



28 April 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to our services today

9am Parish Eucharist at St. John's & Morning Worship in the Bede House
10.30am Parish Eucharist at St Mary's

Readings: Acts 8: 26 – end, John 15: 1 - 8

Music: Organist St. Mary's: Rosemary Nayyar, Anthem, It is well with my Soul.
Hymns 115, 377, 357, 368. Organist St. John's: Keith Green, **Hymns 669, 748, 721.**

The Online Benefice Service 'Meeting Point' is for you if you missed our services in church, or for further reflection during the week.

www.stmarysstjohnsunited.co.uk

Next Week

Mon 29 6pm Evening Prayer at St John's
Tues 30 7pm – PCC meeting in the Vicarage
Tues 30 7.30pm Bellingring Practice at St. Mary's
Wed 1 May, 6pm Evening Prayer at St Mary's
Thurs 2 10am Said Eucharist, with Coffee & Chat at St. Mary's to 12noon
Thurs 2 7pm Celtic Liturgy in the Chantry Chapel
Fri 3 10am Morning Prayer at St Mary's

Sunday 5 May 2024 Sixth Sunday of Easter

9am Parish Eucharist at St. John's
10.30am All Age Parish Eucharist with Baptism at St Mary's

Collect

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Acts 8:26-end

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards 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.

John 15:1-8

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 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.

Post 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

Children are welcome at all our Services in both churches, we have children's areas with colouring and toys, and are looking at ways to better include them in all we do. We understand that some of our services can seem long to little ones, and it is absolutely fine if they need to wriggle or play or move around.

Prayers

Our prayers have been asked for: Karen Addis, Peace Armstrong, Daniel Boxall, Nola Brockhouse, Albert Clarke, Marian Cox, Christine Franklin, Colin Gilkes, Reg Harlow, Margaret Janowski, Sarah Knight, Marion Knott, Robert Matthews, Sally Mayes, Lorcan McLaren (age 11), Freda Pack, Ken & Val Robinson, Stephen Slater, Fr. Nichols Spencer, Elizabeth Swindley, Stewart Wiles, Clare Yorke, Jack (aged 10). **St John's:** Jo Barrie, Pauline Brown, Noreen Hogan, Lesley Littlejohn, Brenda May, Sara Owst, Gyles Smart.

In Memoriam.

Year's mind anniversaries: Annie Lovell, Annie Cherry, Ray Hegarty, Rose Newman, Geoffrey Palmer, Cedric Briggs, Walter Grant, Frank Jones, William Thompson, Edith Short, Anna Sauntson, Karel Smith, Charles Johnson, Betty Hill, Alfred Edmunds, Walter Dickenson, Kate Ling, Janet Morris, Cyril Smith, Florence Wilson, Harriett McDonald, Victoria Ward.

NOTICES

BENEFICE

Saturday 27 April, 12noon, a celebration Eucharist in thanks of Canon Lesley's 30 years of priestly ministry, followed by refreshments. All welcome.

I am delighted to share that we will be joined at St Mary's on the 12th May by the Rt Rev'd Debbie Sellin, Bishop of Peterborough who will preside and preach at our 10.30am Eucharist.

I have extended an invitation to our St John's church family to join us on that day, it is also possible that we may have visitors from elsewhere. Come and meet Debbie over refreshments in church at the end of the service. Mthr L

Food Bank current needs, please place in our donation boxes. Tins: meat, fish, vegetables, custard, fruit, rice pudding, soup. Tea, sugar, coffee, jam, washing tabs, washing up liquid, anti-bac spray, toilet rolls, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste.

LEGO – Mthr Louise is wanting to start a monthly LEGO church for children and parents, but to start it needs lots of LEGO bricks, baseboards, minifigs, and

the interesting bits like trees, flowers, animals. Do you have any gathering dust that you can donate? Thank you for all the LEGO received to date.

ST. MARY'S

APCM – 19 May, following the 10.30am Eucharist.

We are currently revising the Electoral Roll, please check that your name is correctly shown on the list in the foyer. Please notify any errors, if you wish to be added to the Electoral Roll complete an application, packs are available.

Thank you to all who helped with the Spring-Cleaning Day, I think we can all agree that the church and the chantry chapel are cleaner more tidy spaces.

The Bookshelf. It has been decided to discontinue our bookshelf from the end of April, remaining books will be donated. A new church library will be set up soon.

ST JOHN'S

Tea and Cakes 2–4pm, Tues, 21 May, 18 Jun, 16 Jul, 20 Aug, 17 Sep.

Knit and Natter 1–3pm 28 May (visit to Milton Ernest), 25 Jun, 23 Jul, 27 Aug, 24 Sep.

Advance notice – our 305th USAF friends will be with us on Sunday 26 May for their annual visit. Due to travel constraints, this service will be at 10am rather than the usual 9am and all are welcome to join us.

Special Services at St. John's

22 June Arts & Music Festival 23 June St. John's Patronal Service

29 Sept Harvest Festival with Supper and Auction

For all enquiries and requests for pastoral help:

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Churchwardens:

St. John's; Arthur Wright 01933 624530, and Andrew Wager 07789 286398

St. Mary's; Dave Stuttle 07941 306391, and Sandy Coleman 07519 396654

The Benefice administration office is usually open Tuesdays and Fridays;

9.30 to 2.30, email enquiries are preferred but please be patient awaiting a reply!

Mthr Louise will be off duty Saturday 4 May.