



The Parish of Thorpe St Andrew

WEEKLY NEWS AND SERVICE SHEET The Sunday after Ascension: 24 May 2020



MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

We've got work to do!

We have just celebrated Christ's ascension into heaven. Jesus doesn't say (as they do in Star Trek) 'beam me up, Scottie!' Yet, one moment he is there and the next he has gone! Some depictions of the Ascension don't even show Christ's body fully at all. We just see his feet and the disciples – the men of Galilee (as the Scriptures remind us) – looking up, with rather gormless expressions on their faces! Jesus has physically left but **gives us all work to do** and in Sunday's gospel reading prays that the disciples may unite in the tasks that God has given us. It is important to realise that all of us have a part to play in this and whatever we may be doing day in, day out, however mundane it might seem, is God's work. Jesus does just that. He has left us behind for the good of the world, so that in our ordinary lives we can help to care for the world and it's people. As we reflect on this, it might be worth just thinking about how God is at work in us and through us, for the good of the world – and perhaps how in the 'new normal' we can do even more of this. Some Christians believe this life is simply practice for the next one. Others believe it is some kind of trial, something to be endured until a future glory. Still others think of this life as a test, a time and place to prove ourselves worthy of heaven. Yet – there is another way at looking at all of this. Yes, there are trials (and don't we know it at the moment?) Yes, things can be difficult, confusing, and pretty discouraging. We need not feel like that, though, since we have the assurance, as Jesus says farewell to his disciples, that God is with us to help us not merely persevere but also to flourish (that's what the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, is!) and that God intends us to be committed to this world, this people, this place, here and now. We are commissioned and blessed to participate in this work and to share this amazing promise. So, in the days and weeks that are ahead of us, we have work to do! God's work – and it's exciting stuff. We are promised that we will soon hear more about how restrictions will be lifted. Let's embrace our work together, as we come to understand what is planned for us, as God's work – taking away our own 'agendas' and working together for the building up of God's kingdom in this wonderful community. Now that's exciting. God bless you all.

Father James

Front Cover picture:

The six winners in our Rainbow Challenge (see elsewhere in these notices for details).

SERVICE DETAILS and PRAYER INTENTIONS for 24 May

READINGS Acts 1:6-14; John 17:1-11

HYMNS Lord of all hopefulness; Christ triumphant

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** 24 May - URC: Eastern Synod Moderator, Paul Whittle
- **Anglican Communion** Anglican Communion Sunday. For the Archbishop of Canterbury and all primates/bishops. Sec. Gen., Josiah Itemalu Count.
- **All those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic** All key workers in NHS and all other fields of frontline work, including all those working in our local hospitals (NNUH), including doctors, nurses, porters, cleaners, cooks, administrative staff, chaplains
- **All who live in** St Andrew's Park, St Andrew's Square, St Catherine's Road
- **Those celebrating anniversaries** particularly Anthea and Roger Cawdron (Golden Wedding – 24th May)
- **Those who are sick or in need**, including Brian Riseborough, Paul Carter, Mark Little, Monique Rowland, Jennifer Jones, Janet Fancy, Colin Hicks, Glenys Paflin, Audrey Camp, Alan Harrison, Jill Hall, Grace Howes, Peter and Gaynor Garrood, Anne Farthing, Len Bennett, Alison Gibson, Joy and Andy McCall, Dave Whitton
- **The recently departed** Alan Heelas, Cesaltina Mendes, Derek Gray, Margaret Vine, Brenda Debenham, Albert Hastings, Jean Brown, Joyce Smith
- **Those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time**
(*All dates in May*) including Len Davies (24th), Mary Jackman (24th), Arthur Underwood (25th), Donald Robinson (27th), Arthur Woodward (27th), Nesta Rush (27th), Sandra Fleming (30th), Keith Holmes (end of May)

PARISH REGISTER – FUNERALS for May/June

26 May Margaret Vine, St Faith's Crematorium

27 May Brenda Debenham, St Faith's Crematorium

3 June Albert Hastings, Earlham Crematorium

5 June Jean Brown, interment of ashes, TSA Burial Ground

OTHER NOTICES AND USEFUL INFORMATION

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK (10 – 16 MAY) – LAST REMINDER

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 We are proud to confirm the category winners of the Rainbow Challenge (with over 50 entries), announced live on Sunday, each receiving a £20 voucher.

- **Winners: Under 5** Maxim Olney-Waller **KS1** Florence Bunn **KS2** Francesca Podmore **KS3/4** Dominika Drewniak **Adult** The Waterhouse Family **International** Hunter Henderson
- **Runners up** in the **highly contested KS2 Category** (winning £10 vouchers each) Olive Kerrison, Harrison Fish, Hannah Gursen, Esme Rogers.
- **Highly commended** (winning a set of Rainbow Colouring Pens/adult equivalent prize!): **Under 5** Thomas Squirrell, Wren Lawson, Winter Lawson, Grace Howes **KS1** Maggie Lawson, Lucy Fancy, Emily Slinger, Joseph Squirrell, Scarlett Waterhouse, Matilda Waterhouse **KS2** Sophie Slinger, Libby Clasper, Maisey Coady, Nicola Fancy, Hannah Impey, Lucas Desborough **KS3** Tula Kerrison **Adult** Alison Carman, Pat Bales, Heidi Kerrison, Janet Fancy

Certificates and prizes will follow. With thanks to County Councillor Ian Mackie for making a contribution to the prizes and assisting Mrs Pat Stewart and me in the judging. Well done to all. We are now designing a creative way of sharing these and other entries with our nursing homes and isolated people - and will be making a display for church when restrictions are lifted.

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

PARISH LIFE We are still praying for a change in the regulations so that we can be back for June! Please WATCH THIS SPACE and our other notices. We will, if we can!!

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 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!

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.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact our Rector,

The Revd James Stewart (Fr James)

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