



22 May, 2022

6th Sunday of Easter

Said Eucharist– Sunday 8.30am. Sung Eucharist – Sunday 10.00am.

Said Eucharist - Ascension Day – Thursday – 10.30am. *(there is no service on Tuesday this week)*

Tea and coffee will be served after the 10.00am. service. Please stay for a chat with other members of the congregation if you can.

Copies of Revd. Debbie's reflection and the intercessions have been sent with these notices.

Collect

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Alternative Collect

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Acts 16.9–15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us. For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 67 Response: Let the peoples praise you, O God, let all the peoples praise you.

God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,

That your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Response

O let the nations rejoice and be glad, for you will judge the peoples righteously and govern the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Response

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase, and God, our own God, will bless us.

God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Response

Revelation 21.10, 22 – 22.5

In the spirit the angel carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day – and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean

will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever. For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

John 14.23–29

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me. I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.'

Post Communion Prayer

God our Father, whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Forthcoming Activities and Events at St. Michael's

MUSIC NOTES – MAY 22nd from Stephen Wilcox

Organ alphabet – S is for Spain

Organ prelude: Antonio de Cabezón – *Beata viscera Mariae virginis*

Choir introit: Juan Ponce – *De la resurrection*

Choir communion motet: Francisco de la Torre – *Adoramoste, Senor*

Organ postlude: Sebastián Aguilera de Heredia – *Registo baixo do 1^o tom*

Today, with the choir, I am carrying you musically to Spain in the 16th century. At the start of the century, the "Catholic monarchs" Ferdinand and Isabella ruled over a newly united Kingdom covering modern Spain as well as substantial parts of Italy. They ruthlessly imposed Catholic uniformity, expelling or forcibly converting both Jews and Muslims, and secured alliances by marriage with both England and Portugal.

In England, this first part of the century is contemporary with the Amersham Martyrs, and it was while researching music for this year's *Martyrs' Play* that I came across the *Cancionero de Palacio* (Palace songbook), compiled by Ferdinand and Isabella's court musicians. It is a very large manuscript collection (over 400 items) of songs for choir or consort. Most are secular, but there is a section of religious items – almost all in Spanish. Both choir items today are sourced from this collection. In the spirit of the original (making sure they are understandable by congregations), we sing them in English.

De la resurrection is a joyful song of the resurrection, for this last Sunday of the Easter season: "Alleluia, alleluia! Sing the good news of our joy, for our Lord has risen!". *Adoramoste, Senor* ("We adore you, O Lord.") is a Eucharistic hymn.

Succeeding Ferdinand and Isabella came Charles I of Spain, also Holy Roman Emperor (as Charles V), who married Isabella of Portugal. Her musical establishment included the blind organist Antonio de Cabezón, who left a large collection of pieces for organ. *Beata viscera Mariae virginis* ("Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary") is a piece of free organ writing above a bass line which is the plainsong music for a Marian communion motet.

After Charles came Phillip II, who married Mary I of England, and tried to marry Elizabeth I to secure England for Catholicism. When that failed, he resorted to attempted invasion, launching the Spanish Armada. While the rest of Europe was beginning to look forward musically, Spanish music was still stuck very firmly in the past. Sebastian Aguilera de Heredia, organist successively of Huesca and Zaragoza, left behind a handful of works. The postlude I am playing was composed at the end of the century, but in style it is very similar to the choral music of the beginning. Its title simply means "Bass register on the first tone" – it is a solo for the left hand underneath chords in the right. It was preserved in a manuscript in Lisbon, hence the Portuguese spelling.

Next month, all being well, T will be for John Travers.

RETURN OF SERVERS

As from today, May 22nd, a full team of servers will be assisting at the Sunday 10.00am. services. Another step on the slow road back to 'normality'.

NAPPY DAYS - North Transept – Wednesday, 25 May– 1.30pm.-3.00pm.

A church-sponsored drop-in group for parents with new babies, offering a cuppa and a chat with other parents.

ASCENSION DAY – Lady Chapel - Thursday, 26 May – 10.30am.

Said Eucharist. This replaces the usual Tuesday midweek Eucharist.

"POP IN AND PAINT" - St. Michael's – Friday, 03 June – 10.30am. – 12.15pm.

Join Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed - only enthusiasm and interest. All materials supplied, but you are welcome to bring your own paints. If you prefer just to come along for a chat and to watch the proceedings, that's fine too!

CRAFTY CUPPA – North Transept – Friday, 10 June – 10.30am. – 11.30am.

A monthly drop-in session for everyone, especially those on their own. If you engage in a craft such as knitting or embroidery, bring it with you and enjoy some company while you work. Fancy just a cuppa, or would you enjoy an opportunity to chat? Then come along. You will be very welcome.

BUCKS ART WEEKS – June 11th – 26th. Weekdays 9.30am. – 5.30pm. Sundays 12noon – 6.00pm.

The Simpatico group of artists, (Jenny Thompson, Liz Grammenos, Candida Hackney and Beverley Parkin) will once again be exhibiting at St. Michael's. A percentage of all sales is split between their chosen charity, Lindengate and the church.

TRAIDCRAFT STALL –Sunday, 12 June, after the 10.00am. Gathered Round service

The monthly Traidcraft stall has returned to its former place in the North Transept. A selection of products is available on the day. Special orders should be given to Sue Eames, or left in the Office, to ensure availability.

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

The church is open for private prayer, from 10.00am. to 4.00pm. Mon.-Fri. The Lady Chapel has been set aside as a quiet space, and the votive candle stand moved into there.

Activities and Events beyond St. Michael's

TOMMY'S DREAM TRACKS – St. Michael's Hall – Today, Sunday, 22 May – 10.00am. – 4.15pm.

Let your children, (or yourselves!) loose to play with the giant train tracks. A fun time for children of all ages and abilities to play with trains, tracks, tunnels and bridges. £7.50/ticket for a 1hr. slot. Book online at www.tommysdreamtracks.com

LUNCH BREAK - Amersham Free Church – Tuesday, 24 May- Midday to 2pm.

Tea, coffee and soup are available throughout. The church is open for quiet reflection and offers a varied programme of music, worship, meditation and speakers between 1.10pm. and 1.30pm. **This week: Water Music.**