood, Rita Ward, Joy and Andy McCall, Jean High, Brother Gabriel, Craig Fransham, Anthony Travis, Mark King, Chloe Smith MP, Alan Fleming

THE DEPARTED

The recently departed Margaret Hall (7 May), Alan Harrison, Wendy **Those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time including** Kathleen Chilton (2 May), Jean Towers (2 May), Pat Darwood (4 May), Doris Brown (5 May), George Shears (7 May), Kathleen Mann (8 May)

Other notices and announcements

RETURNING TO OUR CHURCHES – A BRIEF GUIDE

We are delighted to welcome you back. Please follow these guidelines:

- Please use hand sanitisers on entering and leaving the church.
- Please wear a face covering at all times in church, other than to receive the host. Please do make sure it covers your nose and mouth.
- Alternate pews are being used and within the pews please ensure we remember to sit 2 metres away from others (1 metre plus with face mask), unless from the same household or 'support bubble'
- We will not shake hands in the peace. Ensuring social distance we can place our hands together in prayer form (*Namaste* form) – to offer peace.
- Please can you place your much needed offerings and collection on the brass plate, as you come in. Collection bowls will not be passed around during the service. Those who count the collection will use gloves.
- At the Parish Church, when you come up for communion we will not be using the rails. Please form a queue, ensuring 2 metres distance in order to receive the bread (host). Please fully extend your arms fully to ensure social distance. The side aisle will be invited up first. For those requiring a blessing, hands will not be laid directly on the head.
- We will keep a list of those attending in order to comply with Government guidance which includes a request for names of attendees to be recorded and kept for 21 days to assist 'track and trace' if required.

WELCOME TO JIM We are very pleased to welcome **Jim Green** who is Reader (Licensed Lay Minister) in training from St Francis, Heartsease, who is with us until the end of May.

ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING - 16 May 2021 at 11.00am (PC).

Advanced notice is also given of these meetings. Nomination forms available from the Rector for Churchwardens, Deanery Synod reps and PCC members.

POP UP PLANT SALE 2021 ANNOUNCED After the success of our 2020 sale the gardening team is pleased to announce the Pop Up Plant Sale 2021! This will be held on **Saturday 5th June (11am - 3pm)** in the gardens of the Parish Church. Anyone who can donate plants or unwanted plant pots please contact Margaret Hope at church or on email: mehope7@aol.com

PARISH LIFE DISTRIBUTOR NEEDED We need a distributor to cover 10 addresses in Eastern Avenue/Crescent. Please contact Patience Skelton on 01603 701116 if you can help.

NORWICH EAST DEANERY ASCENSION DAY SERVICE This will take place at St Stephen's Church, Norwich at 7.00pm on Thursday 13th May 2021. Please support this if you can.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2021 There will be a bucket collection on Sundays 9 and 16 May. Further details on www.christianaid.org.uk

100 CLUB – APRIL RESULTS Two prizes of £25 – Nicole King, Christine Rockett; two prizes of £15 – Patience Skelton, Alex Olney

Forthcoming Social Events

27 June Summer Concert and Strawberry Tea – Parish Church

17 July Summer Fete – Parish Church

4, 11, 18, 25 August – Lunchtime Organ Recitals

18 September Quiz Night – St Andrew's Centre

16 October Film Night – St Andrew's Centre

30 October Autumn Fair – St Andrew's Centre

20 November Music Hall Evening

Further details as and when we hear more information!

SERVICES IN THE COMING WEEKS

These are subject to Government restrictions operating at the time.

Sun 2 May EASTER 5

8.00am Eucharist – Good Shepherd

9.30am Parish Eucharist (in person and streamed LIVE) – Parish Church

11.15am Eucharist – Good Shepherd

Sun 9 May EASTER 6

9.30am Parish Eucharist – Parish Church (in person and streamed LIVE)

11.15am Eucharist – Good Shepherd

Sun 16 May EASTER 7 (THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION)

8.00am Eucharist – Good Shepherd

9.30am Parish Eucharist (in person and streamed LIVE) – Parish Church

11.00am Annual Meeting of Parishioners and

Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Parish Church