



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

12th May 2024

7th Sunday of Easter

Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well.

In a conversation the other day I said that I thought that I was quite good at making connections between different ideas and concepts. As so often happens, I have found myself challenged by my own words within just a few days. There are some really strong themes and ideas that I ought to be grappling with this week. On Sunday we will be thinking about Christian Aid. Our readings for Sunday have themes of service and vocation, eternal life and belonging to God, amongst other things. St Peter's APCM is on Sunday too – another theme which we could usefully explore.

So there are lots of things that I should be talking about and connections that I should be making. But I am sitting here trying to work out which of these important and valuable themes I can most easily connect to *Fratercula arctica*. Puffins! Because last week I went with my family to Skomer Island off Pembrokeshire to see puffins! And I have been unable to usefully talk about anything other than puffins for the week. Their cuteness, their boldness, their burrows and flight and the coldness and bleakness of so much of their life cycle. For most of the year they don't come to land at all, but swim on the surface of the northern oceans diving for the sea creatures on which they feed. They return to places like Skomer to lay their eggs and rear their chicks, which are, fabulously, called *pufflings*.

All of which is by way of a warning that you might want to avoid me for a day or two so that you are not forced to look at the very many photos of my day out. Puffins are definitely photogenic, but after the first 50 or so pictures you may have had enough. Thank you to everyone who has politely smiled and nodded at me as they developed puffin fatigue this week.

So I can safely say that puffins are amazing and endearing and bold and cute. But I am not so sure that they have a great deal to tell us about vocation or eternal life. My connection-making skills are being thoroughly tested. It's almost certainly not enough to say that their latin name *Fratercula arctica* refers to their black and white plumage which might look like a monk's robes and it's definitely a distraction to note that the scientific name *Puffinus puffinus* is a different bird entirely, the Manx Shearwater. Actually there were lots of Manx Shearwaters on Skomer – and thousands of other seabirds too. But I was not really interested in them or the internationally important breeding colonies. I was all about the puffins. Puffins are cute, you see.

This week, when there are so many important themes for us to hear, what has distracted us? What has caught our eye, so that we miss seeing things that matter? What photogenic cuteness is stealing our attention from plain, undecorated essential beauty? There is so much for me to learn and think about and pray over this week – if I can just see past the distractions.

But first, would you like to see some really cute photos?

With every blessing, Anne
07864938898
rector@stmartinhereford.org.uk

Family and Community News

St. Peter's APCM is this Sunday, 12th May, straight after the morning service.

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.

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

First Thursday of each month – Lunch at the Wye Inn (contact the office so that we can book)

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

Friday 10th May at 6:30pm – Making Room (Hall Meeting Room, via office entrance)

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 – 24th May, 14th June

Our Church community is mourning two friends.

Margaret North died on the 29th April. A service to celebrate her life will take place at St Nicholas' Church, Hereford, at 11.30am followed by interment at St Michael's Church, Breinton on Wednesday 15th May which would have been Margaret's 70th birthday. Margaret requested that we should all wear bright colours. Donations if desired to St Michael's Hospice or Barnardo's may be given on the day, or sent via the Funeral Directors.

Services for Peter Houghton will take place on Monday 13th May. At 11am there will be a funeral service on Ballingham Village Green followed by burial. At 2pm a thanksgiving service for Peter's life will take place at St Mary's Church Fownhope. Everyone is welcome to one or both services. Comfortable, warm clothing and flat shoes may be appropriate for the morning service.

We continue to hold Rob North and his family and Joan Houghton and her family in our prayers.

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		

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Frank..	Hazel.	Marcia D.	Peter.	Margaret N.	Margaret
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Anglican Communion: The Anglican Church of Burundi - Most Revd Sixbert Macumi.

Hereford: Pontesbury Deanery: Rural Dean Greg Smith; Lay Co-Chair Susan Lockwood; Sec Ann Jones; Treasurer Richard Jones; Subwarden of Readers - Julia Francis. LWL: Keith Locke, Mary Worrall, Val Butterworth, Allen Marsden, Susan Roberts; LLM: Kay Yeates.

Porvoo: England: Gloucester, Sweden: Västerås,

South Wye: Road safety for those using the roads, cycle paths and pavements in our parishes

The Wider View:

Forms of modern slavery, including forced labour and forced marriage, are found in every part of our world. In Tanzania, it is estimated that some 170,000 people are victims of modern slavery, which is seen as a priority for government action. Pray for progress in criminalising the exploitation of children, increasing the legal age of marriage, and providing support for all victims of modern slavery, whatever their age, gender, etc.

With people around the world continue to pray for those you have named, to come to know Jesus and to have faith in him, as Thy Kingdom Come continues through this week.

Chosen to replace Judas Iscariot, Matthias, remembered on Tuesday, can stand for the continuity of apostleship. In our day we continue to claim and to declare the message of the first Apostles.

This is ME Awareness Week. The number of people diagnosed with ME is growing substantially, and some 1.7 million people in the UK continue to have symptoms of Long Covid, which in many resembles ME. Pray that the ME Association may meet the challenge of offering support to all who need it.

Friday is World Hypertension Day, and promotes better awareness of high blood pressure and its health impact. Pray for awareness campaigns and blood pressure screening, and for those at risk to make the lifestyle and dietary changes that can help reduce the risk of strokes, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease etc.

Saturday is HIV Vaccine Awareness Day. Around 40 million people globally are living with HIV. Most receive vaccine treatment to control the virus, but as yet there is no vaccine to prevent someone acquiring the disease. The day celebrates achievements and supports ongoing research. Pray for all who need it to receive regular vaccine treatment, and for continued research.

Saturday is also International Museums Day: give thanks for museums as places of learning and discovery. Pray for small local museums, often under threat as grant sources dry up and local authorities are hard pressed.

Pray for all that encourages a love of gardens and gardening among children and young people. Pray for school gardens, community gardens, allotment associations, etc.

Pray for young people in our schools and colleges as the season of GCSE and A Level Exams gets under way.

Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio For the week beginning 12th May

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 Family Service 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 See You

BBC 1 1.15pm Songs of Praise- Faith and Dementia

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 7th Sunday after Easter

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

Readings for 7th Sunday after Easter

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, ¹⁶ 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.'

²¹ "So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." ²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Psalm 1

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

² but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴ The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶ for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

1 John 5: 9-13

⁹ If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰ Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

John 17: 6-19

⁶I 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. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for 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. ⁹I 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. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And 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.

¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.



Bible Study based on Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end

Bible notes Jesus' disciples are in Jerusalem, obedient to his command 'to wait there for the promise of the Father' (1:4). They are already a sizeable group of men and women, including Jesus' mother and his brothers. But of the twelve, always named in the Gospels with a note that Judas was the one who betrayed him, only eleven now remain. Jesus' calling of twelve disciples was part of his mission to renew Israel. Jacob's sons, 'the twelve patriarchs', are recalled by Stephen (Acts 7:8) and the connection between the twelve tribes and the twelve apostles is affirmed in John's vision of the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:12-14). Judas had been allotted his share in the ministry, and the Greek word used for 'share' (v.17) is the same as that used for 'lot' (v.26). It was traditional to choose people by drawing of lots (see 1 Chronicles 24-25), but first the qualifications for being a candidate must be checked. The qualifications essential to apostolic witness are to have been with Jesus and his disciples from the beginning, a personal witness to Jesus' baptism, doing good and healing, his crucifixion and resurrection (cf. Acts 10:37-41). When replacing the disobedient Saul, Samuel listened to God, 'The Lord looks on the heart' and anointed David (1 Samuel 16:6-13). And the pattern is the same here as Matthias is chosen by lot for this particular ministry. We hear of the Jewish Christian 'twelve' only once more, as they lay hands on seven Greek Christians who will take the gospel out to Samaria and into the world (6:1-6).

Reflection *Spend a few moments thinking about what stands out for you from the Bible reading. This idea may help.* All are called. Some are called to specific ministries, some to share gifts in other and more general ways. Joseph and Matthias were willing and open to God's call – are we? Do you have a gift that could fulfil a role in the church or community? God acknowledges our gifts when he calls us, but that doesn't mean we won't be challenged. A calling may be affirmed through a process of application or selection. It may involve training. It may lead to a formal recognition or commissioning (or ordination). It may involve something far less visible. Whichever, while we don't cast lots these days, the recognition of a calling has recognition and backing from the wider community.

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 unique qualities do you bring to your church community to add warmth, variety and flavour?
- How will you affirm the God-given gifts of others in your group or congregation this week?
- Are there skills or talents that you might like to use for God?
Spend some time thinking about how you might do this.



Sudoku (Easier!)

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

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

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

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

Trickier!

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

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

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

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

Wordsearch based on Psalm 1

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

HAPPY
ADVICE
PATH
TREAD

SEAT
DELIGHT
MEDITATE
NIGHT

PLANTED
WATER
SEASON
WITHER

FOLLOW
WICKED
SINNERS
SIT

SCOFFERS
LAW
DAY
TREES

STREAMS
FRUIT
LEAVES
PROSPER

Sunday 12th May 2024, Easter 6 (Hymns A & M)

232: The head that once was crowned with thorns

**1 The head that once was crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now:
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.**

**2 The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal Light;**

**3 The joy of all who dwell above,
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love,
and grants his name to know.**

**4 To them the cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is given:
their name, an everlasting name,
their joy, the joy of heaven.**

**5 They suffer with their Lord below,
they reign with him above;
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.**

6 The cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

Thomas Kelly (1769-1855)

575: When I needed a neighbour

1 When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?*

2 I was hungry and thirsty, were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?*

3 I was cold, I was naked, were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?*

4 When I needed a shelter, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a shelter, were you there?
*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
were you there?*

5 When I needed a healer, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,

were you there?

6 Wherever you travel I'll be there, I'll be there,
wherever you travel I'll be there.

*And the creed and the colour and the name won't matter,
I'll be there.*

Sydney Carter (1965)

557: Beauty for brokenness

**Beauty for brokenness, Hope for despair
Lord, in your suffering this is our prayer
Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace
Sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase!**

**Shelter for fragile lives, cures for their ills
Work for the craftsman, trade for their skills
Land for the dispossessed, rights for the weak
Voices to plead the cause of those who can't speak
*God of the poor, Friend of the weak,
Give us compassion, we pray
Melt our cold hearts, Let tears fall like rain,
Come, change our love, From a spark to a flame***

**Refuge from cruel wars, havens from fear
Cities for sanctuary, freedoms to share
Peace to the killing-fields, scorched earth to green
Christ for the bitterness, His cross for the pain**

**Rest for the ravaged earth, oceans and streams
Plundered and poisoned; our future, our dreams
Lord, end our madness, carelessness, greed
Make us content with the things that we need
*God of the poor, Friend of the weak,***

*Give us compassion, we pray
Melt our cold hearts, Let tears fall like rain,
Come, change our love, From a spark to a flame*

**Lighten our darkness, breathe on this flame
Until your justice burns brightly again
Until the nations learn of your ways
Seek your salvation and bring you their praise
God of the poor, Friend of the weak,
Give us compassion, we pray
Melt our cold hearts, Let tears fall like rain,
Come, change our love, From a spark to a flame**

227: Crown him with many crowns,

**1 Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!**

**Awake, my soul, and sing, of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King, through all eternity.**

**2 Crown him the Virgin's Son, the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won which now his brow
adorn:**

**Fruit of the mystic Rose, as of that Rose the Stem;
the Root whence mercy ever flows, the Babe of Bethlehem.**

**3 Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,
those wounds yet visible above in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,**

but downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright.

**4 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and
praise:**

**his reign shall know no end, and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.**

**5 Crown him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime:
all hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.**

Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)

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