

**24 May
2020**

Easter 7



Welcome to
St Barnabas' in Pound Hill and
St Nicholas' in Worth

*On the advice of the Archbishops of Canterbury
and York **all public worship is suspended**
until further notice.*

SERVICES TODAY

There will be no public worship today.

CHURCHES NOW CLOSED

There will no longer be access to either
St Barnabas' or St Nicholas'
until further notice.

ALL

Events and Meetings
are cancelled or postponed
until further notice.

See www.worthparish.org
For the latest information

Please send pew sheet notices to
pewsheet@worthparish.org or
phone 0300 111 8150

The feast of the Ascension is an important part of the Easter celebration; it takes the events of a particular time and place, not only out from the local setting to the global, but to the cosmic. In the orthodox tradition we find icons and mosaics showing the extent of the impact of Jesus' death and resurrection. After the crucifixion and before the resurrection and ascension, the eastern church depicts Jesus' descent into the realm of the dead, the harrowing of hell. We see him holding by each hand, hauling Adam and Eve out through the burst gates of hell.

For us this is a reminder of the freedom he brings. We live in what can often be a terrifying world. Being fearful in these turbulent times seems to be a perfectly normal and reasonable state to be in. Even without a pandemic raging around us, we face fear of violent crime, fear of job loss, fear of failure, fear of illness, fear for the well-being of people we love, fear of terrorism, of war, and finally fear of the last enemy of all, fear of death.

We can easily get ourselves into a paralysing state that is truly hellish. Christ's descent into hell reminds us that he can enter not just some other hell but the hell we happen to be in, grab us by the hands and lift us out of our tombs. It is his continual presence dwelling with us that raises us to eternal joy.

We, the church, are Christ's body now, the fullness of him who fills all in all. From God he comes, born of Mary, and to God he returns, risen in glory, the marks of his passion now seen as glorious scars.

His Ascension is about Jesus being present no longer just to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and Galilee but, through the gift

Continued ➡

of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, to the people of West Sussex and beyond. Jesus, risen, ascended, glorified comes to us, here, to be with us, dwell in us, inspire us. He comes as breath and fire of God. In the Eucharist we are given a sense of that fullness, in that deep mystery, the communion of all the faithful, we catch a flicker of God's glory and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. As we see one another, speak and listen to each other, let us remember in all we speak or think or do, to reflect Jesus' promise to his Father, that the love with which he has been loved and which he has shown to us may be in turn be known and demonstrated by us. Then, may we truly be called his disciples, if we love one another.

So then may we all, like the apostles who first bore witness to the Risen Lord, be clothed with power from on high, to fulfil his purpose and do his will.

Fr Michael

Collect

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**

Reading Acts 1.6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were

gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee,



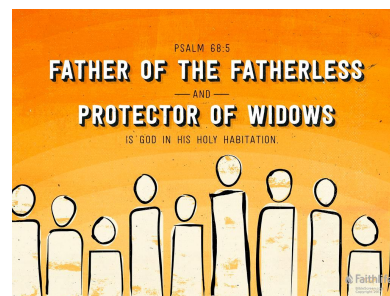
why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Psalm Psalm 68.1-10,32-35

Let God rise up, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee before him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, let the wicked perish before God. But let the righteous be joyful; let them exult before God; let them be jubilant with joy.

Sing to God, sing praises to his name; lift up a song to him who rides upon the clouds - his name is the Lord - be exultant before him.



Father of orphans and protector of widows is God in his holy habitation. God gives the desolate a home to live in; he leads out the prisoners

to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a parched land.

O God, when you went out before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, the earth quaked, the heavens poured down rain at the presence of God,

the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel. Rain in abundance, O God, you showered abroad; you restored your heritage when it languished; your flock found a dwelling in it; in your goodness, O God, you provided for the needy.

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; sing praises to the Lord, O rider in the heavens, the ancient heavens; listen, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel; and whose power is in the skies. Awesome is God in his sanctuary, the God of Israel; he gives power and strength to his people.

Reading | *Peter 4.12-14;5.6-11*

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange



were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel *John 17.1-11*



After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

Post Communion

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SERVICES THIS WEEK

There will be no public worship until further notice.

Sunday 31 May 2020 Day of Pentecost

Acts 2.1-21 Psalm 104.26-36,37b
1 Corinthians 12.3b-13 John 20.19-23

Festivals this week

Mon 25 May	The Venerable Bede, Monk, Scholar, Historian 735 (LF) Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherborne 709 (C)
Tues 26 May	Augustine, First Archbishop of Canterbury 605 (LF) John Calvin, Reformer 1564 (C) Philip Neri, Founder of the Oratorians 1595 (C)
Thur 28 May	Lanfranc, Prior, Archbishop of Canterbury, Scholar 1089 (C)
Sat 30 May	Josephine Butler, Social Reformer 1906 (LF) Joan of Arc, Visionary 1431 (C) Apolo Kivebulaya, Priest, Evangelist in Central Africa 1933 (C)
(F) Festival; (LF) Lesser Festival; (C) Commemoration	

Marie Loxton

We regret to announce the recent death of Marie, wife of the Revd John Loxton.

100 Club May Draw

£100 Viv Tillyer (25)
£50 Ann Lane (36)
£25 Elizabeth Whyman (22)
£25 Bill Puttick (16)

DIARY NOTES & NOTICES

Coronavirus, church – and YOU

You are invited to complete an online survey designed to assess how churchgoers have responded to the experience of coronavirus and the lockdown, and what they think the future might hold. The survey should take 20-30 minutes and is at: tinyurl.com/ycsq9fy2
See Church Times 8 May 2020 p.2

Donations to Open House

I have spoken to Open House and they would be grateful for UHT milk, eggs and gravy. I am going to put the blue box outside the St Barnabas' vicarage door and so if people would like to donate items then I will deliver them. Other items for food parcels also gratefully received.
Revd Sarah

Information about events at **Chichester Cathedral** and other resources can be found at: www.chichestercathedral.org

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OBVIOUSLY JESUS' PRAYER DIDN'T WORK. HE ONLY ASKS FOR TWO THINGS: GLORY FOR HIMSELF AND SAFETY FOR THE DISCIPLES AND THEN— HE GETS KILLED AND THEY GET MARTYRED!



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

BUT JESUS' GLORY IS THE CROSS, AND THE CHURCH'S MISSION HAPPENS.



CLEARLY, I NEED TO EXPLICITLY DEFINE MY TERMS WHEN I PRAY!



JOHN 17:1-11

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Life in Zimbabwe May 2020

Dear Friends

I thought in this lockdown time, with so little happening, you might like a few photos of the young people you are supporting. There is not a lot of news. Like us they are in lockdown. We have 17 in the house in Harare and our trustee Dr Tumushine has set up a secure quarantine area along with our student doctor Kundai. You see Kundai in the first photo cooking meat at a barbeque (we call it a braai) along with Tinashe.



The second photo is of some of the young people in that house, all full of energy and life. They are great fun. Tariro, the tall girl on the right had in fact just got married and in January had her first baby, a girl. We now have six “grandchildren” from that house, all with properly married parents.

The rural kids are all at their homes, which is not good as their homes are very poor. We

try to make sure they get enough to eat but they, and we, are longing to go back to school which is a much better environment for them even with Covid 19 around. The young people here are all in Chipinge along with their priest Fr Benjamin and one of the mothers.



These two are also in Chipinge. Ruvarashe is now in primary school and as you can see is quite a little ‘madam’. Her older sister Brenda is lovely, just started an IT course at Mutare polytechnic.

And finally two boys – Tinashe and Joram. They are brothers and live in Shurugwi. They come from a very poor home, with rather abusive grandparents I fear, but we manage to give them something to smile about in their tough lives.



Covid-19 does not yet seem to have made a big impact on Zimbabwe. We hope that remains true for all sorts of obvious reasons but particularly since medical resources are so limited. I am pretty confident our youngsters are as safe as they can be. I just don't want their education interrupted. It is too important to them. Do please remember these kids and the other 40 we support. I hope to write to you all again quite soon.

With all good wishes and thanks for everything

Nicolas CR