



Benefice of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory 2025

Easter Day is the Sunday of Sundays, for Christians the first day of a new creation: 'This is the day that the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it.' In the early centuries new converts (catechumens) were baptized at Easter, entering sacramentally into Christ's redeeming death and resurrection as the Christian community celebrated its memorial of those amazing events. By ancient custom, the readings during Eastertide meditate not only on the victory of Christ, but on the Church as the baptized community. The readings from scripture trace the growth of the infant Church as told by the Acts of the Apostles, and the various accounts of Christ's resurrection appearances in the Gospel and the gift of himself to us as 'the Bread of Life'.



Ascension

Thursday 29 May

During Eastertide, the Feast of the Ascension enjoys a special status as a celebration of Christ's kingship and triumphant exaltation. There will be a **Sung Eucharist** at Holy Trinity on **Thursday 29 May at 6.30pm**. However, before this, there is a **10.00am short Eucharist at St Mary Tory**. Join Jenny at **9.00am** as she

walks slowly from **Holy Trinity to St Mary Tory** on the morning of Ascension Day or meet us there! You will be warmly welcomed to this short walk of pilgrimage – to this new service for the Feast of Ascension of Jesus Christ.



The chapel of St Mary Tory (or 'hill') has been in the care of the Saxon Church Trust since 1927. It was noted by John Leland in the course of his west country journey in 1533" 'There is a Chapelle on the highest place of the Towne, as I entered.' John Aubrey, writing in the 17th century called it the finest hermitage he

had seen in England... 'severall rooms and a very neate chapell of good freestone. The high hill is rock and gravell, faces the south and southwest, therefore is the best seate for a vineyard of any place I know; better in England cannot be.'



Thy Kingdom Come

29 May – 8 June

The nine days that follow the Ascension are sometimes known as a *novena*. They are observed by Christians across the world as a time of waiting in prayer upon the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Together we pray, 'Thy

kingdom come'. *For further details, see below.*

Pentecost

Sunday 8 June

8.00am Said Eucharist - Holy Trinity

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Holy Trinity

9.30am Morning Prayer - St Mary's, Wingfield

11.15am Holy Communion - St Mary the Virgin, Westwood

The Great Fifty Days of Easter climaxes on the Day of Pentecost, the Jewish Feast of Weeks (in Hebrew *Shavuot*). The word Pentecost is Greek in origin, meaning fifty because it falls on the fiftieth day after Passover. For the Jews, it was an important day marking not only the completion of the barley harvest, but also the anniversary of the giving of the law to Moses. It was in commemoration of this that the disciples had reassembled in Jerusalem and felt empowered by the Holy Spirit to preach the good news of Christ's resurrection. Whereas the giving of the law on Mount Sinai was accompanied by thunder and lightning, the birth of the Church was accomplished when the new law of love was written with the fire of the Holy Ghost on the pages of the human heart. It is why Pentecost is called 'the birthday of the Church'.



Traditionally in England the feast was called Whitsunday. The name probably originated from the custom of the newly-baptized and young girls coming to church dressed in white. The old title, however, was confusing because the main sign of Pentecost is the colour red, symbolizing the joy and the fire of the Holy Spirit! Churches are hung with red banners and decorated with red flowers. In some countries, not only do the clergy wear red vestments, but members of the congregation often turn up wearing something red too!

Trinity Sunday

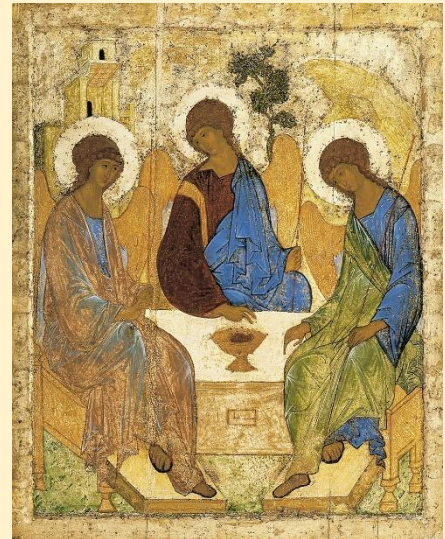
Sunday 15 June

8.00am Said Eucharist - Holy Trinity

9.30am Sung Eucharist - Holy Trinity

11.15am Mattins - St Mary the Virgin, Westwood

If we celebrate the exaltation of Christ and the *kingdom* of God on Ascension Day, and at Pentecost the *power* of the Holy Spirit to change lives, on Trinity Sunday we celebrate the *glory* of God who has revealed himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is a special day in Bradford on Avon because the parish church is dedicated to God the Holy Trinity. It is the church's **Patronal Festival**.



Thy Kingdom Come



For ten years, the nine days between Ascension and Pentecost have been observed ecumenically as a Global Wave of Prayer that God's Holy Spirit would renew the Church in faith, hope and love. We pray that more people may come to know Jesus Christ and the power of his resurrection.

'Behold, I make all things new!' says Our Lord (Revelation 21.5). What does it look like for God to make new things in Bradford on Avon, Wingfield and Westwood?

As we journey on together, let us pray that God's Spirit will transform each of us in heart and mind, and renew our partnership in the Gospel.

Every person, household and church is encouraged to pray during these days in their own way for the coming of God's kingdom. Free copies of this year's prayer booklet are available.

Look graciously upon us,
O Holy Spirit,
and give us, for our hallowing,
thoughts that pass into prayer,
prayers that pass into love,
and love that passes into life
with you for ever.

Eric Milner-White

Blessed are you, sovereign God, overflowing in love.
With Pentecost dawns the age of the Spirit.
Now the flame of heaven rests on every believer.
Strong and weak, women and men tell out your word;
the young receive visions, the old receive dreams.
With the new wine of the Spirit
they proclaim your reign of love.
Amid the birth pangs of the new creation
the way of light is made known.
Source of freedom, giver of life,
blessed are you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

thykingdomcome.global