



Sunday 16th May 2021

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Today's Sunday Services

9.30am Holy Communion - St John The Baptist, Woodland
 11.00 am Holy Communion - St Andrew's, Ipplepen
 6.00pm Evening Prayer - online via Zoom
 For the Zoom meeting ID and passcode, email: rachelbelringer@gmail.com

Telephone support/chat following the church services: Sheila Sheldon is available to speak to following our church services. Sheila's phone number is (01803) 814227.

Morning Prayer

9am - 9.30am Monday to Thursday this week on Zoom
 For the Zoom password, email: rev.andrewdown@gmail.com

Reflection

Our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week at the following times:

St Peter & St Paul's, Broadhempston	9am to 5pm	Sundays and Wednesdays
St Andrew's, Ipplepen	9am to 5pm	Daily
St Mary the Virgin, Denbury	10am to 5pm	Daily

Please note, St John the Baptist, Woodland is currently closed for private prayer and reflection.

Mid-Week

Monday		Rev'd Andrew Down – Day off
Tuesday	10.15am	Holy Communion - St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15am	Holy Communion - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

Next Sunday – Pentecost

9.30am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00am	Holy Communion	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
11.00am	Churches Together – Family Service	- St Andrew's Churchyard Field

Other Services

Tues 25th May at 11am Interment of Ashes – Fredric George Lang - St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Ascension to Pentecost

From Friday after Ascension Day begin nine days of prayer (or novena) before Pentecost, prayers of waiting expectantly for the Holy Spirit. In the Beacon Parishes during we will mark this by:

- 16th May - 6pm, Zoom, **Evening service of waiting and vigil**
- Our usual services (morning prayer and Eucharists) during this period will focus on waiting expectantly for the Holy Spirit.

Prayer at home: why not use this period to focus on developing your **practice of contemplation and prayer**. We will place prayer resources on the website home page over this period for guidance and inspiration.

The wider church: 'Thy Kingdom Come' is the name for the global initiative encouraging people to use this 9 day period as a focused time of prayer. Lots of great resources and events in our own diocese and further afield. Simply search for 'Thy Kingdom Come' to discover more.

Points for Prayer. During this time do remember Lauren, Emily, Isabelle, Charlotte, Jo and Freda as they prepare for their confirmation on Saturday 12th June at 4pm in Exeter Cathedral.

Messy Church Online Festival: Saturday, 22 May 2021 Join in the first UK Messtival online! A great way to celebrate Pentecost! Join in on Zoom between 10.00 am and 12.30 pm (doors open 09.45 am) for a fun altogether national gathering of Messy people from all over the UK (and possibly a few overseas friends...). Enjoy up to three inspiring Messions, finishing back together with a warm and wonderful celebration. Have a leisurely break for lunch, then clock in again at 3.00 pm for a short and magnificent celebration on YouTube:

<https://www.messychurch.org.uk/messtival>

Phoebe - A Story: Meet the Author on June 14th at 7pm. We are delighted that Paula Gooder has kindly agreed to join us via Zoom in a discussion and to answer questions about the book. Many of us have enjoyed reading it during Lent but there is still plenty of time to read it and then to hear about it from the author's mouth. The link will be given nearer the time. Paula is currently Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral. For more about her writing and work see

www.gooder.me.uk/about/

Refresh, revisit, and reflect. Congratulations to those who have now completed this course. We will be looking to run it again physically as soon as we are able to meet together inside.

Confirmation. Would you or someone you know want to make the step of confirming their baptism vows and prepare for communion? Please contact either Andrew or the office for more details. We are joining in with a confirmation service at Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 12th June at 4pm.

Online Sermon for Ascension Sunday The Rt. Rev'd Mark Rylands, Priest-in-Charge of the Ashburton & Moorland Team Ministry, shares a thought-provoking 10 minute video sermon for Ascension Sunday <https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>

In Memory. John Griffin and Fredric Lang.

Look out for the wonderful cards on sale to raise funds for our churches. Thank you to Robin and Pam Thomas for organising this. Fantastic picture Robin!

Living in Love And Faith is 'The Task Of Our Generation' The Church of England's Living in Love and Faith (LLF) process, looking at gender, sexuality, identity and faith has been underway since November. Some Mission Communities have run the five week study course already, we are waiting to run it when people can meet together inside. We plan to run a number of groups in the autumn.

Readings	This week	Next week
Readings for this Sunday:		
First Reading	Acts 1:15-17	Acts 2:1-21
Psalm	1	104:25-35. 37
Second Reading	1 John 5:9-13	Romans 8:22-27
Gospel	John 17:6-19	John 15:26-27
Readings for the week ahead:		
Mon	17 th John 16:29-End	
Tue	18 th John 17:1-11	
Wed	19 th John 17:11-19	
Thurs	20 th John 17:20-End	
Fri	21 st John 21:15-19	
Sat	22 nd John 21:20-End	

They can also be viewed/downloaded from <https://bible.oremus.org/>

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www.facebook.com/denburyworship www.facebook.com/Broad20/



Reflection by Rev'd Tony Meek

**Seventh Sunday of Easter
Sunday after Ascension Day
Luke 24:44-End
Sunday 16th May 2021**

My father was born and brought up in Norfolk and when I was a boy, we used to spend our holidays with his family in and around Hunstanton. Nearby is the famous shrine at Walsingham, where a new church was built in the 1930's on the site where it is believed that Richeldis, the lady of the manor in the time of Edward the Confessor, saw a vision of the blessed Virgin Mary. Every day, pilgrims make their way to the shrine at Walsingham, to pray and to be sprinkled with water from the holy well.

As a priest I have taken part in such pilgrimages, and been privileged to stand at the well sprinkling the pilgrims. It is a most moving experience and there are many well-documented cases of the mighty effect of God's healing power at work through that place.

The shrine church is beautiful, with many small chapels. One of these is dedicated to the Ascension but it is a small part of Walsingham about which I feel uncomfortable.

Hanging from two wires from the ceiling above the altar in the Chapel of the Ascension is a large white plaster of Paris cloud. And dangling through that cloud are two pink plaster of Paris feet, each with a vivid red scar. You see, I find the concept of Jesus disappearing feet last upwards into a cloud, like a rocket from a milk bottle, very difficult to take seriously.

That is not what St Luke's Gospel told us. We are told that Jesus withdrew from the disciples and was carried up into heaven.

Of course, if you think that heaven is a place physically located in the sky, as the disciples and early gospel writers probably did, then 'carried up' can mean just that: disappearing feet last. But that would mean that Jesus went away from them and us. And if there is one thing that Ascension does not mean, it is Jesus going away.

If anything, the events of the Ascension and Pentecost mean that he is more intimately with each and every one of us than could possibly be the case when he was in a human body in first century Palestine.

The image of the Ascension which I do not want to stick in our minds is of Jesus getting smaller and smaller, of him going further and further away from us. We read at the very end of St Matthew's Gospel that Jesus said, 'I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

It is difficult to separate the events of Easter, the Ascension and Pentecost. They are each ways in which we try to understand the unique way in which the Son of God became our Saviour, redeeming us from sin and overcoming death for us.

After the Ascension, the disciples were full of joy, continually in the Temple, praising God. Jesus was with and in each of them just as he is with and in each one of us.

One of the most wonderful things about being a Christian is that you do not have to go anywhere special, or wear anything special, or say or do anything special, to be near to Jesus. Just as he promised the disciples, he is with us always, to the end of the world. Wherever you are, whatever you are doing, he is with you. If you live with that knowledge in your heart, you need no other code of behaviour.

The disciples were continually in the Temple praising God. We can also of course and should praise God on our own. How wonderful it will be when more of us feel that it is safe to gather together. In my own case, some weeks after we have both had our second jab may give more confidence.

Let us, with the disciples, be full of joy. Let us, with them, when it is safer to do so, gather together in praise of God.

