



St. Mary's Church
Chiddingfold

16 May 2021

Sunday after Ascension

8:00 am Holy Communion (1662)

10:00 am Parish Communion webcast to St. Mary's YouTube Channel

Welcome to St. Mary's

If you are new, welcome! We'd love to keep in touch. Please email the Rector so we can get to know another and do sign up for our weekly e-newsletter (affectionately known as the E-pistle!). That way you can receive all the latest news and resources for prayer, worship and ways of getting involved in this wonderful community.

Collect

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.

Acts 1.15-17, 21-end

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people) and said, 'Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.' So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

John 17.6-19

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: "Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

For our Prayers

Church

We pray for the grace to be witness to Christ in our daily lives, and to live in such a way that his love is made known. We pray for Christians the world, and especially for those whose witness comes at great cost, that the Church may be preserved in faithfulness, truth and love.

World

We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide and strengthen all those who make decisions that shape our world. And we pray for those whose needs are often forgotten or dismissed, and for all who are discriminated against or persecuted. We pray for those living in refugee camps, or on the streets, and for all at risk from human traffickers. We give thanks for Christian Aid and for all organisations working to alleviate poverty and respond to the climate crisis.

Our Neighbours

We pray for all who live and work in the parish, and especially this week we pray for those who work as carers. And at St. Mary's we pray for Helen Gorrod and all who lead Church Mice, St. Mary's baby and toddler group.

Those in Need

We pray that the Spirit will strengthen those who are weary, suffering or in pain, and among those who are ill we pray especially for Clare Laughton.

The Departed

We give thanks that Christ has ascended to heaven, and pray that he will bring with him those who have died. And so we pray for those who have died recently, for our own departed loved ones, and for those whose anniversary of death falls this week.

Looking Ahead

We hope you will join us next Sunday in church when we celebrate Pentecost with Holy Communion at 8:00 am and with Parish Communion for the whole family at 10:00 am.

Evening prayer is offered from homes on Tuesdays at 5:00 pm. Morning prayer is offered on Saturdays at 9:00 am over Zoom and WhatsApp. If you would like resources with which to join in contact gillbeckwith@me.com.

Thy Kingdom Come, May 13-23, 2021: We are joining this 'global wave of prayer' initiated by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, praying that we may be renewed and refreshed by God's Spirit and also that God's Spirit might work in the lives of 5 friends, family members, neighbours or colleagues who do not yet know the love and acceptance offered to them in Jesus Christ. At St. Mary's there will be interactive displays throughout the church to help you pray.

Can you lend a hand? We'd welcome your involvement! There are a number of discrete volunteer roles we are hoping to fill. You can find descriptions of the roles in the newsletter.

St. Mary's Book Club will meet again on June 21 at 8:00 pm to discuss Maggie O'Farrell's "Hamnet". Copies are available in paperback from Hive.co.uk for £7.29. All are welcome! For a zoom invite contact rector.chiddingfold@gmail.com

Thank you for supporting our local Food banks with your generous giving. Donations can be left in church or in the designated drop off point at the Roberts Store. St. Mary's is open every day of the week from 9:00 – 4:30.

We're here to help if you are struggling to make ends meet. For confidential advice and support please contact rector.chiddingfold@gmail.com