



ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WESTWOOD

www.htboa.org

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28 APRIL 2024 THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



**Welcome to our Service today
And welcome if you are reading this at home**

HYMNS & MUSIC FOR TODAY'S SERVICE

11.15am Morning Prayer

259 – Jerusalem the Golden

56 – Be Thou my vision

548 – When I needed a neighbour

287a – Just as I am

THE COLLECT

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 us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may 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.**

PSALM 22. 25-31

FIRST READING

Acts 8. 26-40

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.) 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 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. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

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

GOSPEL READING

John 15. 1-8

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

NOTICES

COPYING, PRINTING, POSTERS – please send to Netty on: beneficeoffice@htboa.org

NOTICES FOR WEEKLY BULLETINS – please send any messages *by the end of a Wednesday* to Netty on: beneficeoffice@htboa.org

THANKSGIVING SERVICE FOR ANN HILL – Tuesday, 7 May @ 2.15pm.

BENEFICE CONFIRMATION - This will take place on 1 September at Holy Trinity at 9.30am. Please let Sarah or Robert know if you or someone you know is interested. Preparation meetings will be arranged to suit the timetables of the participants.



THY KINGDOM COME - 10-19 May
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 for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Together we pray 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Please see the new leaflet and free booklet you are given today

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK, 12-18 MAY. In the Round service on 12 May will be a Christian Aid service, focusing on the fight against global poverty. We pray for the coming of God's kingdom in justice, love and peace. Further information available in church and online.

THE CLOSE SHAVES – Saturday, 1 June @ 7pm, St Mary's, Wingfield. 'From Tallis to the Beatles'. The barbershop octet has been performing for over 30 years with a wide repertoire of music. Tickets £15 which includes an interval drink. To book please contact David Robinson via email david.robinson@paultonstreet.com or mobile 07788755607. All proceeds in aid of St Mary's Wingfield.

COMPLINE IN THE SAXON CHURCH - 8pm on 29 May, 26 June, 31 July, 28 August, 25 September

THIS WEEK @ HT



MAINLY MUSIC – Tuesday @ 10.30am – fun & friendship for pre-school families (contact Marlene on 864412 if you'd like to come).

SAXON CLUB – Tuesday @ 2.30pm
– fun & friendship for ‘seniors’.
Jonquil talks about Iona.

TRIO PARADIS CAFÉ CONCERT –
Thursday @ 10.45am. May’s
programme is a collection of beautiful
music by English composers of the
late 19th and early 20th centuries,
among them Charles Villiers
Stanford, Rebecca Clark, Ernest
Austin and Dora Bright. Concerts last
c45mins. There’s no need to book,
just turn up early for best seats as
these concerts are popular!

**CONTEMPLATIVE HOUR @ ST
MARY TORY** – Thursday @ 6pm

MORNING PRAYER will be said at
8.30am on Wednesday only.

FUTURE EVENTS @ HT

ASCENSION DAY 9 MAY - There
will be a Benefice Sung Eucharist for
Ascension Day at 6.30pm

GREEN MAN FESTIVAL – Sunday
11 May. A vibrant, family-friendly
community gathering throughout the
town centre from 9.30am-5.30pm.

FOR OUR PRAYERS

**Please pray for all who are sick,
remembering especially:** Betty &
Doug Hancock & Joan Windel

**Pray for all those who mourn and
for those who have recently died,
especially:** Ann Hill

**Please *always* let Sarah know of
any pastoral need – any kind of
pain or loss, illness,
hospitalisation, loneliness – or
simply cause for prayer.**

**BENEFICE PRAYER DURING THE
VACANCY** - Heavenly Father, hear
our prayer for our churches in
Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity,
Westwood and Wingfield at this time
of Vacancy. Guide us in our
deliberations and decisions as we
look to the future. May we reach out
to the community around us,
spreading your message of love,
care, hope and forgiveness to all
generations. May your Holy Spirit be
with us in all our endeavours and
may our worship always glorify your
name through Jesus Christ, your Son
our Saviour. Amen

FOR PRAYER THIS WEEK

- Global peace
- Leaders in the Benefice
- Families and relationships
- Teachings of Jesus and His disciples
- Those in care homes and nursing homes
- Our youth and future generations

NEXT WEEK – THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.30am – Benefice Eucharist with
Bishop Andrew at Holy Trinity

Readings

Acts 10. 44-48
John 15. 9-17