

Sunday 27th April 2025
Second Sunday of Easter

- 10.00 a.m. Church Family Communion with Children's Church
4.00 p.m. Tea Time Church
5.30 p.m. Youth Group

Collect for Today

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father. **Amen**

Service Readings

Acts 5:27-32 (*p.119*), Revelation 1:4-8 (*p.242*) and John 20:19-end (*p.112*)

Please pray for

- ... Dave Barclay, Carole Bookham, Anne Bradbeer, Andrea Fairbairn, Llew Parry (Alison's Dad), Becki & Jonathan Salmon and Roger Young.
... the family and friends of Jean Penney, Edith Ford, Francis Goulding, Olive Webber and Elsie Smallpeice whose anniversary of death is at this time.
... those who live and work in Old Court Road, Old Palace Road and Orchard Road.
... the Koens family in Papua New Guinea supporting the work of Bible translation through vehicle maintenance, teaching, missionary care.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Financial Giving

We take a collection during our services. If you don't give regularly by standing order or the envelope scheme, please put your donation in the bag, tap the card reader on your way out, or use the QR code on the back of this news-sheet. Thank you.

Dear Friends

But Peter and the apostles answered: “We must obey God rather than any human authority” (Acts 5:29).

As I reflected on this verse from our Acts reading for this Sunday, I couldn't help wondering, if the Apostles' bold declaration in the face of religious and political pressure, held increasing prophetic resonance for our own times?

Figures like Alexi Navalny and the unnamed protesters in Myanmar Turkey and Iran, are of course stark contemporary reminders of the risks of speaking truth to power when it contradicts state narratives. But what of democracies where the tension is less about naked persecution, more about cultural or institutional pressure? As the geo-political world order seemingly dissolves before our eyes, how should our Christian faith inform our view of seemingly democratic societies, those in the new world order who's burgeoning self-believe spawns a demand for moral compromise?

In such societies, in an era of wider sources of misinformation and state propaganda, is the creeping challenge more about how far as Christians we compromise core convictions in the name of political ideological conformity?

If it is so, as I increasingly suspect, then Acts 5:29 does well to remind us of a deeper allegiance—to truth, to justice, and especially to God's will. So, as the global drama continues to unfold around us, passages like Acts 5 and 1Timothy 6: 4-10 serve as a timely reminder for our prayers that allegiance to divine principles - such as justice, compassion, integrity - must eventually take precedence, even when that choice is inconvenient or unpopular.

Paul Fenner

Mission Focus for April: ReSkilled

ReSkilled is based in Guildford. Its aim is to reduce social isolation and give people back self-esteem, choices and hope. It enables them to re-discover the fulfilment and benefits of being in employment through learning woodworking skills. Please pray for the staff, volunteers and participants. See more in our April magazine and on their website: reskilled.org/

Notices

Welcome to Revd Paul Fenner who will be presiding and preaching at our 10am Church Family Communion service today.

Hear Here Clinic: Tomorrow, Monday 28th in the Reading Room. No need to book a slot, just come along between 2pm and 3pm.

Earth Day was last Tuesday and Guildford Diocese launched a video showcasing the five churches in the diocese to attain the Eco Church gold award – including us! What's more, the Diocese of Guildford currently has the highest number of Gold Eco Churches in the UK. A video was filmed in our orchard, so do please take a look and read the article on their website:

www.cofeguildford.org.uk/about-us/news/diocese-of-guildford-churches-blaze-the-eco-trail-this-earth-day.php

Church Walk, Bank Holiday Monday 5th May: We'll be meeting at church at 10.15am ready for a 10.30am start to walk to Watt's Gallery (about 2.5 miles). We'll aim to leave Watt's Gallery at 12 noon to head off on the (approx. 1.8 mile) walk to St John's Church in Puttenham. If you prefer this shorter walk, please join us at Watt's Gallery ready to leave at noon. Do bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at St John's. Please sign up on the sheet at church, with all names of those who would like to join the walk, and whether you will meet at church or at Watts' Gallery. If you have any questions please contact Bruce Hopwood on missions@allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk.

Christian Aid Week: If you have even half an hour free between Sunday 11th and Saturday 17th May please deliver some envelopes to houses in our parish (we don't need to collect them afterwards). Please sign up on the form in the foyer. There will be a car wash and bake sale on Saturday 17th May at Onslow Village Hall from 2pm to 4.30pm. Please bring your car to be washed, buy some cakes and tell your neighbours and friends. We also need bakers and people to wash cars! Please contact Bruce and Katherine Hopwood if you can help: missions@allsaintschurchgfd.org.uk or sign up on the sheet in the foyer. Christian Aid helps people of all faiths and none, and was set up by the churches of the UK and Ireland after the 2nd World War. For more information please see May's magazine.

VE Day Celebrations: We'll be celebrating this important day on Sunday 11th May at 4pm. Please bring any memorabilia you may have and your memories as we celebrate together. Tea and cake after.

Used Stamps: There is a collection box on the shelf in the foyer for any used stamps. We will be sending them to the Church of Scotland's stamp appeal which this year, is supporting the work of the Al Ahli Hospital in Northern Gaza.

Diary for the Coming Week

Morning prayer Mon, Tues and Weds 9.15am in the Reading Room and Zoom. Thurs Holy Communion at 9.30am in the Reading Room.

- Mon 28th Women's Bible Study Group, 16 West Meads, 12.30pm
Hear Here Clinic, Reading Room, 2.00pm
Barnabas Group, 26 Manor Way, 4.00pm
- Tues 29th Safeguarding Meeting, Zoom, 6.30pm
Men's Wellbeing Social, 53 Curling Vale, 7.30pm
- Weds 30th Deanery Synod, Burpham Church, 7.30pm
- Thurs 1st Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am
Magazine Team Meeting, 43 Poltimore Road, 12.30pm
Men's Group "Exploring the Way", 13 Abbot's Close, 7.30pm
- Fri 2nd Baby & Toddler Group, Church, 10.00am
- Sun 4th Holy Communion, Reading Room, 8.00am
Café-Style Altogether Worship, 10.00am
Tea Time Church, Reading Room, 4.00pm

Daily Readings for the coming week

- Mon 28th Ps. 5, Joshua 1:1-9, Ephesians 6:10-20
- Tues 29th Ps. 37:23-end, Isaiah 62:6-10, Acts 12:25-13:13
- Weds 30th Ps. 30, Deuteronomy 3:18-end, John 20:19-end
- Thurs 1st Ps. 139, Proverbs 4:10-18, James 1:1-12
- Fri 2nd Ps. 61, Deuteronomy 4:15-31, John 21:15-19
- Sat 3rd Ps. 84, Deuteronomy 4:32-40, John 21:20-end

Service Readings for Sunday 4th May: 3rd of Easter

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20), Revelation 5:11-14 and John 21:1-19

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