



St. Andrew ♦ Holy Cross

19th May 2019 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Vicar – Rev. Jane Richards

Telephone 01268 952012, email – revjanerichards2@gmail.com

Curate – Rev. Shirley Pearce

Telephone 01268 984913, email – shirleyp6@gmail.com

Welcome to our Worship this morning.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Collect

Risen Christ,

your wounds declare your love for the world

and the wonder of your risen life:

give us compassion and courage

to risk ourselves for those we serve,

to the glory of God the Father.

Amen

First Reading – Acts 11. 1 – 18 (Church Bible page 1105)

The apostles and the believers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticised him and said, ‘You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.’

Starting from the beginning, Peter told them the whole story: ‘I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. I saw something like a large sheet being let down from heaven by its four corners, and it came down to where I was. I looked into it and saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, reptiles and birds. Then I heard a voice telling me, “Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.” ‘I replied, “Surely not, Lord! Nothing impure or unclean has ever entered my mouth.”

‘The voice spoke from heaven a second time, “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.” This happened three times, and then it was all pulled up to heaven again.

‘Right then three men who had been sent to me from Caesarea stopped at the house where I was staying. The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them.

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These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, "Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved."

'As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: "John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit." So if God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?'

When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, 'So then, even to Gentiles God has granted repentance that leads to life.'

Gospel Reading – John 13. 31 – 35 (Church Bible page 1081)

When he was gone, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

'My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: where I am going, you cannot come. 'A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God,

whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:

grant us to walk in his way,

to rejoice in his truth,

and to share his risen life;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen

Curate Contemplations 19th May 2019

Artificial intelligence is defined as “the theory and development of computer systems able to perform tasks normally requiring human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision making and translation between languages.”

Advances made in technology are gathering pace, so much so that it seems as though we are becoming dependent on it in every area of our lives. Who, these days, travels anywhere using a map? And hands up if you are one of the 5% of the population in the UK who does not regularly use a mobile phone.

My favourite items of AI are my mobile phone and the Alexa and Echo devices we have at home. If you have one of these, you will know how useful it can be; changing radio stations, playing a repeat of a programme you missed, turning the volume up or down, all on voice command. But Alexa has its limits, and if you ask it: 'Alexa, do you believe in Jesus ?' or 'Alexa, are you a Buddhist? it will only answer 'People all have their own views on religion'; as intelligent as Alexa is, it is a machine.

There are, however, processes being put in place to use AI in courtrooms to decide on judgements of 'guilty' or 'not guilty'. I view this with concern, as such decisions, surely, involve ethics and an understanding of the human condition. In his book “The Face of God”, Roger Scruton argues that “beliefs about the nature of God shape public life in ways that have an impact on all of us.” Being truly human is to have what no other creatures have: a personal point of view. The Bible says that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made”, and we are also made for loving and being loved, for being in community. No AI can achieve that. So celebrate who you are, and may God bless you today.

Reverend Shirley

Please Pray for....

The family and friends of **Joan Ray** who died on Wednesday 24th April. Pray especially for her son **Graham** and all her family. We give thanks for Joan's life and treasure the memory of her many years of faithful service to both our congregations in her many roles including home group member, intercessor, pastoral group member, youth worker, Messy church helper, faithful friend and wise counsellor.

Joan's funeral will take place in Holy Cross Church on 23rd May at 10:30am followed by Committal at Southend Crematorium at noon. Joan's family have requested that it is family flowers only, but donations in memory of Joan and lieu of flowers would be very welcome to St Luke's Hospice.

Please hold all her family in your prayers.

Thank you

Eddie and Barbara Marsh would like to say a big "thank you" to all the people (more than 7) who have offered Eddie a walking frame. He now has two he can try out. Thanks once again.

Prayer

If you have a particular need for prayer, please approach a member of the prayer ministry team who will be pleased to help you. If you prefer to write down your prayer request, cards are available in the entrance lobby in St Andrew's and on the welcome table in Holy Cross. Place your completed card in the box: these prayers are offered during daily Morning Prayer. For urgent prayer requests please contact Richard (01268 520688) or David and Marion (01268 523565).

Prayer Diary 2019-20

A new Prayer Diary for 2019-20 has been prepared based on the new Electoral Roll. If you wish to pray for members of our parish, as well as local and national issues, each day, please contact David Marshall to obtain a copy.



Bootsale donations needed.

On Sunday 30th June Hayley (one of our dedicated MakeLunch volunteers from the community) will be holding a stall at a local bootsale to raise funds to support the ministry of our church. We would be very grateful for donations of any good quality items. We will be accepting these between Sunday June 9th and Sunday June 23rd, collection can be arranged. Any unsold items will be donated to charity shops. Please could we all hold Hayley in our prayers as she supports the work of this parish.

If you would like any further information please come and see me.

Nikki Firth

Open Doors Project

During Lent the Monday home-group took part in 40 Acts, during this time God placed the work of Open Doors on Thelma White's heart.

Last week in Worship Zone the children drew pictures for children in the persecuted church, these have been sent to central Asia and will remind children of the persecuted church that they are remembered by a worldwide family of faith, hope and love. If children would like to draw more pictures then please encourage them to do so. Thelma and Nikki will be collecting these and posting them throughout the year. The last date for handing pictures to us is 30th November.

Guidelines for children

- No Letters please-drawings only
- Do not mention Open Doors in the drawings
- You can provide your first name, but do not add anything else.
- Do not provide your address.
- Do not send money or make offers of help

For more information on the work of Open Doors please visit the website www.opendoorsuk.org



Open Doors

Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

Flowers – St Andrew's

A new flower arrangers' rota is about to be prepared.

If you've ever thought you'd like to arrange the flowers please let Marion Marshall know. If you just want to see if it's for you or need advice or training, that can be arranged.



Youth Ministry

Thank you to everyone who came along to the youth ministry meeting recently. We agreed that we would like to hold a launch/consultation event with young people on Saturday 25th May 12:30 – 2:00pm at St Andrew's at which we hope to offer a range of potential activities and find out from those who attend what they would like to see at a youth club. **Rev. Jane**

Pastoral Group Prayer meeting

This meeting is held after Wednesday morning Holy Communion on the last Wednesday of each month. Next month it will be on the 29th May. This is an open prayer meeting and everyone is welcome to join.

Re:store

Thanks to all those who have donated to **re:store**.

All offerings are greatly appreciated.

At the moment it especially needs the following:-

Cereals

Sauces

All kinds of tinned food

Carrier bags

Clean, empty, jars or reusable containers.

All kinds of Milk UHT long life, dried, coffee mate etc.

Tea

Coffee,

Washing liquid (for laundry) bottles or tablets

All kinds of toiletries.

The Lent Project

You have donated £320-44 (including GiftAid) to the Lent project for Toilet Twinning. This is enough to twin our 5 toilets at £60 each ! Thank you for your generosity.

What's on this week

Sunday	19 th	11:15am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.
		3:00pm	Service at Mundy House.
		5:00pm	Evensong at Holy Cross.
Monday	20 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
		1:00pm	Home Group (Joyce and Tom Hancock).
		6:30pm	Hobbies Club at St Andrew's.
		7:30pm	Evening Home Group (Peter White).
Tuesday	21 st	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
		10:00am	Home Group (Cyril Phillips).
		2:00pm	No Knit and Chat in St Andrew's.
		7:30pm	PCC Meeting at Holy Cross.
		7:45pm	Home Group (Barbara Bowhill).
Wednesday	22 nd	9:30am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.
Thursday	23 rd	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
		All day	St Andrew's in use as a polling station.
		12:00noon	No Community Lunch at St Andrew's.
Friday	24 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
Saturday	25 th	9:30am	Music Group Practice at St Andrew's.
		12:30pm	Youth launch/consultation event !
Sunday	26 th	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's.
		11:15am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.
		3:00pm	Music Practice at Holy Cross.

Ascension Day Service of Holy Communion

Please note that there will be a service of Holy Communion on Ascension Day, Thursday 30th May at 7:30pm at Holy Cross

Dates for your diary:

Summer Fete - Saturday 22nd June

St Andrew's Day/Christmas Fayre - Saturday 30th November

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The News Sheet is available on-line at www.standrewholycross.org

Items for news and prayer to Jackie Stubberfield on 01268 288930 or jmstubber@gmail.com by Thursday afternoon, please.

Next Sunday's readings are – Acts 16. 9 – 15, John 14. 23 – 29.



Summer Fete - Saturday 22nd June

For the summer fete we need everyone to be collecting together.....
Gifts for the Tombola; Bric-à-brac, and start planning the cake/cakes you will make for the Cake stall. If possible please do not bring your collections to church just yet, but bring them closer to the 22nd June date.

THE TABLE

You are invited to join The Table to pray for the community of Basildon on:

Wednesday 29th May 2019 - 2:00pm till 3:00pm
@
The Lady Chapel, St Martin of Tours Church,
St Martin's Square, Basildon SS14 1DX

Please contact Chris Lovell on 07840 227800 or e-mail marketlinks17@gmail.com should you have any questions.

MakeLunch news.

Thank you to all who helped at Easter holiday MakeLunch – 278 meals were served! It was great and thanks to those who stepped up for extra duties to cover convalescence of those unable to be there. We had lots of fun with music, reptiles and Easter craft activities, as well as sharing meals together. If you are interested and would like to know more or offer help, please speak to Marion Marshall or Nicola Firth.