



Trinity Baptist Church

News Sheet

Sunday 9th May 2021

Welcome to Trinity!

From 10am Zoom meeting led by David Linley; details in Kerry's email to you.

10.30 am Morning Service. Led by Andy Banks. Reading: Mark 6:14-29

'Interlude: Herod, Jesus and John the Baptist.'

 **YouTube** Click here to watch the service streamed live: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8vTabe_7Y0_2Ka7BtCdRUQ

Maureen Hubbard's Funeral

Maureen Hubbard's funeral will take place on the 28th May at 2pm by invite only. Details of a live-stream of the service will follow soon.

With Christ, which is far better.

Lots of people will remember Kathy & Derek Frost. Sadly Kathy passed away on Saturday 1st May. They were members of Trinity for many years until they went to Canada to serve in a mission. Kathy also served as a prison visitor, talking to the prisoners about our Lord. They retired back to England living near Maidstone. Please remember Derek & the family at this sad time.

For Your Prayers

- Give thanks for a good start to the Alpha Course. Pray for the guests and leaders as they explore the topic 'Why did Jesus die?' this evening.
- Pray for all those experiencing grief at this time. Pray too for those with family members who are nearing the end of life or struggling with long-term health problems.
- Pray for all those affected by the Covid crisis in India, including for Indian Christians, who often suffer persecution through difficulty in accessing medical care.
- Pray for students and school pupils approaching exams and assessments.
- Pray as we begin to consider how and when we might safely re-open our Sunday children's work, and the shape of that work overall.

Pastor's Message

This coming Thursday is Ascension Day, when we celebrate Jesus' return to heaven forty days after his resurrection. In Baptist circles, we tend to give scant attention to this festival, but that is to our loss. For there is much to celebrate in Jesus' ascension.

Firstly, it is wholly right that we celebrate Jesus' enthronement at the right hand of his Father in glory. He laid aside the fullness of his majesty to become one of us, and further to be our sacrifice to restore us to his Father. It is only fitting that his full majesty should have been restored once he finished his saving work. Jesus himself said as much, when he prayed to his Father, saying, "I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, *glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began*" (John 17:4-5). It is good news indeed that the King of Love is on the throne where he belongs!

Secondly, Jesus carries our humanity into the throne room of God, for he is still incarnate as a human being. Now he intercedes with His Father on our behalf by the wounds he still bears in his hands, feet and side. I love Matthew Bridges' description in the glorious hymn, *Crown Him With Many Crowns*:

Crown Him the Lord of Love:
Behold His hands and side;
Rich wounds yet visible above
In beauty glorified

It is a tremendous comfort to know that the One who sits enthroned as King over the whole universe, is the One who sacrificed himself in love for the sake of the universe. But the writer to the Hebrews takes this one stage further, reminding us that, "Because Jesus lives *for ever*, he has a *permanent* priesthood. Therefore he is able to save *completely* those who come to God through him, because he *always lives to intercede for them*" (Hebrews 7:24-25).

A third reason why Ascension Day is good news is because it enabled the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told his disciples, "Very truly I tell you, it is *for your good* that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate [the Holy Spirit] will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you" (John 16:7). Whilst on Earth, Jesus could only be in one place at one time. Now that he has ascended to Heaven, he can be in *all* places at *all* times through the Person of the Holy Spirit. We can enjoy an intimate relationship with him and feel his presence at the same time as Christians who are battling Covid in India and Christians who are enduring persecution in Mozambique. The transformative power of the good news of Jesus Christ can spread far and wide because he has ascended back into heaven. Happy Ascension Day for Thursday, everyone!

Andy.

Trinity Diary

Monday 10th May	1 pm	Foodbank
Wednesday 12th May	8 pm	Zoom Prayers
Friday 14th May	10.30 am	Foodbank
Sunday 16th May	10.30 pm	Communion Service
Sunday 23rd May	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sunday 23rd May	12.15 pm	Annual General Meeting – agenda to follow

Book your tickets to in-person services here:

<https://www.trinitybexleyheath.org.uk/diary/>

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