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Church Link No. 111 Easter V 15 May 2022

God of mission, we are your Church, Christ's body on earth, your holy people for your needy world. In our thinking, give us wisdom, in our planning, give us faith to move mountains, in our action, give us the power of your Spirit, that all we do and think and say may be for your glory and for the growth of the kingdom of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Diocese of Ely, Prayers for a PCC meeting

This Sunday's Eucharist will be celebrated at St Andrew's Church in Blagdon at 10:15am.

A reminder that it's Christian Aid Week. Please join your neighbours at the Bread and Soup Lunch in St Bartholomew's today (Saturday) from 12:30pm. Full details below.

It's only a week until St Andrew's Fete! There are lots of ways in which you can get involved, not least by joining in the fun on the day. Penny Crawford has placed a box at the back of the church for donations to the stalls. Please give second-hand books, toys, items for the tombola, plants, cakes and preserves. We look forward to seeing you next Saturday.

St Andrew's will also be hosting a Jubilee Tea Party on Sunday 5th June. Please see poster below.

APCMs (in person) will be held this week in each of our parishes. Please see the notice below for details. We look forward to welcoming you soon.

Yours in Fellowship, Revd. Simon Lewis Laura Williams

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Worship this Week Easter V

- Sunday 15th May
• 10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Andrew's, Blagdon
Monday 16th May
• 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
• 9:15am - Intercessions Group, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
Tuesday 17th May
• 10:15am - Mini Melodies, a toddler group, St Andrew's Blagdon
Wednesday 18th May
• 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Michael's, Compton Martin
• 6:00pm - Evensong, St Andrew's, Blagdon
Thursday 19th May
• 8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Blagdon
• 12:00pm - In the Spirit of Iona, online via Zoom

The 10:15am Eucharist on Sunday 22nd May will be at St Michael's, Compton Martin

Reading and Reflection Easter V

Reading: Acts 11:1-18

Peter's Report to the Church at Jerusalem

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticised him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, '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. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. 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. 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; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' 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? 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.'

A Reflection

The several accounts Luke gives of the acceptance of Gentiles - that is anyone who as not a Jew - are not accidental; the acceptance of Gentiles; each account telling of their embrace within the family of followers of Christ, tells the story of God's initiative through the Spirit, and its effects.

The change is spelt out; Peter's vision overturns categories of clean and unclean that would have so much shaped his own Jewish upbringing (Acts 10:1-23). Peter is changed, the Gentiles' relationship to Jew is changed; the truth is, Resurrection changes everything.

Acceptance takes quite a time; in Jerusalem Peter's action is questioned; there is concern whether Peter is 'sound'; whether he really is still one of God's Chosen People. The greater truth seems to be that the Spirit has broken the tribal and socially based understanding of humanity. Key figures in Jerusalem are concerned that Peter ate in the home of a Gentile. For Christians today these events indicate that all is not to be dictated from 'the top'. The interminable and long argument over the Ordination of Women as Priest or Bishop should, for us, be warning enough. It sometimes feels as if lessons have not been learned.

Peter's response as pastoral, not legalistic. He uses no theological or manipulative theological ideas or words, instead, he tells of his experience of God's work among the Gentiles. It is the act of sharing personal experiences of God; of living the truth, that must today play a vital part of the telling of the good news.

Peter's declaration begins with the statement, 'The Gentiles received the word of God'. Christian leaders in Jerusalem focus on Peter's actions, he, however, tells of the activity of God among the Gentiles; he emphasises that for both Jew and Gentile there is a gift from God. The gift is not specified but it relates to all that the Holy Spirit makes plain. It enables us to begin to ask, 'do you know what God is doing?'

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. [Psalm 148:13]

And prayer for Sunday

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before me you put into my mind good desires, so by your continual help may I bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Online Worship Easter V - 15th May 2022

The Church of England's online worship will be broadcast from All Saints' Church, Kings Heath at 9:00am on Sunday. The service will be led by Rev Tariro Matsveru and Rev Canon David Warbrick, who is preaching on 'Learning to cherish.'

Click here to join

Children's Corner

This week's Young Church Mag is about following Jesus. It can be downloaded and printed by clicking this link.

Worship in May
Sunday Worship
Sunday 1st May - Easter III
10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Andrew's, Blagdon
Sunday 8th May - Easter IV
9:00am - Holy Communion, St Michael's, Compton Martin
10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
4:00pm - Measy Church, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
Sunday 15th May - Easter V
10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Andrew's, Blagdon
Sunday 22nd May - Easter VI
10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Michael's, Compton Martin
5:00pm - Evening Worship, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
Sunday 29th May - Easter VII
10:15am - Sunday Eucharist, St Hugh's, Charterhouse
Weekday Worship
Mondays
8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
9:15am - Intercessions Group, St Bartholomew's, Ubley
Tuesdays
10:00am - Mini Melodies toddler group, St Andrew's, Blagdon
Wednesdays
8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Michael's, Compton Martin
5:00pm - Evensong, St Andrew's, Blagdon
Thursdays
8:40am - Morning Prayer, St Andrew's, Blagdon
12:00pm - In the Spirit of Iona, online via Zoom
Ascension Day - Thursday 24th May
7:00pm - Ascension Day Worship (non Communion) St Bartholomew's, Ubley

The Annual Parochial Church Meetings for our three parishes will be held on the following dates from 7pm.

- St Michael's, Compton Martin, Monday 16th May, The Old School Room, Compton Martin
St Bartholomew's, Ubley, Tuesday 17th May, in the Parish Church, Ubley
St Andrew's Blagdon with St Hugh's Charterhouse, Wednesday 18th May, in St Andrew's, Blagdon

Meetings in Blagdon and Ubley will begin with an open discussion about the merger of the two churches into a single parish. The Meeting in Compton Martin will begin with the election of churchwardens. All those who reside in each parish, or whose names are entered upon their electoral rolls are entitled to attend these preliminary meetings. Those registered on the electoral role are entitled to attend the APCMs which follow.

For further details please see the notices in your parish church porch. Forms for the nomination of PCC members and churchwardens can be found below.



Member of PCC Nomination Form



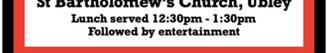
Deanery Synod Nomination Form



Churchwarden Nomination Form

Christian Aid Bread and Soup Lunch

Saturday 14th May St Bartholomew's Church, Ubley Lunch served 12:30pm - 1:30pm Followed by entertainment



Donations to support the work of Christian Aid All Welcome!



Photo credit: Christian Aid / David Brazier Jessica Mwedzi, is hungry to provide food – and hope – for her family.

Every gift. Every action. Every prayer. Every one of us can change lives. Drought starves. It robs women of the power to farm and grow food for their families. Now, for the first time in a generation, global poverty is rising. Covid-19, conflict and the climate crisis are pushing more of our global neighbours into a struggle for survival.

Women and men in Zimbabwe are hungry to provide a more hopeful future. Mums often skip meals to share with their children what little food they have. One of these mums is Jessica Mwedzi. Drought makes every day a struggle for survival. Jessica is hungry. Hungry for a good meal. Hungry to earn a decent living. Hungry to provide a more hopeful future for her family.

'My children crave a good meal, but I can't provide,' Jessica says. 'It pains me to send them to bed hungry.' Your gift could help Jessica grow drought-resistant crops. You could help her set up a water tap on her farm and learn how to grow food in the harsh climate. She'll turn her dry, dusty land into a garden of hope.

This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray – stepping out in love for our global neighbours. With you by our side, we won't stop until everyone can live a full life, free from poverty and hunger.

From envelope collections to walking 300,000 steps in May, Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community helping those living in poverty to transform their own lives. This Christian Aid Week (15-21 May), please:

- Give generously to help women grow crops that survive in the drought.
Act and raise your voice for justice, join our Loss and Damage campaign.
Pray that families will stay strong during tough times of drought.

Together, we can turn hunger into hope. Join us at caweek.org

Donations can be made directly to Christian Aid through their website. Residents in Ubley and Compton Martin, please place donations in your red envelopes which will include details of collection points.

Blagdon Church and Village Fête

Entry 12 Adults under 10 free 10p

Saturday 21 May, 1-4.30pm Blagdon Court, Blagdon

A traditional village fair including: Plants, Tombola, Teas, Cakes, White elephant, Bar, Hot beef rolls, Children's entertainment, Grand draw, Water or wine, Human fruit machine, Fizz raffle



Said of William Shakespeare: 'I love the place, I love the church and St Andrew'

YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO

A short thanksgiving for Queen Elizabeth's 70 years as reigning monarch 3:00pm, St Andrew's, Blagdon followed by a street party with tea and cake in St Andrew's Churchyard 3:30pm - 4:30pm



Volunteers Needed

We are hoping to open St Hugh's on Sunday afternoons through the summer months, from 2-5pm. If you are able to give a few hours of your time to greet visitors and serve tea, please could you contact Penny Crawford who has kindly agreed to organise a rota: 01761 462418.

Prayer within our Community

We have been asked to pray for: In the Parish of Blagdon, please pray for Britta and her parents Roger and Kathy, Neil and Margaret and Joyce. In the Parish of Compton Martin, please pray for Ann and Robert, for Ceinwen and Robert.

Please pray for Alfie Jacobs and his family as they prepare for baptism, and for Toby and Aimee, Harry and Camilla as they prepare for marriage.

O Holy Jesus O most merciful Redeemer, Friend, and Brother, May I know thee more clearly; Love thee more dearly, And follow thee more nearly Day by day.

If you have someone or something that you would like us to pray for, your requests can be passed onto them and included in our prayers. Please click here to send us your requests.

