



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

28th April 2024

5th Sunday of Easter

Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well and enjoying these drier – if not warmer – days. The forecast seems to be that the rain may return at the weekend, but I have noticed that lots of lawn mowing has been going on around me. Bill has almost got around the whole of the churchyard now, with his usual dedication and care.

Not quite the whole churchyard, as it happens. A section of the older part – on the lefthand side of the path if you were to enter by the kissing gate – is being left intentionally unmown. At the instigation of our EcoChurch Group, this area will be managed as a traditional hay meadow. It will be cut and raked later in the Summer in imitation of an old fashioned hay cut. The period of growth will mean that more competitive agricultural grasses will not thicken out in the way that grazed swards – or regularly mown lawns – do. When the grass is cut, the lattermath will be more open, with gaps and spaces. Raking and removing the mown grass – or drying and baling it as a hay crop, but I don't think we'll be doing that! – removes nutrients, making the agriculturally productive grasses less competitive and allowing other grass species and broad leaved plants to expand into the gaps. If you would like to help with managing the Churchyard to support bio-diversity and wildlife, please get in touch with the EcoChurch Group.

This method of grassland management would have been laughed out of the lecture room when I was at Agricultural College back in the last century. *Reducing* soil fertility, intentionally, would have seemed so wasteful. Adding fertility, either organically or by using nitrogen fertilisers, and maximising the growth of the most productive grasses was very much the name of the game. And as for the lovely meadow wildflowers – well we did gather and press them, carefully labelled, into a collection that was called a WEED book. Each lovely plant (weed) was accompanied by a page detailing it's latin and common names, growth habit, preferred soils and climate – and the names of the chemicals best suited to destroying them! Years later I would go on to work on herbage rich meadows and managing grassland to increase biodiversity – but it did take me a while to get my head around the approach!

In Sunday's Gospel Jesus compares himself to a vine and his father God to a vine grower. And God's approach to horticulture seems to be pretty focussed on increasing production and fertility.

Unproductive branches are pruned away and even the productive ones are pruned so that they bear as much fruit as possible. And he makes it clear that we are the branches. Does that seem a bit harsh? "Abide in me or it's the secateurs for you." And, by the way, the pruned off branches are not being left to provide shelter for hibernating wildlife, they are straight on the fire. Really harsh. What if I'm not the right sort of branch? But the one thing that we branches know is that we are definitely part of the right vine. Jesus is the vine and we grow from him. Apart from him we cannot do anything, but conversely, growing from him, drawing our sustenance from him, abiding in him, we can produce an amazing harvest.

With every blessing, Anne
07864938898

rector@stmartinshereford.org.uk

Family and Community News

Free Roast Lunch at St. Martin's - Sunday, 5th May 12.30pm-2.30pm

Part of the Department of Work and Pensions 'Winter of Well-Being' scheme.

All welcome, but if possible please let the Team Office know that you are attending by Thursday 2nd May, so that we have an idea of numbers. email: office@stmartinshereford.org.uk

Toastie and Warm at St Martin's

On Tuesday afternoons the Narthex at St Martin's is a busy and welcoming space.

From 1pm there is a Bible Study group, all welcome.

From 2pm there is a coffee afternoon, full of conversations and information, with chocolate biscuits and, usually, home-made cakes. Everyone is welcome to come along to any – or all – parts of the afternoon.

Making Room is a new initiative based at St Martin's which, whilst it will not offer any formal professional mental health treatment, will offer a safe space to express any worries you may have. *Making Room* is intended for people of working age, and is about making room to have safe discussions about our mental wellness, making room to support one another, making room for mindfulness and to start or share any hobbies and interests and making room to offer hope. If you are interested in joining us please contact us and we can discuss plans further. If you wish to volunteer equally please do get in touch. *Rev'd Lauren Bell* curate@stmartinshereford.org.uk 07429 862444

Services at Belmont Community Centre

If you live in or near Belmont and find the journey to St Martin's difficult, or if Sunday mornings are not easy for you, you might like to join us for Friday Communion at Belmont Community Centre.

We celebrate a said service of Holy Communion at 12:30pm on the Second and Fourth Fridays of each month, following FoodShare. Everyone is very welcome to this service. The hall has level access and good ventilation – and if the weather is good we celebrate outside.

The next services at Belmont are: 12.30pm Holy Communion – 10th & 24th May

Catching up with friends – or making new ones! *Young at Heart*

First Thursday of each month – Pub Lunch (contact the office so that we can book a table)

Third Thursday of each month at 2pm – Meeting in St. Martin's Church – talks, games, refreshments and friendship – everyone welcome!

A Request from the EcoChurch Team



If anyone has any gardening tools, big or small, watering cans, etc, that they no longer need, would you please consider donating them to the church, to help maintain the churchyard and flower beds?



Do you enjoy a spot of gardening, or are keen to support and encourage our wildlife? Could you spare an hour a week, or a morning or afternoon once a month, to help our land to flourish? If so, please let Anne, Peter or Sarah know.



We would like to create more seating areas outside for the community to enjoy; a place to chat, to pray, to contemplate and to watch God's creations. If anyone has, or knows, of any sturdy garden benches, chairs, tree trunk sections or logs we could have, or purchase for a small price, we would be very grateful.



Anne, Dafydd, Peter and Sarah

For our Prayers

Those who are ill or in need of your prayers, including:

Gill	James	Joan	Paul	Sheila	Ann W
Brenda B	Sue	Brooke	Christina	Betty	Mandy
Hazel	Gholam				

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Barbara..	Joe..	Grace..	Hugo..	Dean.	KJay.
Frank					

Anglican Communion: The Church of Bangladesh - Most Revd Samuel Sunil Mankhin, Moderator

Hereford: Ludlow Deanery: Rural Dean – Ashley Buck; Lay Co-Chair – Sadie Chalkley; Sub-Warden of Readers – John Beesley. Local Ministry In the Ludlow Deanery: LPV: Patricia Helm, Sasha Griffiths, Suzanne Thomas, Lucy Treasure, Ann Stocker.

Porvoo: Sweden: Gothenburg, Bishop Susanne Rappmann; Scotland: Glasgow and Galloway, Bishop Kevin Pearson.

South Wye: Please pray for all those whose lives are limited by dementia.

The Wider View: Pray for the “Train a Priest” scheme in Tanzania supported by our diocese, paying fees for students from each of our four link dioceses to train at St Mark's Theological College, Dar es Salaam. Pray we may continue to support this important work, and for all currently training for ordination.

Sunday is the World Day for Safety at Work. Pray for all whose work involves risk and danger, and that in every workplace the highest standards of safety may be maintained. Pray also for those who suffer from workplace injuries.

Catherine of Siena, commemorated on Monday, was known for her contemplation and prayer: pray for all who inspire and direct prayer in others, and give thanks for all who regularly pray for others.

As May begins, pray for the many communities in which traditional events take place at Maytime, and for those who help keep such traditions alive. Leominster May Fair takes place this week.

May 1st is by tradition International Workers' Day. Pray for trade unions and other workers' organisations that seek to ensure workers' rights, fair rates of pay and conditions, and workplace safety.

Time for a Cuppa Week begins on Wednesday. This is a fund and awareness raising initiative by Dementia UK. Pray for a greater awareness and understanding of dementia in its various forms, and for all who are living with dementia, their friends and families.

Philip and James, apostles commemorated on Wednesday, while remaining in themselves fairly shadowy figures, clearly played a vital role within the early Church. Pray that in our day we may be true to the example of faith, courage and devotion to their Lord presented by the Apostles.

Local elections take place in many parts of the country on Thursday (in our area, only Police Commissioners are being elected). Pray for all who are standing as candidates, and for those responsible for administration.

Pray for all who experience mental health problems in early motherhood. One in ten or more women may experience mental health problems in pregnancy or after birth - it's something that can happen to anyone. Depression and anxiety are the most common mental health problems in pregnancy. Pray for research and for care and support.

Pray for all who are working to improve the cleanliness of our rivers and streams. Outfalls of sewage and runoffs from agricultural land have had a greater impact after the unusually wet winter and early spring.

**Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio
For the week beginning 28th April**

South Wye Services Through the Week:

8pm Mon-Fri Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin's Facebook page

Sunday

9:30am Holy Communion at St. Martin's

11.15am Morning Prayer at St. Peter's

Thursday

10am Said Communion in St. Martin's Lady Chapel

The 9.30am service will be streamed on St. Martin's Facebook page and will be available on the St. Martin's and the St. Peter's Facebook pages and the St. Martin's YouTube channel later in the day.

Diocese of Hereford

Diocese of Hereford Facebook: Sunday Service 10am.

Diocese Freephone Prayerline: Dial 0800 304 7052 to hear a prayer.

Church of England

National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

TV and Radio on Sunday;

BBC H&W 8am Sunday Worship.

Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Worship - 'I am the vine, you are the branches'

BBC 1 1.15pm Songs of Praise- Church and Community

Prayer for the day:

The Church of England website has audio and text of the Prayer for the Day.

Prayer for the Nation

The Archbishops continue to invite all to call on God in Prayer. We invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. Find more details at churchengland.org/resources/prayer-nation

Collect for 5th Sunday of Easter

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.

Readings for 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8: 26-end

²⁶ 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.) ²⁷ 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 ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² 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.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ 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?' ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ 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. ⁴⁰ 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.

Psalm 22: 25-end

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD.

May your hearts live for ever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

²⁸ For dominion belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.

²⁹ To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

³⁰ Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

³¹ and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

1 John 4: 7-end

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. 15 God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16 So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19 We love because he first loved us. 20 Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21 The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

John 15: 1-8

15 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. 2 He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3 You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4 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. 5 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. 6 Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7 If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.



Bible Study on Acts 8

Bible notes

Philip is one of seven 'Hellenists', Greek-speaking Jewish Christians (appointed 'to wait on tables') generously serving God's community (6:1-6). When the Jerusalem church was persecuted, they were

among those 'scattered' throughout Judea and Samaria' (8:1-3). Travelling north to Samaria, Philip proclaimed the good news and baptized (8:4-13). Now God's messenger tells him to return south, through the wilderness towards Gaza on the coast. There are parallels between Philip's journey and the risen Jesus' walk to Emmaus, reminding us that Philip travels with his Lord. As Jesus opens the conversation with a question, 'What are you discussing?' (Luke 24:17), so does Philip, 'Do you understand?' Both explain the Scriptures, Jesus talking about himself (24:27), and Philip about Jesus. Jesus disappeared as his companions recognised him and they returned to Jerusalem (24:31-33). Philip is spirited away northwards, leaving the African courtier who 'went on his way rejoicing'. Philip travels with his Lord as he journeys with this Ethiopian treasurer from a country with a Jewish tradition, later claimed to date from the time of the Queen of Sheba's visit to Solomon. Philip runs beside the chariot, but this high official, wealthy enough to possess a scroll of Scripture, invites Philip to sit beside him. Philip first waits to be asked a question about the passage from Isaiah 53:7-8 before relating it to Jesus. And it is the Ethiopian who asks for baptism and commands his chariot to stop. Their journey together ends as both of them enter and emerge from the waters of death and resurrection.

Reflection

Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help. Philip, the apostle, and the Ethiopian treasurer briefly journey together, and this is of great significance for them both. Both were on their own travels, but after meeting both changed direction. In Philip's case this was literally a reversal from going south to going north, as the word of God reaches out 'to the ends of the earth'. The Ethiopian came to Jerusalem to worship, and he travels on his way home 'rejoicing'. He has been baptized in the name of the self-giving God who, as Peter will express it, 'shows no partiality', just as we are 'not to make a distinction between them and us'.

Questions for reflection *You may wish to use these questions and the picture to help you think about or discuss issues arising from this week's Bible passage.*



- What topics work well when speaking to strangers?
- Why is it significant that Philip journeyed alongside the Ethiopian eunuch?
- What does this tell us about how we might relate our faith to others?

Sudoku (Easier!)

				3	5		4	
8				6			3	
3	9		1		8	2		
	1		6					4
	3		2			6		5
7				5				
						4		1
			7					
2			8					9

		6	3	8				
8		4			6			3
	3	5						8
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						2		
	9		7		1		8	6
				6				
	1	7			4	9	2	

6	2	7	9	3	5	1	4	8
8	5	1	4	6	2	9	3	7
3	9	4	1	7	8	2	5	6
5	1	2	6	8	7	3	9	4
4	3	8	2	9	1	6	7	5
7	6	9	3	5	4	8	1	2
9	7	3	5	2	6	4	8	1
1	8	6	7	4	9	5	2	3
2	4	5	8	1	3	7	6	9

9	7	6	3	8	5	1	4	2
8	2	4	1	9	6	7	5	3
1	3	5	2	4	7	6	9	8
4	5	1	6	2	9	8	3	7
2	6	3	4	7	8	5	1	9
7	8	9	5	1	3	2	6	4
3	9	2	7	5	1	4	8	6
5	4	8	9	6	2	3	7	1
6	1	7	8	3	4	9	2	5

Trickier!

	5			3				2
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	8	7	5		1		9	
1			7					
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7	1	9	3	4	6	8	2	5
8	4	3	1	2	5	7	6	9
5	2	6	9	7	8	4	3	1
3	6	5	2	9	4	1	8	7
1	9	2	7	8	3	6	5	4
4	8	7	5	6	1	2	9	3
9	3	4	6	1	2	5	7	8
2	7	8	4	5	9	3	1	6
6	5	1	8	3	7	9	4	2

6	2	7	9	1	5	8	3	4
5	1	8	3	6	4	9	2	7
9	4	3	2	7	8	6	1	5
4	9	5	7	3	2	1	8	6
8	7	2	1	5	6	3	4	9
3	6	1	4	8	9	5	7	2
2	3	4	6	9	1	7	5	8
7	8	9	5	2	3	4	6	1
1	5	6	8	4	7	2	9	3

Wordsearch based on John 15: 1-8

M	Z	R	P	E	Y	Z	D	O	S	P	O	K	E	N
Q	M	K	D	P	S	D	D	V	B	P	O	A	U	B
C	T	T	D	E	S	N	A	E	L	C	Z	B	R	E
F	R	U	I	T	R	E	R	E	D	T	L	I	T	R
E	G	A	F	H	A	E	R	Q	R	T	M	D	U	R
J	E	C	M	U	C	H	H	I	V	L	J	E	K	S
G	G	R	O	W	E	R	J	T	F	I	A	B	B	S
L	C	T	H	R	O	W	N	N	A	O	N	R	R	S
O	S	Q	N	I	O	H	O	W	B	G	E	E	A	E
R	E	D	N	X	Z	T	T	U	N	D	A	M	N	L
I	N	T	Y	C	H	R	R	O	R	O	F	O	C	N
F	U	Q	P	I	A	N	B	O	N	H	Q	V	H	U
I	R	G	N	P	E	J	W	R	H	N	U	E	J	I
E	P	G	A	D	Z	S	R	A	E	B	A	S	B	A
D	N	W	I	T	H	E	R	S	S	D	P	C	P	Z

TRUE
GROWER
BRANCH
FRUIT

SPOKEN
ALREADY
ABIDE
UNLESS

APART
THROWN
GATHERED
BURNED

VINE
REMOVES
BEARS
WORD

PRUNES
CLEANSED
CANNOT
MUCH

NOTHING
WITHERS
FIRE
GLORIFIED

Hymns for Sunday 28th of April (Ancient and Modern)
Fifth Sunday of Easter

203. Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!

1 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King.
To all the world glad news we bring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 The Lord of Life is risen for ay:
bring flowers of song to strew his way;
let all the earth rejoice and say
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 Praise we in songs of victory
that Love, that Life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing to-day with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Cyril Argentine Alington (1872-1955)

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187654, 1461410, 660669

507. We have a gospel to proclaim

**1. We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**

**2. Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim:
the Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**3. Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suffering on the cross
for all he loved, his life he gave.**

**4. Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free;
he broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.**

**5. Tell of his reign at God's right hand
by all creation glorified;
he sends his Spirit on his church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.**

**6. Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
this gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**

Edward Joseph Burns (b. 1938)

209. Love's redeeming work is done

**1 Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more.**

**2 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.**

**3 Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?**

**4 Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.**

**5 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection Thou!**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

721. Love divine, all loves excelling

**1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**2 Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**3 Finish then thy new creation:
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)