



Notices for 28th of April 2024

The fifth Sunday of Easter

*A warm welcome to everyone;
please come into the hall for refreshments after the service.*

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.

Hymns:

- 150** Love's redeeming work is done
- 470** I the Lord of sea and sky
- 609** To God be the glory, great things he hath done
- 505** Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us
- 516** Love divine, all loves excelling

Although there is no formal collection during the offertory hymn, please feel free to make a contribution to the work of St. Mary's either in the Treasury box at the back of church, or using the card reader, also at the back of church. Thank you.

Readings:

Acts 8.26-end.

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.

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.

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.

Vacancy Notices and Dates

On Weds 17th April, the PCC held what is known as a "Section 11 Meeting". In this meeting It was agreed that the Parish Profile is now finalised, we will proceed to advertise the position in the Church Times during May, and Dan and Peter are now elected as the parish representatives for the interview process. Dan and Peter will meet with Area Dean Rosemary Donovan, Archdeacon Martin Breadmore and Bishop Paul Davies in early June to consider applications for interview in early July.

Sharing of the Peace

Following discussion in PCC, and consultation with the area dean, it is agreed that we will evolve our guidance for the exchange of the Peace. Our policy of

asking everyone simply to wave was introduced during the Covid pandemic, and we still want to respect social distancing for those who chose to retain this. For now, we are asking everyone to remain in their pews, and to shake hands only where it is mutually agreeable between those sitting next to one another.

8am SERVICES will be held only once a month on the first Sunday of each month. Any questions please talk to Dan or Peter.

Intercessors, Sidespeople and Welcomers

Our Sunday services are assisted by several small groups of people. We would like to encourage more to join these teams to reduce the work load of the current people. Please talk to Peter or Dan to find out more.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 4th May 10am-12pm

Crochet Session in The Leverton Room. All welcome

Thursday 9th May at 10:00am and 8:00pm – Our Ascension Day services.

Sunday 12th May APCM the Annual Parish meeting will be held at 11:00 hours after the morning service. There are five vacancies on the PCC, so if you would like to be part of the PCC, or if you think that someone you know would be a great asset to the PCC (please ask them first), then there are nomination forms to fill in on the table at the back of the Church. Please talk to Peter, Dan or Sara if you would like to know more.

Saturday 22nd June

Midsummer tea party

Looking Forward...

Sunday 24th November - Sunday Christmas Homemade Sunday

Also - parish barbecue in September - date to be arranged

additional homemade Sundays - dates to be arranged

Top 5 requirements needed for Epsom & Ewell foodbank: Deodorant, Cooking sauces, Noodles, Tinned fruit, Tinned tomatoes.