

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!

In this season of Easter, up to Ascension, today we continue our study of the cross, exploring "The Power of the Cross for Fruitfulness" The story of Philip speaking to the Ethiopian Official, and Jesus being the true Vine are our readings. Pray that God continues to shape our hearts and expectations in ministry, staying available and obedient.



Photo by Patrick Johnston

Local Elections: 6th May

People often think of local elections as a bit pointless, the poor relation of the national elections. Turn-out is frequently very low and local government can be confusing. Here in Grayshott we have three tiers of local government: the Parish Council, East Hants District Council, and Hampshire County Council, and it can be difficult to work out which council is responsible for what.

Broadly, Hampshire County Council is responsible for Adult Health and Social Care, Looked after Children (children in care) and schools, roads and pavements, traffic management, street lighting and signs, footpaths, local transport, waste disposal and recycling, and our country parks and environment. East Hants District Council is responsible for bin collections, environmental health, housing, planning, benefits, collecting council tax, licensing and parking. The Parish Council also has a role in planning, and manages our local public spaces such as the Square, the sports pavilion, children's play areas and the allotments.

If you are interested in any of those areas, or use any of those services, then you should be exercising your hard-won democratic rights by voting! On 6th May, Grayshott residents will be voting for a new District Councillor, following Ferris Cowper's retirement late last year, and for a new Hampshire County Councillor. I have decided not to stand for re-election because my work commitments mean that it isn't really possible for me to continue in the role.

It's been a great honour to represent the Liphook, Headley and Grayshott Division of Hampshire County Council for the last five years but it's also been difficult and sometimes quite dispiriting. Hampshire County Council manages a budget of around £2 billion – more than some small countries. But the budget has come under enormous pressure over the last 5 years or so because of the rising costs of adult care and looked after children, and significant reductions in funding from central government. That means that there's little left for some projects that are important to local people and it's hard to have to say "no" – or "not yet"!

I have really valued the prayers and support of St. Luke's over the years. So, as well as urging you to vote, I'd encourage you to pray for your local representatives, whoever they are, and whether you agree with their politics or not.

Floss Mitchell

The Week Ahead

Zoom and other Links are in Website Calendar

3rd Monday - 7th Friday

09.00 Weekday Morning Zoom Meditation

3rd Monday—Bank Holiday

NO Babes and Toddlers, Morning Meditation, or evening Prayers

5th Wednesday

15.00 Tea and Chat at 3

9th May Sunday

08.00 Children's Celebration Video

10.30 Service in Church (Live Streamed)

11.45 Sunday Zoom Chat Fellowship

18.00 Traditional BCP in Church

NB Track & Trace CHANGE

Please make sure that your name is ticked off at the door. Give your name if not on list.

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Dates for the Diary:

20.00 May 11th (2nd Tuesday)
Church Prayer Meeting (1hr)

St Luke's Church, (Church of England)
Headley Road, Grayshott, GU26 6LF
01428 606703

Charity number: 1129168
office@stlukes-grayshott.org
www.stlukes-grayshott.org

APCM

Thank you to all who attended the meeting on Friday, and all who contributed to the Meeting on Zoom, & for all the excellent reports submitted.

*****We elected:*****

Floss Mitchell

Ros Balfour

Frankie Kelly

on to the PCC

Penny Thomas as

Deanery Synod rep.

Chris Grocock LLM
(Readers) rep

Thank you to Viv Ward, Barbara Johnston and Sheila Austin for all their work in preparation for the APCM and Christopher Haswell for Tech support, please continue to pray for the work.

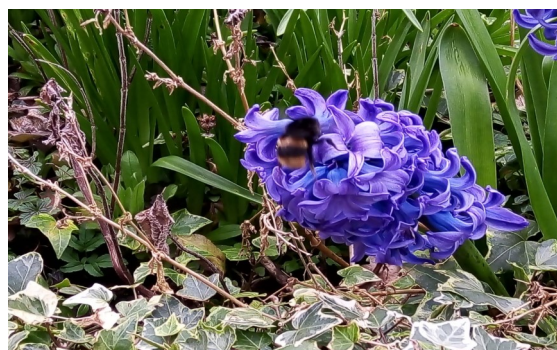


Photo by Patrick Johnston



Pastor Blesson and Colonel Jaya

Contributions

Please send any contributions regarding good news, gardening tips, photos, humorous items, favourite Bible verse, poems, etc, for inclusion in future Newsletters before Wednesday, to Madi's email office@stlukes-grayshott.org

Prayer's for the week

- Head Teacher recruitment at Grayshott School
- Thursday 6th May -Local Elections
- Royal Family
- The pandemic in India
- Those we know are sick.

The BCP Collect for Today

ALMIGHTY God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
Amen.

Prayer Focus

As you know from the news, India is desperately struggling with the ravages of a second wave of COVID.

In Kolkata (Calcutta) the situation is desperate. The city is in lockdown but thousands of poor have nowhere to go so they are dying on the streets. Their deaths are not recorded. Their bodies are burnt by petrol on the road side each night. Their children left to fend for themselves. The military in Kolkata are in total lockdown in their camps so cannot give help to the civilian authorities as they would do normally.

One of MMI's co-workers is an amazing Indian Pastor – Pastor Blesson married to Colonel Jaya a serving army medic. Jaya is in lockdown in the military hospital in Kolkata, I will spare you details of her situation and constant distress crying out to the Lord. Blesson and the children are in lockdown at home. Children are scared. Blesson is trying to minister and evangelise to neighbours and over the internet, calling people to turn to Jesus and pray for the country.

We can help by upholding this couple in prayer, praying for protection over them and their family and for the strength and faith to cope with the situation.

There are 2 others who are closely connected in Kalcuta

Pastor Samuel Mathai and his son Steven Samuel, both have Covid and have asked to 'be upheld with your sincerest prayers' – that is all we have to help us'.

A third person is the son of a General – a national hero so no name, but a key Christian leader amongst the military in East India and Assam – he spent the weekend driving his son to every possible medical facility to find a bed for him (which he finally did, but probably was infected during the drive)

Could we pray for these 3 families over the next few weeks.?

Many thanks,

Susie Millard

Today's Readings:

Acts 8: 26-40

John 15: 1-8

We are so grateful to you all for your support and encouragement in the work of the Gospel.

**Our Love to you all,
Jeremy & Claire**



Photos by Julia Hedger