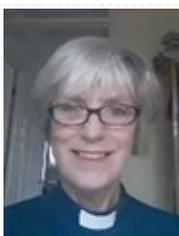




Fifth Sunday of Easter

2nd May 2021



Dear Friends,

The wonderful month of May is now upon us (where did January – April go?!). The natural world around us explodes into life and colour and activity. With Covid restrictions lifting, social and sporting events get underway, and the shopping centres are buzzing again with hopeful customers. The month of May also witnesses those great events in the Christian calendar of Ascension and Pentecost. Festivals of great importance yet largely forgotten outside of the church. May we know afresh in our lives the liberation of Christ ascended over all things, and the power of the Spirit to change things, *even us*. We pray in the words of our most well-known prayer that ‘thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven’.

It sometimes feels as though someone has pressed the ‘fast forward’ button on my life and the weeks and months are hurtling past at an alarming rate. It is now over six months since Clive and I announced that we would be leaving St Mary’s to take up duties with the Stone Cross, Pevensey and Pevensey Bay churches. Had we known then that St Mary’s would be facing a vacancy, things might have been different, but it would not be right to go back on that commitment now. Our last Sunday will be 1st August and our last service at ‘Trees’, 3rd August.

Pentecost 2021 also marks Church on the Trees 40th anniversary. Something we will be doing our best to celebrate (despite Covid restrictions) when Bishop Will comes to the community centre to conduct our worship on 18th May and our café re-opens for the first time since last year.

With my love and prayers,

Revd. Merriel



Download the ‘Daily Prayer’ app to access all Morning, Evening and Night prayer (Compline) services for the correct day.



Services this week

Livestreamed on St Mary’s Facebook page where indicated

Sunday 2nd May

*St Mary’s Eucharist @9.45am with livestream

*St Mary’s Eucharist@11.30am

Evensong @5pm *livestreamed only*

Tuesday 4th May

*Church on the Trees: Holy Communion

@11am with livestream

Wednesday 5th May

*Morning Prayer @8.30am with livestream

Thursday 6th May

*St Mary’s BCP Holy Communion @10.30am

**Open service—booking possible.*

Contact Dc Sue for St Mary’s or Revd Merriel for Church on the Trees

Orders of service available to download from the church website

Church open for private prayer
9am to 5pm Monday to Friday

CONTACT NUMBERS:

Dc Sue: sueann_27@hotmail.com or 07713 097661 **Revd Merriel:** revd.merriel@hotmail.co.uk or 509891

Churchwardens: **Iona:** ionaelizabeth.taylor@sky.com or 502019 **Trevor:** tjameyoptician@btinternet.com or 502655

Parish Office: stmarys.willingdon.church@gmail.com

St. Mary's Church Choir
Rehearsals every Friday at 7pm on Zoom

Please contact Anthony Wilson for more details:
#07729 206721 or stmarys.willingdon.music@gmx.com



APCM 2021 is on Monday, 10th May.

Meeting is by **Zoom only**. Please contact Dc Sue if you're planning to join.

There are currently 3 vacancies for the Deanery Synod (to serve for 2 years), as well as the positions for the PCC and the Church Warden. To any one interested—please request a nomination form by emailing the office. *Trevor*

CHURCH ON THE TREES

turns 40 at Pentecost!

As part of our marking this special event, we are offering a colouring-in competition which is open to anyone, adult or child. This will be judged by Bp. Will at our special service of celebration on 18th May. Posters (right) for colouring in, with entry instructions, may be collected from the back of church or from the Community Centre in Maywood Avenue and need to be returned by the 11th May. If you are unable to return the finished artwork to the centre (and claim your entry prize!) please leave in the box in church and we will arrange collection. Contact Revd. Merriel or Mary Wright for more information.



Christian Aid week at St Mary's Church

Zoom Quiz – 7pm Wednesday 12th May. A light-hearted event with prizes, relying on honesty! Teams of no more than two people please. Entry by donation and anyone can join. Contact Revd. Merriel, 509891/revd.merriel@hotmail.co.uk.

Sponsored Walks (in groups of no more than six). Joanna Bell and Janet Ash are offering organised walks:

- Seafront* – 4pm from Holywell on Tuesday 11th
- Cuckmere Pilgrim Path* – meet 10am, Willows Car Park, Alfriston (4 hours £3, all day £7) Tuesday 12th. In total 12 miles but can be shortened. Other dates can be offered
- Arlington Reservoir* – 10am from car park Friday 14th

Initial contact for participants should be made through Polly, who can also provide sponsorship forms.

Sue Foster and Diana Service will be following the 300,000 steps during May – other individuals welcome to follow their example!

BUT YOU MAY HAVE OTHER IMAGINATIVE WAYS OF RAISING MONEY and we would be delighted to hear from you! Perhaps someone could host a 'Rule of Six' coffee morning (in the garden)?

Eucharist on Sunday 16th will focus on this year's chosen theme.

Donations are encouraged via the Christian Aid e-envelope scheme which is a facility for donations linked to St Mary's church: <https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/envelope/st-mary-willingdon?channel=copy>. This is easy to use, but for those who prefer to make donations the old-fashioned way, these can be put through Polly's door.

Polly Stone Lee - Tel: 502049 or davidandpollystonelee@hotmail.com.

Items for next Sunday's Bulletin
to the Parish Office by Tuesday, please.

Prayer Diary



- Sun 2nd** **Easter 5** – Those providing health and social care
- Mon 3rd** **World Press Freedom Day** – Integrity in the press and media, especially where freedom of speech is repressed
- Tues 4th** **The English Martyrs** - Those persecuted or imprisoned for their faith
- Wed 5th** **International Midwives Day** – For nurses and midwives, especially those in places with inadequate facilities
- Thurs 6th** Scientists and others researching, producing and delivering vaccines
- Fri 7th** For greater access to healthcare worldwide
- Sat 8th** **Julian of Norwich** – Those discerning their vocation in all walks of life

FROM OUR BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

- Sunday 2nd Wilfred Hammett
- Monday 3rd Gerald Henley, Frances Maskell
- Tuesday 4th Marion Sansum, Mary Jackson, Ernest Fraser, Sarah Pearson, Sydney Pearson, Gladys Phillips, Janet Roberts
- Wednesday 5th William Lapworth
- Thursday 6th Violet Shonfield, Ethel Rollings
- Friday 7th Tony Allcorn
- Saturday 8th Theodore Box, Charles Barras, Dennis Cousins

