

News and Prayer Update for 24th May (Sunday after Ascension Day)

Rostherne with Bollington, St John High Legh and St Paul Over Tabley

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Do You Need To Talk To Someone? Call any of the above, we have other people who are also experienced in listening who are willing to help, so **please do call, we are here for you.** All conversations are in strict confidence.



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Link for this week's service: <https://youtu.be/ZKlal6tdzA4>

HYMN: Lord I Lift Your Name on High

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the grave to the sky,
Lord I lift your name on high.

Rick Founds.

READINGS FOR SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Psalm: Psalm 68: 1-10

¹ LET God arise, and let his enemies be scattered
let them also that hate him flee before him.

² Like as the smoke vanisheth, so shalt thou drive them away:
and like as wax melteth at the fire,
so let the ungodly perish at the presence of God.

³ But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God:
let them also be merry and joyful.

⁴ O sing unto God, and sing praises unto his Name:
magnify him that rideth upon the heavens, as it were upon an horse;
praise him in his Name jah, and rejoice before him.

⁵ He is a father of the fatherless, and defendeth the cause of the widows:
even God in his holy habitation.

⁶ He is the God that maketh men to be of one mind in an house,
and bringeth the prisoners out of captivity:
but letteth the runagates continue in scarceness.

⁷ O God, when thou wentest forth before the people:
when thou wentest through the wilderness;

⁸ The earth shook, and the heavens dropped at the presence of God:
even as Sinai also was moved at the presence of God, who is the God of Israel.

⁹ Thou, O God, sentest a gracious rain upon thine inheritance:
and refreshedst it when it was weary.

¹⁰ Thy congregation shall dwell therein:
for thou, O God, hast of thy goodness prepared for the poor.

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New Testament Reading: Acts 1: 6-14

⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?'

⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.'

⁸ 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.'

⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

¹¹ 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.'

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

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REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

The disciples have been through an immense roller-coaster of emotions during their three years or so with Jesus and particularly over the last few weeks.

There was the ministry in Galilee – wonderful miracles & healing and a sense of anticipation, if some bewilderment; to crucifixion – a time of despair and disappointment mixed with guilt and fear; then to resurrection – a mysterious yet wonderful new normality of life with Jesus.

And yet, here in Acts we find that despite all that has happened, the disciples still believe that Jesus is there to restore the prosperity of the people of Israel. They still haven't grasped the bigger picture. But something will happen which means that they will no longer be able to ignore that. Somewhere just outside Jerusalem Jesus was "lifted up and a cloud took him out of their sight."

So, Jesus ascends "up" to heaven. "Up" is a spatial preposition – e.g. "The cat is climbing up the tree". However, it doesn't always have a spatial reference. Like every child at the end of the school year I went UP to the next class. But I didn't necessarily go UP to a floor above – in fact depending on where they placed the classes I might have gone DOWN to a lower floor.

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At Christmas we sang of the birth of Jesus with the words “He came **down** to earth from heaven” though we probably don’t believe that Jesus came down spatially from the sky to the earth. Rather that the Divine became man so that man could become divine; inhabiting the life of humans so that to human lives would be drawn into the life of God. And over the last few months we have followed that life, since the birth of Christ when he came **DOWN** to earth, through his presentation in the temple, his baptism in the Jordan, his ministry in Galilee, his crucifixion in Jerusalem, his resurrection and finally to this moment when Jesus Christ ascends “**UP**” to heaven.

God transcends space and time; in Jesus he became part of space and time but if he is to remain with us forever he must return again to a place beyond space and time – we might call it heaven and we call that transition “Ascension”.

Afterwards, the disciples returned to Jerusalem – probably confused – yet having learnt to trust Jesus, to stick together and to pray in this “new normality”. This is the beginning of a relationship with the one from whom we can never be separated. They had the reassurance that their friend on earth was now their friend in heaven and that this was a link that nothing would break.

As Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans:

8: 38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love....

39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

That is the promise of our risen and ascended Lord.

Collect for Seventh Sunday of Easter:

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.

HYMN: All Heaven Declares

All Heaven declares
The glory of the risen Lord
Who can compare
With the beauty of the Lord
Forever He will be the Lamb upon the throne
I gladly bow the knee and worship Him alone

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I will proclaim
The glory of the risen Lord
Who once was slain
To reconcile man to God
Forever You will be
The Lamb upon the throne
I gladly bow the knee
And worship You alone

Noel and Tricia Richards.

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PRAYER

INTERCESSION (Set A) from Church of England website:

Let us pray to God,
who alone makes us dwell in safety:

For all who are affected by coronavirus,
through illness or isolation or anxiety,
that they may find relief and recovery:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For those who are guiding our nation at this time,
and shaping national policies,
that they may make wise decisions:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,
that through their skill and insights
many will be restored to health:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

For the vulnerable and the fearful,
for the gravely ill and the dying,
that they may know your comfort and peace:

Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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The UK Blessing

We hope that most of you will have seen this by now, but if not you will find it at this link:-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtlI3mNj5U>

Then listen to this interview from Premier Radio with Tim Hughes from Gas Street Church Birmingham about The UK Blessing. Think about what you hear and pray about what will happen and how the church in this country will be shaped in the future.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlC6C4pLmco&feature=emb_rel_end

Mental Health Awareness Week

Following the Mental Health Awareness Week last week there is an excellent follow-up resource, consisting of a series of 13 reflections produced by the Church of England. They can be found in the document "Supporting Good Mental Health".

NOTICES

Zoom Meetings to help us meet remotely when unable to be together

You can register for free at [zoom.uk](https://zoom.us) or zoom.us.

You then just need to click on the links given below to join the meetings. Follow the instructions on screen. Don't forget to enable video and audio when prompted.

Contact Patricia for more details if you wish on 01565 830595

or email: pmrobinson51@gmail.com

❖ Sunday Morning Coffee

Beginning this Sunday morning and for the next four weeks, there will be a Zoom Coffee meeting starting at 11.00am, but you can join us after that when you are ready. Make your drink, get your biscuits, and click on the link below to join us for coffee and a catch up:

Topic: Sunday Morning Coffee

Time: 11:00am May 24th 2020 (and May 31st, June 7th and Jun 14th)

Meeting ID: 891 5975 2706

Password: 863826

Link to join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89159752706?pwd=TTB6M2ZlYmEIPZndhaDVKNW9Za1JaZz09>

❖ Midweek Morning Prayer

Beginning this Wednesday morning for the next four weeks there will be a Zoom Morning Prayer Service at 9.30am. Bring your copy of the Worship at Home booklet.

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Topic: Midweek Morning Prayer

Time: 9.30am May 27th 2020 (and June 3rd, June 10th and June 17th)

Meeting ID: 890 6475 1565

Password: 334926

Link to join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89064751565?pwd=WWpmQSs3ei9WcTNJWDRSbkFYOTErQT09>

❖ Coffee and Chat

We are having a Zoom Coffee and Chat meeting every Wednesday morning from 11.00 am.

Topic: Coffee and Chat

Time: 11.00 am each Wednesday.

Meeting ID: 777 1980 5127

Password: 2v8UVT

Link to join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77719805127?pwd=VTFEWmdWNVBwdStKemxxRUIBK2dwQT09>

41st Bishop of Chester

Our new Diocesan Bishop will be the Right Reverend Mark Tanner who is currently the Bishop of Berwick-Upon-Tweed in the Diocese of Newcastle.

There is a lot of information on the Diocesan Website:

[www.https://chester.anglican.org](https://chester.anglican.org) and you can listen to Bishop Mark there and some people from this diocese welcoming him to Chester. Bishop Mark was ordained in Chester Cathedral and was a curate in this diocese before going on to other posts.

Join the Prayer Chain:

Our Reader, Chris Stanisstreet has organised a **Prayer Chain** which is done by email and telephone. The idea behind this, is that when a specific prayer request is made, it is passed on by group e-mail to the people on the list who then pray for the particular situation.

If you would like to receive prayer requests or would like to make a prayer request, please let her know.

Chris Stanisstreet Tel: 01925 755559; Mobile 07918 981 723;

Email: stanbess2003@yahoo.co.uk

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Thank You

The Treasurers would like to thank all those who have sent in an offering. This is very helpful as we still have to pay the bills for each of our churches even though we are not able to use the buildings at the moment.

The best way to give is by direct payment into the bank account and to do this please contact the Treasurer of the Church you attend for the account details. Better still, if you are able, because your income is not affected, please set up a monthly direct debit.

St Mary's Treasurer: Mr Christopher Tetlow Tel: 0161 928 2137

St John's Treasurer: Nick Whimpany Tel: 07905 741969

Holy Trinity Treasurer: Mrs Hilary Girardier: Tel: 01925 754 717

St Paul's Treasurer: Judy Hancock Tel: 01565 733246

If your income has been affected by the current situation, please do not worry about giving to the Church just now.

Morning and Night Prayer

If you would like to join with us, we are saying Morning Prayer at 9.00am Monday to Saturday (Wednesday 9.30am – join on Zoom if you can) and Night Prayer at 9.00pm Monday to Saturday. Whenever you are able, why not say it at the same time as we do, then we will be joining together in prayer and worship.

If anyone does not yet have access to the "Worship at Home" booklet containing the Order of Service for Morning Prayer or Night Prayer, please contact the Vicarage, as there are large print copies and ordinary size ones that can be posted out or versions that can be e-mailed.

Bible Readings and Psalms for the Coming Week from the Lectionary.

Here are some suggestions for more Psalms and Bible readings to use with Morning and Night Prayer:

These readings usually follow on from each other so you get a bit more of the story each day (except on special Saints Days).

Monday 25th May: Psalm 93; Numbers 22: 1-35; Luke 7: 36-end

Tuesday 26th May: Psalm 99; Numbers 22: 36-23:12; Luke 8: 1-15

Wednesday 27th May: Psalm 29; Numbers 23: 13-end; Luke 8: 16-25

Thursday 28th May Psalm 24; Number Chapter 24; Luke 8: 26-39:

Friday 29th May: Psalm 28; Numbers 27: 12-end; Luke 8: 40-end

Saturday 30th May: Psalm 43; Numbers 32: 1-27; Luke 9: 1-17

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Night Prayer - from the day after Ascension Day until the Day of Pentecost

Psalm 86

¹ Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and in misery.

² Preserve my soul, for I am faithful;
save your servant, for I put my trust in you.

³ Be merciful to me, O Lord, for you are my God;
I call upon you all the day long.

⁴ Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

⁵ For you, Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

⁶ Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer
and listen to the voice of my supplication.

⁷ In the day of my distress I will call upon you,
for you will answer me.

⁸ Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord,
nor any works like yours.

⁹ All nations you have made shall come and worship you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.

¹⁰ For you are great and do wonderful things;
you alone are God.

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth;
knit my heart to you, that I may fear your name.

¹² I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name for evermore;

¹³ For great is your steadfast love towards me,
for you have delivered my soul from the depths of the grave.

¹⁴ O God, the proud rise up against me
and a ruthless horde seek after my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.

¹⁵ But you, Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶ Turn to me and have mercy upon me;
give your strength to your servant
and save the child of your handmaid.

¹⁷ Show me a token of your favour,
that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed;
because you, O Lord, have helped and comforted me.

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Short Reading

I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.
The old shall dream dreams and the young shall see visions. *Joel 2:28*

Blessing

May the Holy Spirit of God bless and sanctify us so that we may be consecrated in the truth.

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Bishop Keith is encouraging us all to join together as a diocese every Sunday at 8pm by placing a lit candle in one of our windows and praying for the diocese and our nation.