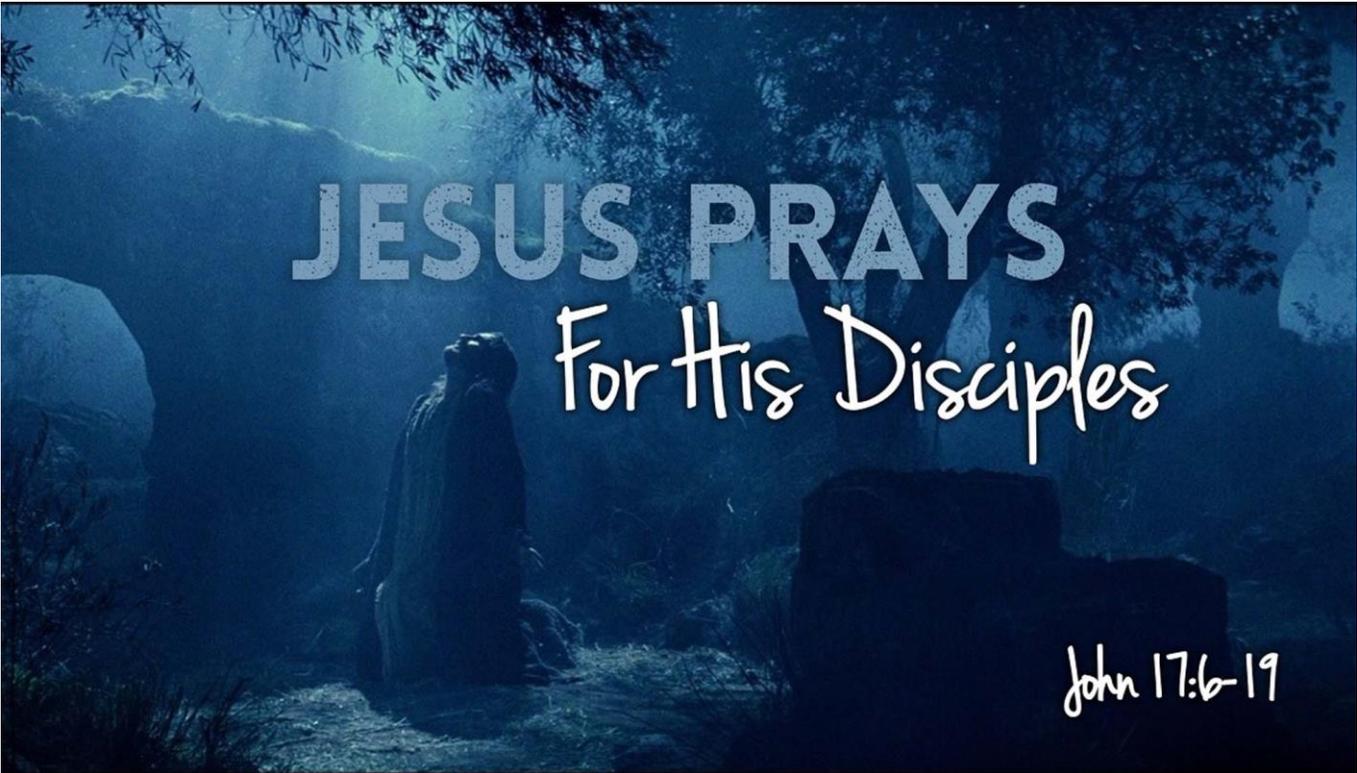


St. Mary's, Stoke D'Abernon
Seventh Sunday of Easter



JESUS PRAYS

For His Disciples

John 17:6-19

May 16th 2021

A Message from Godfrey

Today we celebrate that moment when Jesus physically departed from his apostles, and for them it was a bereavement. Of course, he'd warned them that he was to go, but like any one of us, even if we know that parting is coming, it doesn't make it any easier when it actually takes place. Our reading from the Acts of the Apostles describes the moment when Jesus was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

The Ascension certainly seems to have reassured the apostles. Afterwards, they went out to the whole world and preached everywhere, confident that the Lord was still with them, despite his physical departure. Jesus promised the apostles, and us, that he would be with us always and that he would send the Holy Spirit to witness to the truth. When our loved ones pass away, when they are taken to be with God in heaven, we know that through Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension into heaven we are with them always. Jesus' human body may be in heaven, but there is a sense in which his body continues here, and that is the body of Christ. That is his church – you and me – we make up the body of Christ. We make Jesus present in our communion together and the Holy Spirit resides, lives, dwells within us.

Let us not forget today, as we are caught up in the middle of this pandemic, that even the disciples themselves were experiencing the normal human emotions that we all go through and that many are going through particularly at this time, as loved ones are dying and as families cannot freely gather as they normally would for funeral services.

These days we tend not to think of the forty day journey from Easter but rather the fifty day journey from Easter, which leads us to Pentecost, and it is this period between Ascension and Pentecost that the church throughout the world is focusing on at the moment with the prayer initiative Thy Kingdom Come. During that initiative, we are invited to think of five people who we would love to see come to faith in Jesus Christ. Who might you be praying for today? Who might you pray for during this ten-day period? Consider carefully how you can use this time and so grow in your prayer life and, indeed, in bringing others to know and love the Lord Jesus.

There has been some discussion recently about whether the words at the end of the eucharist service should be changed. Not so much “go in peace to love and serve the Lord”, but “stay at home in peace to love and serve the Lord”, or, perhaps, “stay alert in peace to love and serve the Lord”. What does it look like for us at the moment to be a church looking outwards? We come to church Sunday by Sunday in order to be sent out – sent out into the world to praise the Lord and to serve his people.

So, what does the Ascension say to us, what do we take from this ‘outward looking’ festival when we are staying safely at home? It recognises that Jesus has completed his work on earth, he was going to the Father where he would sit at the Father’s right hand, reigning over the whole world as Lord and King. And we know from John’s Gospel that Jesus has gone to prepare a place for each one of us. Our hope. Our destiny and even with restrictions lifting again tomorrow we need more than ever to be able to speak of the Good News of Jesus and the promise of eternal life.

That is, we, like those apostles, can be sent out in the power of the spirit, to live and work to God’s praise and glory. As we celebrate the Ascension season as we remember Jesus leaving this world and going to his Father, let us remember that that is also our ultimate destiny to be with God in heaven. With angels, with archangels, and with all the company of heaven, as we say at every Eucharist.

And so today, as we give thanks today for the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ, the completion of his work on earth, as we give thanks for the command he gave to the apostles and the command he gives to you and me today to go out to the whole world and proclaim the good news, let us rejoice in this faith. Let us rejoice that we too, one day, will be called to be with God in heaven.

Amen.

Bible References 16 – 22 May 2021

Year B	Psalm	First reading	Second reading
Seventh Sunday of Easter May 16th	Psalm 1	Acts 1 : 15 – 17, 21 - end	John 17 : 6 - 19
Monday May 17th	Psalm 68 : 1-6	Acts 19 : 1 - 8	John 16 : 29 - end
Tuesday May 18th	Psalm 68 : 9-10, 18 - 19	Acts 20 : 17 - 27	John 17 : 1 - 11
Wednesday May 19th	Psalm 68 : 27 – 28, 32 - end	Acts 20 : 28 - end	John 17 : 11 - 19
Thursday May 20th	Psalm 16 : 1, 5 - end	Acts 22 : 30; 23 : 6 - 11	John 17 : 20 - end
Friday May 21st	Psalm 103 : 1 – 2, 11 - 12	Acts 25 : 13 - 21	John 21 : 15 - 19
Saturday May 22nd	Psalm 11 : 4 - end	Acts 28 : 16 – 20, 30 - end	John 21 : 20 - end

Hyperlinks to Guildford Cathedral Services :

<https://www.guildford-cathedral.org/worship/services>

St Mary's, Thorpe website :

<https://www.stmaryschurchthorpe.co.uk/>

Collect 16th May 2021

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen





Music for Sunday 16th May

The organ voluntaries in today's service feature some of the music that was chosen by His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh for his funeral service in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, last month.

Prelude

Salix - Percy Whitlock (1903-1946).

Whitlock was one of the outstanding organist-composers of his time. He studied with Stanford and Vaughan Williams, and after a period as assistant organist of Rochester cathedral he became borough organist at the Bournemouth Municipal Pavilion.

Although a disciple of Delius, Elgar, and Rachmaninov in particular, Whitlock's voice remains distinctive – his style being particularly intimate and personal.

Salix is the fourth movement, of Whitlock's *Plymouth Suite*, *Salix* meaning a weeping willow tree. The main theme of this movement in the pastoral style is a gentle 'Sicilian' tune in 6/8 time, and this piece is one of the composer's finest miniatures.

Communion Voluntary

Berceuse - Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Berceuse is one of the collection of 25 *pieces en style libre* by Louis Vierne, a pupil of César Franck, and later organist of Notre Dame, Paris. Vierne's harmonic language was romantically rich, and like all the great *fin de siècle* French organists, his music was very idiomatic for his chosen instrument, composed to draw specific timbres from the organ. The *Berceuse* is an exquisitely expressive and contemplative piece.

Postlude

Fugue in C minor BWV 546 – JS Bach (1685-1750)

This fugue is the companion to the Prelude in C minor played in last Sunday's service. The fugue is believed to have been composed around 30 years earlier, during Bach's time in Weimar, and was added to the prelude when Bach was at St Thomas's, Leipzig.

The fugue is in five voices (though the voices are heard all together only in the opening exposition of the fugue and at the very end,) where, as by tradition, the texture expands even further, drawing the fugue to a powerful conclusion in 8 parts.

Parish Notices

Sunday Services at St. Mary's

We are delighted to announce the resumption of services of communal worship at St. Mary's . Services will take a similar form to those practiced before the latest lockdown.

A single Said Communion service will be held on Sunday mornings starting at 10:00am. Communion will be in one kind and offered at the Chancel steps. Initially, the services will be without musical accompaniment or hymn singing. This situation will be reviewed in line with Government regulations and Diocesan guidance. Strict social distancing measures will continue to be observed. The maximum number of worshippers admitted will depend on family groupings but is expected to be of the order of 35-40. Duty Wardens and Sidesmen will be on hand to assist with seating arrangements.

In support of the Government's Test and Trace programme, worshippers will again be required to pre -register their attendance and give a contact telephone number to a Duty Warden on arrival. Service attendance records will be retained for 21 days and then be destroyed.

In order to assist us in observing social distancing guidelines and avoid the potential disappointment of being refused entry we ask all worshippers who wish to attend on successive Sundays to notify the Parish office **each week**, either by telephone on 01932 866005 or by email at:

admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk

Revision to opening Hours for Private Prayer

With the re start of communal worship, St. Mary's will remain open until 2pm on Sundays for private prayer. The church will no longer be opened on Thursdays..

Hall Opening

We are again taking provisional hall bookings for events, consistent with Government guidelines, from 17th May. Please contact Polly with your enquiries about hall availability for private or group functions admin@stmarysstokedabernon.org.uk or Tel. 01932 866005

Parish Communications

The weekly Parish leaflet will continue and be issued on regular email distribution to those on the electoral role and others who have specifically requested it. Similarly, the St Mary's website will be updated as appropriate to advise of any changes to services or other significant news.

The St Mary's Chat WhatsApp Group will continue to allow people to share their prayers and thoughts and for Godfrey to post his personal messages.

PCC Meetings

The date of the next PCC meeting is Thursday 20th May at 7.30pm via zoom. If you have any issues you wish to raise at the meeting please let Polly know.

Christian Aid Week



This week is Christian Aid week – if you would like to make a donation please follow this link.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

Lunchtime Concerts



We are delighted that lunchtime concerts are starting again on Thursday 8th July at 1.30pm when the pupils from Yehudi Menuhin will be visiting us. On the basis that social distancing will still be required please register your intention to attend with Polly.

Chair Yoga will continue on zoom

Register in advance for this meeting:

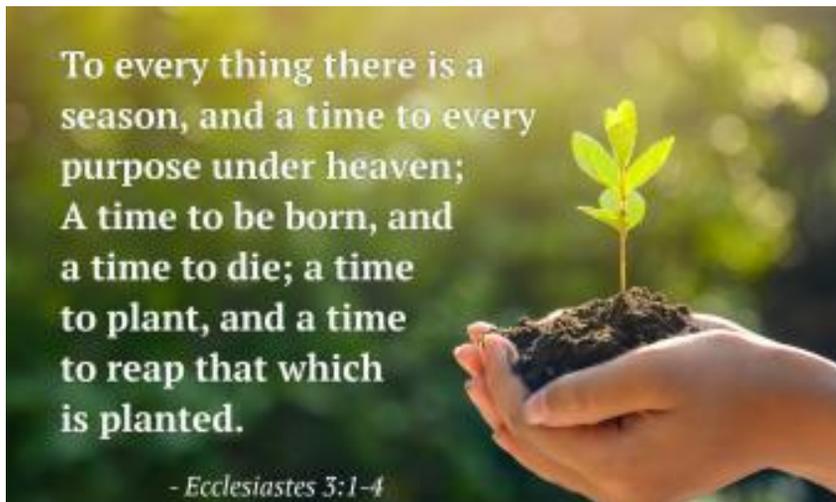
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckcO-trzljEtGrmiE7 -BsHIGkmVpnJCXR](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckcO-trzljEtGrmiE7-BsHIGkmVpnJCXR)

(If you cut and paste this into your browser it will automatically link you)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Meeting ID; 858 5729 6019 Passcode: 35 44 47

It is with immense sadness that we announce the death of Margaret Bell, so terribly sad so soon after Edwin.



Hey! Don't forget the ...

Here is the list of items most needed for our Foodbank. Please can you help us by buying an item and putting it in one of our collecting bins? Thank you for your help.

URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS

- **Childrens toothbrushes**
- **Savoury snacks**
- **Household bleach**
- **Smooth peanut butter**
- **Baby wipes**
- **Toilet paper**

