



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

18th May 2025

Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. It's been a busy week in South Wye, with the service and lovely tea to mark the anniversaries of VE and VJ day last Sunday. Thank you to Marlene, Chris, the whole catering team and the "Three Tenders." On Tuesday evening Mayor Kevin Tillett was succeeded as Mayor of Hereford by another of our South Wye councillors, Dan Powell – and Cat Hornsey, also from our side of the river, was voted in as Deputy Mayor. I had never been to a Mayor Making before and it was rather exciting. A different sort of exciting was the thunderstorm on Monday night, which was one of the loudest I can remember. I'm hoping that the weather will be less dramatic for the Spring Fair on Saturday.

Mayor Making and a thunderstorm and lightning strikes are all the sorts of things that make local headlines, even a photo or two on the Herefordshire news websites and Facebook pages. The regular events of the churches' regular weeks – FoodShare and services and writing the newsletter – don't make the headlines any more than the regular events of our own weeks do. Ringing a friend, meeting up with someone who needs a chat, praying for the world and our neighbours, volunteering as a cook at Monday Meals or to fundraise for those in need; these things are essential to our human lives and relationships – but by and large are not seen as extraordinary. Loving our neighbour, wherever the neighbour lives, is not the sort of thing that makes news.

This has been Christian Aid Week and our service at St Martin's this Sunday will focus on the work of Christian Aid through the story of Aurelia, a farmer and leader for change in her community in Guatemala. Aurelia is teaching others in her community new ways to grow food crops that will help them survive the devastating impacts of the climate crisis. Whatever your views on the origins of the climate crisis, it's difficult to argue that it's not newsworthy. But the headlines don't leave much room for the daily lives and ordinary experiences of those living with the consequences.

But when it comes to global challenges such as the climate crisis, change is possible. Christian Aid's partner, Congcoop, is supporting Indigenous communities to become more resilient in the face of the climate crisis through specialist agricultural training. We will hear more on Sunday about some of this support – about the difference that it makes and about the extraordinary lives of some of our global neighbours as they seek to help and love their neighbours. In our Gospel reading this Sunday Jesus commands us to love one another as we are loved. In showing love for our neighbours we grow into Christlikeness. It might not make headlines, but it can change the world. It might not make it to Facebook – but it brings the kingdom of God a little closer.

With every blessing, Anne
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rector@stmartinshereford.org.uk

Family and Community News

St. Martin's Spring Fair

Saturday 17th May 12noon-2pm

Stalls, Refreshments and Prize Draw!

Tuesday 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.

Catching up with friends – or making new ones!

Young at Heart - First Thursday of each month – Lunch together in the church hall. Please email or phone Home Instead to book. 01432 804000 or info.hereford@homeinstead.co.uk

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

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 – 9th & 23rd May

Visitors and members of the congregation who drive to St Martin's may need to allow some extra time for your journey over the next few weeks.

Cadent will be replacing a gas main on Ross Road. Work will begin on 24 May 2025 and may last 10 weeks. They will be working seven days a week with extended hours. Multi-way lights will be in situ on the A49 Ross Road throughout the project and initially, four-way lights will be placed at the junction with Holme Lacy Road and Broadleys Crescent. A road closure will also be in place on Walnut Tree Avenue at junction with the A49 with a diversion in place.

If you have any specific questions, you can call Cadent on **0800 085 4478** from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday or email CustomerCareLondon@cadentgas.com.

For our Prayers

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

Brenda Baylis	Maureen Gerard	Irene F	Margaret	Charlie	Sue	Ian
Irene Goodman	Irene Mussell	Mike	Karen	Win	Nathan	
Shelley	Katie					

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Brenda S. Margaret W

Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Canada.

Hereford: Pray for the communications team in our diocese in their work and in the support they provide to the local church. Pray we may share the good news of our faith within our local area and beyond in a professional and persuasive way. Give thanks for the ways in which the changes forced upon us in the Covid years have enhanced our ability to use a wider range of media in our outreach and communication, and in worship.

Porvoo: England: Guildford; Denmark: Viborg.

South Wye: Please pray for those in our community who volunteer to support others

The Wider View:

We pray for those who teach and learn foreign languages, especially as language studies are being cut in many schools. Learning a language is also to engage with a culture and tradition other than our own, and to expand both awareness and opportunity. We pray for those supporting those in our community with English as an additional language.

This Week Sunday is also National Children's Day: pray for all that ensures children have a healthy and safe childhood, and that their rights and freedoms are protected.

Born and educated in York, Alcuin, commemorated on Tuesday, was active as an adviser and also as a liturgist at the court of Charlemagne. His day prompts prayer for those who develop liturgical resources within today's Church, to enable and encourage worship that is the best we can offer. Helena's day, on Wednesday, prompts prayer for all places of pilgrimage and devotion, and for all who lead pilgrimages, retreats and quiet days.

Wednesday is also the World Day for Cultural Diversity. It celebrates both the richness of the world's cultures and the importance of intercultural dialogue in the cause of peace and sustainable development. Give thanks for the variety of faith and culture within the human family, and pray we may not allow differences to become barriers.

World Turtle Day on Saturday prompts prayer for all who are working to reduce the pollution of our oceans. Turtles are particularly vulnerable to plastic pollution, as well as to climate change, rising sea levels, and human activity on nesting beaches.

Saturday also commemorates John and Charles Wesley. Give thanks for their stories of faith, and pray for the work and witness of Methodism both locally and as part of the world Church.

Pray for the work of skin clinics and specialists, and in particular for their work with skin cancers. Pray for all who experience melanomas, basal cell carcinomas, and other forms of skin cancer.

Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio For the week beginning 18th May 2025

South Wye Services Through the Week:

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

Sunday

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

11.15am Holy Communion 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.

Church of England

National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

TV and Radio on Sunday;

Radio 4 8.10am Sunday Worship-Choral Matins from Ipswich Minster

BBC 1 12noon Songs of Praise- Faith and Friendship

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 Fifth 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

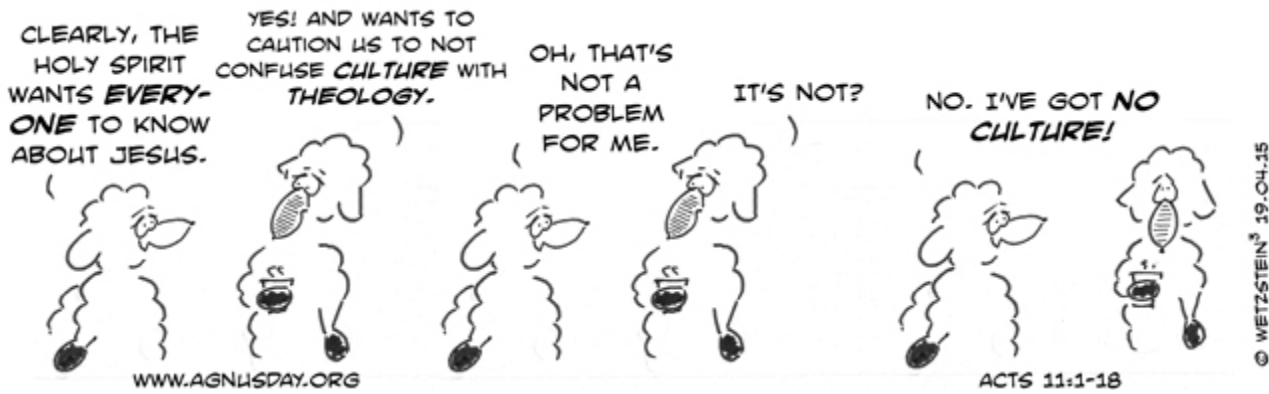
to risk ourselves for those we serve,

to the glory of God the Father.

Readings for Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11: 1-18

11 Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. 2 So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, 3 saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' 4 Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 5 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. 6 As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. 7 I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." 8 But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." 9 But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." 10 This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. 11 At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 12 The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. 13 He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; 14 he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. 16 And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." 17 If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' 18 When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'



Psalm 148

¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!
³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.
⁶ He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.
⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,
⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!
⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!
¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!
¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!
¹² Young men and women alike, old and young together!
¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

Revelation 21: 1-6

²¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.' ⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' ⁶ Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

John 13: 31-35

³¹ When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³² If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³ Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." ³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'



Bible Study based on Acts 11: 1-18

Bible notes This passage is Peter's explanation of his meeting in Caesarea with Cornelius, a Roman centurion attracted to Jewish monotheism (Acts 10:1-2). Peter had baptized Cornelius, together with 'his relatives and close friends' (10:24), with water. These Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit as Peter was sharing with them 'the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ' (10:36). Now speaking to his fellow Jewish Christians in Jerusalem, Peter does not impose his authority but shares what has happened 'step by step', moving from his vision of unclean creatures in Joppa to his understanding of its significance in Caesarea. In Acts, it is always 'the word of God' that moves the story forward 'step by step'. We hear that it 'continued to spread' (6:7) and 'gain adherents' (12:24), spreading 'throughout the region' (13:49) so that it 'grew mightily and prevailed' (19:20). This critical breakthrough from Jewish separateness is summarised as 'the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God', and we hear that 'the Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us'. Indeed, Cornelius himself had received a vision of an angel speaking about 'the message by which you and your entire household will be saved'. The Jewish Pentecost was interpreted as the fulfilment of God's word through the prophet Joel (Acts 2:14-21). And, as Peter remembers Jesus' words, he interprets this Gentile Pentecost as the fulfilment of the word of the Lord, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit' (see Luke 3:16 and Acts 1:5). Peter's fellow Jewish Christians in Jerusalem initially criticised him for accepting Cornelius' invitation to eat with Gentiles. The climax of his explanation is his question, 'Who was I that I could hinder God?' Reconsidering their criticism they praise God anew: 'God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life'. Gentile and Jewish Christians are learning together not to hinder the God who moves 'step by step', making all things new.

Reflection *Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.* Consider how food can be part of our identity – staple foods vary across cultures and some faiths have rules about what you can and can't eat. However, food can also exclude if people don't know the rules about what can be eaten and how (just think of going to a posh dinner and being presented with an array of unfamiliar cutlery). Jesus has given us a new identity, but this takes time to work out, step by step. Consider the significance of the numbers contained in the Acts passage (three times, six witnesses, which was double the usual number needed normally to verify something as true). How can we distinguish as a community between rules that protect us and rules that we need to be liberated from?

Questions for reflection

- What's your reaction to this image – disgust? Delight?
- What unusual food combinations do you enjoy/detest?
- What might God be asking you to 'make new' this season?



Sudoku

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

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

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

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

Sudoku (Trickier)

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

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

Wordsearch based on John 13: 31-35

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

GONE
DISCIPLES
GOING
NEW
LITTLE

CHILDREN
SON
KNOW
HIMSELF
COMMANDMENT

EVERYONE
MAN
CANNOT
LOVE

OUT
LOOK
WILL
ONCE

LONGER
GLORIFIES
BEEN
ANOTHER