



St Andrew's Church

Seeking God Together

NEWS AND NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 2nd MAY 2021

Sunday 2nd May

This Sunday our service will be a Service of the Word at 10.00 am via Zoom. The Zoom invitation is in the email attached to this newsletter.

Services at St Andrew's

Our services will be at 10.00 am via Zoom:

Sunday 2nd May – Service of the Word

Sunday 9th May – Service of Holy Communion

Sunday 16th May – Family Service of the Word

Morning Prayer

We hold Morning Prayer every Thursday at 9.30 a.m. via Zoom.

If you would like the Zoom invitation, please email

info@st-andrewschurch.co.uk



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING



Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on
Sunday 9th May at 4.00 p.m. via Zoom.

We will send you the Zoom invitation next week. If you are not on our mailing list and you would like a Zoom invitation, please email info@st-andrewschurch.co.uk

Plans to return to church – Sunday 23rd May

As long as the Government's road map continues as planned, we will return to church from Sunday 23rd May. We are also going to live stream the services.

It will be necessary to book for the services in church and very soon we will be giving you details of how to book.



Religious programming



The morning faith show on BBC Essex is from 6.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. on Sunday.
Every Sunday a service is broadcast from 8.00 – 8.30 a.m.
The show will be on BBC SOUNDS for 30 days after broadcast.

The Church of England is streaming a service every Sunday at 9.00 a.m.
You can find it on this link

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online/weekly-online-services>



DailyHope, a free national telephone line, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of the phone.

Daily Hope: 0800 804 8044

Sharing news



Brian will be 90 on Friday 7th May.
Congratulations Brian and Happy Birthday!

It is Richard's birthday on Saturday 8th May.
Happy Birthday Richard!



If you have any thoughts or news to share, do let us know.

WITH LOVE AND PRAYERS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

A REFLECTION FOR 2ND MAY 2021 FROM JOHN BOURNE

Acts 8:26-40.

John 15:1-8

I present my talk this morning with reference to something familiar, a piece of artwork found on the St Andrew's notice board, on church documentation, in our magazine, service sheets and WEB site. That of course, is the Church Logo.



Let me remind you. It represents the cross of Christ, the symbol of our faith. Above this are people of all ages meeting together under one roof. To the right is the name of our church, followed by a statement of our mission, 'Seeking God together'.

However, there is more to it than that, so let me consider the logo without the notation.



We have a cross and church. As mentioned, the cross represents the cross of Christ, but it also represents the crossroads on which our church stands - Chignal Road, Melbourne Avenue and Trent Road. The roof is not dissimilar to that of St Andrew's, there are no walls, barriers or check points to stop people entering. People of all ages are amongst the attendees.

I should like to add directions to the Logo.



The purist amongst you will notice that the church should be on the other side of the road but never mind. We also need the crossroad sign.

Our NT reading for today comes from the Book of Acts. It tells of events that took place shortly after Jesus' had ascended into heaven and the Christian Church was in its infancy.

The account begins in Jerusalem, a city to the east, where an important Ethiopian Official was visiting. Today we would call him a Chancellor of the Exchequer. He had been to Jerusalem to worship God in the Temple and was travelling in his escorted carriage home. To get there he had to pass through the city of Gaza which was to the west. From there he travelled south down the coast.

About 70 miles to the north, in the city of Samaria, lived a man called Philip. There are two Philips mentioned in the NT. The first was a disciple of Jesus, the second a leader of the Early Christian Church. It is the second Philip about whom we read.

The Bible tells us that he was a man, obedient to divine guidance. Whatever the manner of his calling, God communicated with him in a special way. Philip was told to leave all he was doing and travel south from Samaria to the junction with the Jerusalem to Gaza road.

At the crossroad, Philip met the Ethiopian official who was reading scrolls of scripture. They were probably, expensive, hand-written documents that he had obtained in Jerusalem and was privileged to have them.

When the two men met, the Ethiopian was reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked. 'Do you understand what you are reading?'. An unexpected question, would you ask that of a fellow traveller on a bus or train?

However, the answer came in the form of an invitation, 'How can I understand if there is nobody to explain it?'. So, Philip jumped onto the carriage, sat down beside the man and read from the scroll.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

The official asked for an explanation, 'Tell me of whom is the prophet speaking?' As the two men travelled westward, Philip explained the Good News of Jesus.

I should like to leave the explanation for a moment and return to our logo. St Andrew's church is at a north to south and east to west crossroad. Had we been in church this morning we would have opened our Bibles to that same passage of scripture. We would have read the story of Philip, the Ethiopian and Isaiah 53:7-8.

We would also have read one of the most familiar of all Gospel passages, Jesus' concluding thoughts before his crucifixion.

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.

These are our crossroad passages for today.

The first was written in the city of Jerusalem, 600 Years before Jesus. It speaks of the wickedness of mankind and the willingness of a victim. Of a lamb being led to slaughter, silently and without complaint; justice perverted and the future assured. The whole passage evokes the trial of Jesus and all that followed; how he became the one, final and perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world.

The fulfilment of this passage was the Good News that Philip explained to the Ethiopian. From now on, the way to God is through faith alone. The Ethiopian's enquiring mind was opened to a new understanding.

Our second crossroad passage is from John's Gospel, words spoken before Jesus was led silently to the cross. 'I am the vine'. It contains Christ's promise of a resting place for all. 'Abide in me, and I in you'.

Both these are wonderful passages.

Their depth is inexhaustible.

They contain thoughts for us all to read and share at the crossroads.

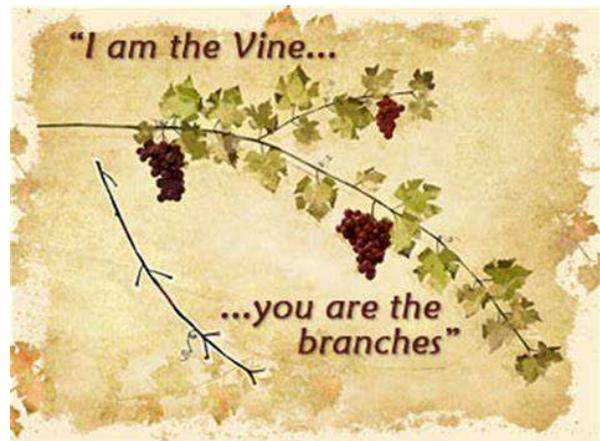
AND SO WE PRAY

THANKSGIVING;

Thank You Jesus, that You are the vine, and we are the branches. By Your grace, and through the Holy Spirit, keep us connected to You, so that we produce fruit that glorifies Your Father.

FOR THE CHURCH;

For prayer, and thanksgiving, for the work of our Diocesan Representatives on General Synod.
For Christian Aid Week 10-16th May -Robin Stephens Local Chair



FOR ST ANDREWS;

For our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Zoom next Sunday at 4pm.
For us to love one another, for when we do so, we are loving You Lord.

FOR THE WORLD;

For prayers for those missing in the Indonesian submarine, and for their families.
For the devastating Covid crisis in India, where people are dying through insufficient oxygen and medical equipment.

FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS;

For those who live and work in Roslings Close, Scotts Walk, Spenlow Drive.
For those standing for local Council Elections on Thursday 6th May.

FOR THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED;

We commend to Your love, Lord, all who are sick, or in any kind of need, remembering especially Gill, Mavis & family, Daniella, Sarah, Hannelore and family, June & Tony, and others known to You alone, Lord, may they all feel Your presence with them.
For the elderly and frail, and for those waiting for Doctors or hospital appointments.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED;

Send forth Your love Lord, to those who are dying, and to all who care for them, and receive into your kingdom those who have recently died remembering especially Hazel and Wolfgang Franz Erwin Fischer, and thank you for the promise of eternal life, and the hope of glory.
Lord, as You abide in us may we abide in You
Amen