

YOUR GIVING TO ST. JOHN'S TO SUPPORT ITS MISSION IN OUR COMMUNITY

At St John's we are very grateful to all our congregation and visitors for their kind and generous donations to the church. These donations are crucial in ensuring we can continue to operate (we don't receive any funding from the diocese to cover the cost of running the church), and the suspension of services is likely to have a very significant impact on church finances. Further details on how you can support St. John's provided on previous pew sheets or from Caroline Gulliver (gulliverjc@aol.com).

EASY FUNDRAISING.

Another easy way to raise fund is to use the Easy Fundraising initiative. This allows you to do your online shopping as normal, whilst helping to raise funds for St John's Church. All you need to do is register as a user (for free) at www.easyfundraising.org.uk and nominate St John's Church Lacey Green as your nominated beneficiary.

Once you are registered, every time you want to shop online, simply go to the easy fundraising site, pop in your password and then click through to the retailer you want to shop with. This takes you to the retailer's usual site for you to make your purchase, where you will still pay the price you would have done anyway. Once you have made your purchase, the retailer makes a donation to St John's as a thank you for shopping with them. There are thousands of retailers available and they will give a donation every time you buy something, at no extra cost to you. It's that simple! Retailers include M&S, Vodafone, Amazon, John Lewis, Sports Direct, Boots and many more (4,000+).

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The Church of England guidance remains the same the church building being closed to Sunday worship. Although our usual pattern of Sunday Services and mid-week gatherings must be put on hold, this does not mean that the Church of England has shut up shop. Being a part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the days ahead. At least for the time being, our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at Church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day. We may not be able to pray for people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people. And we can certainly offer practical care and support. Keep safe and please continue to pray for one another.

Canon Tony, The Churchwardens & The PCC

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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

**Week Commencing
SUNDAY 10TH MAY 2020**

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FOCUS ON THE PERSON OF JESUS

There are ancient non-biblical documents which provide reasonable historical evidence that there was indeed a teacher and healer called Jesus who was crucified by the Roman authorities during the period that Pontius Pilate was Governor of Judaea. But, in the Gospels, we read of Jesus as, not just as a human being, but as someone who has a divine authority by the authenticity of his close communion with his Father. We read of someone who did the divine thing in forgiving sins, making human beings whole, changing people's lives.

Christians therefore see Jesus not only as human but also as divine. He is like us - and yet utterly different from us. Something about him attracts our friendship – and something else about him wants us to withdraw and fall down in worship and adoration. This was the experience of the first Christians and it has also been the experience of those who have turned to Jesus down the ages. In the person of Jesus Christ, we see a God who is beyond yet also beside humanity. A God who suffers with human beings, and a God who overcomes suffering and death. This is what is implied by these words of Jesus in St. John's Gospel, "whoever has seen me has seen the Father". A Christian, then, is someone who finds the focus of his or her relationship with God in the person of Jesus Christ. And this Jesus is not just a shadowy figure of the past – he is the living Lord – alive and present today – living in his followers and in their prayer and worship.

It is this balance in Christian doctrine, between the humanity and the divinity of Christ, that makes it so exciting and so intrinsically profound. And so, in our prayers, we seek to invite Jesus to stand before us so that we can see him as he truly is; and not as we have may have made him or choose to understand him. And perhaps, at whatever stage we may be in our Christian journey, we may find that we have to learn and discover all over again what it means to turn to Christ.

Tony Bundred

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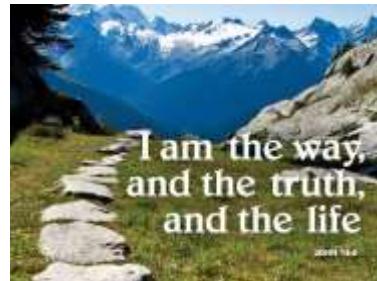
COLLECT FOR 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER AND THE FOLLOWING WEEK

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.

READINGS FOR 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts. Ch. 7 VV. 55 – 60
1 Peter Ch. 2 VV. 2 – 10

John Ch. 14 VV. 1 – 14



PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK *(Mark Roberts)*

Heavenly Father, as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day this weekend, we remember those who served this country during the Second World War. We pray for the souls of those who died serving this country and those who have died more recently. We also pray for those who are alive and still serving in their own ways, as they are able to, including Honorary Colonel Tom Moore who at the age of 99 has raised over £28 million for the NHS.

At this time, we pray for peace in the world and healing for those affected by war. We also pray for healing to those affected by the Covid-19 virus and for us as we each do our own part towards helping the country get through the pandemic.

Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women: that we may help, encourage and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.



Prayer Notes

- We pray for all parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and the souls of those who have died. We pray for those working in the NHS and Social Services who are working with the sick, the elderly and the disabled.
- We pray for those in our parish who are isolating themselves due to age or infirmity and those supporting them.
- For those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Irene Foord, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Phillipa King, Reverend Rob Brown and Barnaby Woods. We also pray for Laura Lee, daughter of June Brazier, as she recovers from the Covid-19 virus.
- For the recently departed, particularly for Ruth Barclay. May their souls rest in peace. We pray for Jo Niven and her family at this difficult time.
- For Peace and Resolution for the peoples of those countries where there is conflict or tension including countries in the Middle East, Ukraine, Nigeria, Venezuela, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong.
- For Comfort and mercy for the peoples of those countries, where there have been natural disasters, and for the aid agencies bringing relief.
- For our Government and Parliament at this time of uncertainty, that that MP's of all parties will come together in the National Interest.
- For migrants that they may receive justice and mercy.
- Safety for Christians and peoples of all faiths in danger that there may be a spirit of peace and understanding.
- For our mission and ministry in this community.
- For our Linked Parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.
- Thanks for our church community and our shared faith
- Thanks for all who help, in any way, in our Church.
- For our successful fundraising events, this year.

HELP FOR FAMILIES IN THE PRINCES RISBOROUGH AREA

St. Mary's, Princes Risborough, supported the Town Council, is setting up a temporary food bank in Princes Risborough as a joint venture between the Christian community of Princes Risborough and the Town Council. Initially this will operate from St Mary's Parish Hall. It is planned to launch the Food Bank on Monday 11th May. The Food Bank will open from 10am to 2pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. At this stage, they anticipate needing three volunteers on each day to help sort through food donations, make up food parcels, and coordinate logistics. Some people may be able to pick up their own packages, whereas others are self-isolating and will need their package delivering to the doorstep.

Initially they are looking for volunteers, food donations, gifts of money and most of all prayer support. Help and suggestions for running the Food Bank are most surely appreciated. Further details to follow.