

ST MARY THE VIRGIN, WESTWOOD

www.htboa.org



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The Rector's usual weekly day off is a Monday

3 May 2026



THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

11.15am Holy Communion

HYMNS FOR TODAY'S SERVICE

76 - Christ is made the sure foundation

53 - Be still, for the presence of the Lord

532 - We have a gospel to proclaim

518 - Thy hand, O God, has guided

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.

FIRST READING

Acts 7. 55 – end

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

EPISTLE READING

1 Peter 2. 2 - 10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: 'See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner', And 'A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you

may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

GOSPEL READING

John 14. 1 – 14

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen

MESSAGE FROM JENNY –

Peter writes to Christians who are scattered, uncertain, and without a place to call their own. He doesn't urge them to rebuild what has been lost, but to recognise what God is already doing among them. In 1 Peter 2. 2 – 10 Christ is the cornerstone, and they are 'living stones' being drawn together into a dwelling place for God: they are precious, even when rejected by the world. In John 14, Jesus speaks of preparing a place for us, in calling his disciples not to troubled hearts, but to trust; to remain in him, to know Jesus as the way. That promise is not only of a future, but of a present belonging which is shaped by trust. There's a landing point in this: we do not wait to belong. In Christ, we already belong and are being built together into a living temple for God, stone by 'living stone', with our shared life bearing Christ's presence.
Yours, Jenny

BAPTISMS AND CONFIRMATIONS –

If you would like to explore baptism and confirmation as an adult for this season please could you get in touch directly with Jenny, who welcomes your enquiry and preparation towards what would be a special service – all welcome.

DIocese OF SALISBURY VOLUNTEERS DAY

- Friday 5th June. We would love for you to join the Diocese Volunteers Day which includes a celebratory lunch and sessions and resources for this context. Do look at the Diocesan website – www.salisbury.anglican.org/ and go along with your friends. Thank you to all who volunteer and serve in our Benefice. Revd. Jenny

ST MARY TORY COMTEMPLATIVE HOUR -

6pm – 7pm – On Thursday 7th May the small pilgrim place on top of the hill will be open for anyone. Take an hour in stillness and silence. Refresh and renew spirit as the breath deepens and the body softens.
All welcome.

HOLY COMMUNION ARRANGEMENTS –

GLUTEN FREE WAFERS – these are available for those who need them. Please let the welcomers know when you arrive and inform the priest when you come to receive Communion.

BLESSINGS – you are welcome to come forward for a Blessing during the Communion part of the service.

NOTICES

NOTICES FOR WEEKLY BULLETINS – please send all messages for the bulletin by Wednesday 12pm to Annie on: beneficeoffice@htboa.org

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

BIRTHDAYS - Happy Birthday, prayers and blessings to all those with birthdays in this season.

THIS WEEK @ HT

MORNING PRAYER – Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays @ 8.30am

MAINLY MUSIC – Tuesday @

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

marlene.haffenden@googlemail.com



SAXON CLUB – Tuesday @ 2.30pm – fellowship and various activities for seniors

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY HOLY COMMUNION – Holy Trinity, 10am

COMMUNITY CAFÉ – Wednesdays from 10am-12noon - weekly community café – coffee/tea and biscuits will be provided on a donation basis.

FUTURE EVENTS AROUND THE BENEFICE

HOLY TRINITY LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES -

All are welcome to join us for our lunchtime concert series in the beautiful setting of Holy Trinity church for an hour or so of music -1200 noon.

Future concert dates –

14th May – Trumpet and Piano with Mike Daniels

TRIO PARADIS CAFÉ CONCERT – Thursday 7th May @ 10.45am. This month's programme is a varied collection of music based on or inspired by folk tunes and dances, and includes Irish composer Joan Trimble's Phantasy Trio, which beautifully conveys the Irish landscape and traditions, and George Butterworth's The Banks of Green Willow, essentially a fantasy on two English folk songs. Alongside these we play our arrangements of the beautiful Ashokan Farewell,

Fantasia on Greensleeves and a lively Danish Peat Dance. Concerts last c45mins. There's no need to book, just turn up early for best seats as these concerts are popular!

LUMOS CONCERT – Friday 8th May - A Hans Zimmer Candlelight Experience in Holy Trinity, 7pm – 8pm and 9pm – 10pm. See - www.lumos-experiences.com for tickets.

CANTAMUS CHAMBER CHOIR – A Voice from Heaven – Sunday 10th May, 4pm – Inspiring choral music celebrating female composers including Imogen Holst, Kerensa Briggs, Lucy Walker and Florence Price. Tickets are available from cantamuschamberchoir.co.uk and on the door.

CHORAL CONCERT – MONKTON COMBE CHAPEL CHOIR - Tuesday 19th May – 7pm – 9pm

HOLY TRINITY'S CHILDREN'S HALF-TERM CRAFT AND PLAY MORNING – FLOWERS & CREATION - Tuesday 26th May, 10.30 – 12 noon. £3 per family. Parents must be present – ALL WELCOME!



'RE-OPENING' ORGAN CONCERT WITH DAVID HALLS, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AT SALSBURY CATHEDRAL – Friday 12th June – 7.30pm. This will be a ticketed event, further details next week.

FOR OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for all who are sick, remembering especially: David Chalmers, Betty & Doug Hancock.

Pray for the recently departed and all who mourn them, especially: Tony Carter

Please *always* let Rev Jenny know of any pastoral need, including prayer.

FOR PRAYER THIS WEEK

- Our Benefice of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield and all who serve in the surrounding communities.
- St Laurence, Fitzmaurice Primary, The Mead School, Westwood and Iford Primary School, parents, pupils, teachers and all staff.
- The newly baptised.
- God's beautiful creation.
- Christians in Jerusalem.
- The Vatican.
- Our media in all forms.
- All on holiday.

We continue to work together in our shared commitment to Safeguarding:

'The Benefice of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield takes its responsibilities surrounding the safeguarding of children, young people, and adults who may be at risk, very seriously. We work in partnership with the Diocese of Salisbury to ensure that we work in accordance with best practices at all times.'



SAFEGUARDING - If you have any Safeguarding concerns please speak to the clergy or our Safeguarding Adviser for the Benefice: **Andrea Unwin** 07553161654 Email: safeguarding@htboa.org If you are concerned that someone you know is at risk of or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please seek advice from: safeguarding@salisbury.anglican.org to speak to a caseworker, or the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor 01722 438651 and press option 3

NEXT WEEK – 10 MAY – THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

11.15am – Holy Communion

Readings:

Acts 17. 22 - 31

John 14. 15 – 21