

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Last week, it was sheep and shepherd. This week, it is vine and branches. If we admire nothing about Jesus except that he was a superb observer of people and nature and that he was an equally superb storyteller, we will have much to admire. Sheep, vines, wheat, corn, sowing, harvesting, salt, foxes, snakes, coins - you name it, and Jesus could brilliantly work it into a story or parable to explain the Love of God for us and the coming of God's Kingdom to us. He was a man wonderfully in tune with creation and constantly finding examples of God's presence in it.

From this alone, we have a lot to learn. God does not live in cathedrals, temples, mosques, synagogues or churches; God does not only live in these places. God is all around us, in the extraordinary wonders of the cosmos and the most ordinary snowflake or ray of sunlight; in the homeless person who sits at our feet as we pass by without even noticing, and in the first cry of a new-born child welcomed into the arms of a loving family. Ordinary and extraordinary, rich and poor, sinner and righteous - God is present in all of them.

As we look this week at Jesus' observations of a working vineyard, we might open our own eyes to the stories God is telling in everything we see, hear, touch, taste and smell. The stories are there and so too is God.

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

Modern Slavery Sessions on Wednesday 8th May 2024 on Zoom at 12.30pm and at 6.30pm. Chris Elliott and Jennifer Hyde, the Southwark Diocesan Advisors on Modern Slavery, will be leading this webinar. It is being presented twice as so that as many as possible can attend. Modern slavery and exploitation thrive when people do not know what it looks like and where it can be found in their community.

The session will help you to know what forms of modern slavery might be operating in your area, how to report any concerns you have and some of the simple actions that you can take to reduce incidents of modern slavery in your community. **Each one of us can make a difference.** Please sign up at Eventbrite. If you need any information please contact the Southwark Against Modern Slavery Team rasocialjustice@gmail.com or Natalie.walters@southwark.anglican.org

Ascension Day, Thursday 9th May, Father Sam invites us all to an Ascension Day Mass at St Luke's church, Woodside, 7.30 pm.

Welcome to the United Benefice of Holy Innocents and St. Mark, South Norwood

Sharing God's grace and love in our community



28th April 2024

Vicar: *Vacant*

Priest (PTO): Revd. Mother Susan Wheeler-Kiley, TSSF, SCP

Reader (PTO): Mrs. Cicelyn Hinds,

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

8.00am BCP Mass (St. Mark)

10am Parish Mass (Holy Innocents)

*Acts 8.26-end * Psalm 22-25 * I John 4.7-end * John 15.1-8*

We welcome **The Rt Revd Rosemarie Mallett, Bishop of Croydon** to the United Benefice. She will be presiding and preaching at the joint 10 am service at Holy Innocents

Access online worship via
www.youtube.com/c/StMarksSouthNorwood

CHURCH NOTICES

Pastoral Care: for enquiries regarding baptism, confirmation, weddings, blessings, house blessings, renewal of marriage vows, thanksgiving for the birth of a child, to make your confession, or to request a home or hospital visit, please contact Mother Susan 07890 780572, fs.kiley@btinternet.com or Cicelyn Hinds 07484 677951. Please note that Mother Susan's day off is Friday.

The Benefice is now in vacancy. For Parish matters, please contact in the first instance, the respective church wardens, St Mark – Donald Ferguson (mr.dferguson@hotmail.com) Holy Innocents – Church.warden@holynnocentschurch.co.uk
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We pray: for Archbishops Justin and Stephen; for the Bishops in this diocese, Christopher, Rosemarie and Martin. **For** the Bishops, priests, deacons and people in our link Dioceses of Zimbabwe and *The Church of Bangladesh*.

All Saints, West Dulwich Pray for Alan Everett (Vicar) Cathy Wiles (PTO) Eleanor Beamond-Pepler (Reader) Daniel Glackin-McColgan (Reader) Robert Yates (Reader) Moira Roberts (SPA) and Wendy Stephens (SPA) (Licensed Lay Minister - Pastoral)

For the sick – Fred, Revd Andy Dovey, Joy, Sharon, Marina, Richard, Alec, Malik, Simon, Mei, Caroline, Susan, Kay, Sacha, Marlise and Amanda.

The recently departed and those whose Years Mind falls at this time.