



St. Andrew ♦ Holy Cross

15th May 2022 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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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

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

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

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons, we pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus the Prince of Peace. Amen.

Intercessions for Sunday 15th May 2022 by Jackie Stubberfield

Father God, we come before you this morning to pray for our world, our church, our community and our families and friends. We thank you for your mercy and grace and we give thanks for the beauty and wonder of all your creation.

Eternal God, we pray for the all the nations of the world, but especially we pray for the people of Ukraine, for the families of those who have died and those who are injured, the people who are now displaced and refugees. We pray for all who bring aid and support and for those in authority on all sides, that a way may be found to bring about peace. We pray that all world leaders would be aware that “all authority on earth comes from you” and that they will all be answerable to you for the decisions and plans they make.

(Short Silence) Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Creator God, we thank you for our world, for the beauty all around us. Help us to see your Glory in all creation. We pray for your guidance as we care for the world, and for your Spirit to help us be better stewards of the resources we have and teach us to protect every living thing on our planet.

(Short Silence) Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Holy God, we thank you for our Church family, for Rev. Jane as she has a short break, for Rev. Trudy as she continues her ministry here with us, for Rev. Karen as she prepares for her Ordination as Priest later this year, for Nikki as she continues her ministry to our Children and Families and for Phil as he continues his ministry in our parish. We thank you for all who have been elected to serve us as Church Wardens and members of our new PCC. We pray that they will be guided and inspired by your Holy Spirit as they lead us in the coming year.

(Short Silence) Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

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Faithful God, your son Jesus said “A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” By the power of you Holy Spirit help us to live out that command, every day, in every way we can, so that we may be your people in our community, to love and serve our neighbours and the people we meet in our lives every day.

(Short Silence)

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Merciful God, we thank you for all our NHS staff, for the free availability of medication and hospital treatment, help us to be mindful of all around the world who have to pay for their medication and treatment, especially those who can't pay. We pray for all who are awaiting treatment of any kind and those who are in our hospitals receiving the treatment they need.

We particularly pray for all whose names are in our weekly prayer diary and in a moment of quiet please name before God anyone on your mind this morning. *(Short Silence)*

May they be aware of your presence with them and know that you love and care for them.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Loving God, we pray for those, saddened by the death of a family member, loved one or friend, either recently or whose anniversary falls at this time of year. Help them to draw comfort from, your love, the Holy Spirit and the fellowship of the church family. *(Short Silence)*

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

As we leave this place this morning rejoicing in the fellowship of St. Andrew and all your saints,
we commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love.

Merciful father. **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

Amen

Prayer

If you have a particular need for prayer, please contact David or Marion Marshall on 01268 523565 or Rev. Jane Richards, Rev. Karen White or Rev. Trudy Arnold using the contact details on the first page of this News Sheet.

APCM

Thank you to everyone who was able to come along to our annual meeting last Sunday. It was good to reflect on all that has happened in the parish and indeed the wider community, both the joys and the challenges.

An important part of the meeting was the election to the posts of Churchwardens and PCC members and I would therefore like to thank the following people for standing and being elected.

Churchwardens - Frances Graham, David Marshall and Joyce Sweeney

PCC Members - Anne Liddell, Chris Lovell, Mark Stubberfield and Thelma White.

It was also an opportunity to thank Bernard Turnbull for his many years of service as Churchwarden and to wish him well following his recent house move. ***Reverend Jane***

Welcoming Team

As you know both of our churches are well known for the welcome that we extend to everyone who comes along to services and other events, including baptisms and weddings. It would be good to establish a small team of people who would be willing to support the churchwardens and attend baptisms and weddings to help welcome guests to our churches. The majority of the weddings are at Holy Cross and take place on Saturday and Friday afternoons and baptisms are mainly also at Holy Cross on Sunday afternoons. If you feel this is something you may be able to assist with please have a word with me or any of the churchwardens. Full training will be provided! Many thanks. ***Reverend Jane***

Ascension Day - Thursday 26th May

There will be a service of Holy Communion at Holy Cross on Thursday 26th May at 7:30pm. All welcome!

Help Needed!

The Garden of Remembrance at Holy Cross is a place of peace and reflection for many people who are visiting the churchyard as well as being very visible at weddings and baptisms.

It would be really good if we could form a garden maintenance team who could help to keep it looking lovely. We particularly need people who could take turns to mow the lawn. If you feel this is something you could assist with please have a word with me or with Frances Graham. Many thanks

Reverend Jane

Tea Room at St Andrew's Jubilee Celebration



Thursday 26th May – 10:30am – 1:00pm

Tea Room at St Andrew's Jubilee Celebration

All your favourite snacks plus a special Jubilee menu.

Sunday 5th June – 12:30pm – 4:00pm

The Big Picnic on the field

Bring your own picnic, we'll keep you topped up with tea, coffee and soft drinks. Plus, games and activities whatever the weather, inside St Andrew's if wet!



St. Andrew • Holy Cross



Messy Vintage

Jubilee Celebrations

Tuesday 31st May 2022

12:30pm till 2:30pm

Including Afternoon tea and making a
Jubilee Celebration Wreath.

At St Andrew's Church



Sermon for 4th Sunday of Easter 8th May 2022 from Rev. Trudy Arnold
Acts 9: 36-43, John 10: 22-30

One of my all-time favourite tv comedy programmes is “One Foot in the Grave”. The main character was Victor Meldrew and I never quite decided whether to feel sorry for him or to be angry with him. Whenever anything happened that he thought was wrong, or someone said something that he didn’t like his famous words were always “I don’t believe it!”). It didn’t matter if what he’d heard was true, or what had happened was for the greater good, or things actually played out to prove it...if he didn’t like it, it made him angry and well there was no changing his mind. To a certain extent I think we can all be a bit like this at times. I take after my mum in many ways – all good things. But one of her habits and it is also one of mine is that whenever someone tells me some amazing news, my reaction is often “No! Really?”. The news or information is true, but so amazing to me that I can’t quite believe it. Well in our Gospel reading we hear that this is the reaction of the Jews around Jesus as he walked in the temple courts. Despite having heard him speak, or heard of him speak. Despite seeing or hearing of the miracles he has performed. Despite hearing him declare who he really is – the Messiah, the Son of God – They still ask him “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” They are still challenging him as to whether he is really is the Christ. I can almost replace them with Victor Meldrew saying “I don’t believe it!” They want him to make a clear statement, not talk in parables or images or similes. Jesus tells them that his teaching and actions are clear evidence of who he is. But they cannot accept that Jesus and God the Father are calling people to salvation and giving them eternal life. They find his claims of closeness to God an outrageous blasphemy, and again threaten to stone him. But Jesus reminds them and indeed us that he is the Good Shepherd. He tells them that they don’t believe him because they aren’t one of his sheep, they do not know him, they do not recognize his voice. And so, we are reminded that he is the voice of God – he is our teacher and our guide.

Which poses for us two important questions, I think.

What does it mean for us to be guided by the good shepherd?

What does it mean for us to listen to the voice of God?

As disciples, we are called to listen – we must be willing to listen to the voice that speaks to us – the voice that calls us to follow.

But, what does this voice sound like?

Is it one voice or many?

Is it loud or is it a soft voice?

How do we recognise the voice of God?

I think for each of us it is different.

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For example, In the Old Testament, we're told that Job heard the voice of God speaking to him from the whirlwind. Moses heard the voice of God speaking to him from the burning bush. And many in both the Old and New Testament heard God speak to them through His angel messengers. Job and Moses, along with many others heard the voice of God in some way and they listened to it. They allowed themselves to be led to a new place. And, along the way, they discovered a new way of living – a new hope and deeper meaning. In a way, I think these examples of calling show us that the wisdom of God – the wisdom of the good shepherd can be experienced in many different ways. The voice of God can be a loud voice or a softly spoken voice – it can be one voice or it can be many. The voice can come from within or it can come from somewhere else. My personal experience is that I have heard the voice of God in different ways in different situations. From a small whisper, through the words of others. Sometimes quietly, sometimes with a very large shout! For example, my call from God to be ordained began some 15 years ago as a small whisper. Which I first of all ignored. I mean why on earth would he call someone like me – I am not worthy. So, people came in to my life, some only briefly or a one-off meeting, who raised the question “are you thinking of being Ordained”, “I think you are being called to ordination”. Eventually I plucked up the courage to speak to my then Incumbent – fully expecting him to laugh me out of the room. But he didn't – instead he told me “It's about time!” So, God spoke to me through others until he had made me stop and listen and follow. Things didn't immediately work out and instead of being ordained I became a Licensed Lay Minister. Thinking I had pleased God enough I tried to put the thought of Ordination out of my head. However! We are talking about God and that was not what he was trying to say to me. So, more people spoke to me about ordination. There was a small matter of not being married to Richard which had prevented me from going forward for ordination. He was adamant he didn't want to get married. However! Out of the blue he proposed. I left it a respectable 2 days before asking what had changed his mind. And this is the loud shout I spoke of earlier! He said he'd had a dream and someone told him he had to marry me. He had the dream several more times so he thought he should do as he was told. Richard does not do church. He isn't a Christian though he does believe in God. He has no idea who this voice was. And yet he still followed. And of course, I do know whose voice that was. So, we married, I was ordained and now I'm here with you. That is my testimony. But we can all hear the voice of God if we only stop and listen. It can be heard all around us.

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It is the voice of compassion and forgiveness – it is the voice of reason and understanding. Of course, we need to filter out and ignore many other voices that fill our world today. Those that tell us to only be concerned with ourselves, to live for the moment, to take care of only our own immediate needs. To live for all the pleasures, power and wealth that we can gather, even at the expense of others. But, the Good Shepherd, as described in our reading today, speaks with God's voice – sharing with us a very different message. The voice of God tells us that he loves us and that only love is endless. The voice of God is a voice of love and friendship and community. Jesus is our Good Shepherd who knows us. Isn't that just so amazing – Jesus knows each and every one of us? We are His sheep and so we follow him. We trust Him to lead us in the right and safe way. We know we can never be taken from Him, from God the Father. We know he gives us eternal life. We know Jesus and God the Father are one. So, I pray that this service today will remind us of our calling to listen carefully for the voice of God speaking to us. Whether that be speaking from the whirlwind, or from the burning voice, speaking through the life of the apostles and all the saints, or speaking through the people of this church. Whether that voice be loud or softly spoken. Whether that voice comes from within or from another place. I pray that we will receive it in our hearts, we will listen and we will respond to the voice that calls to us. I pray that we follow and we serve.

Amen

Dates for your diary

Thursday 26th May 7:30pm - Ascension Day Holy Communion at Holy Cross.

Tuesday 31st May 12:30pm – Messy Vintage - Jubilee Celebrations at St Andrew's.

Sunday 5th June – 12:30pm – 4:00pm, The Big Jubilee Picnic on the field at St Andrew's.

Saturday 9th July – Summer Fete.

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

What's on this week!

Sunday	15 th	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's and on-line.
		11:15am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.
		3:00pm	Music at Holy Cross – followed by.....
		4:00pm	Choral Evensong at Holy Cross.
Monday	16 th	7:45pm	Home Group (Peter White).
Tuesday	17 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
		10:00am	Home Group (Cyril Phillips).
		2:00pm	Craft and Chat at St Andrew's.
		7:30pm	Home Group (Barbara Bowhill)
Wednesday	18 th	9:30am	Holy Communion at Holy Cross.
Thursday	19 th	10:30am	Tea Room at St Andrew's.
Friday	20 th	9:00am	Morning Prayer at St Andrew's.
		10:00am	Joyful Noise at St Andrew's.
Sunday	22 nd	9:30am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's and on-line.
		11:15am	Service of Holy Communion at Holy Cross.

Re:Store April 2022 Update

In April we made up **94** parcels for delivery or collection. There were **405** items donated which included donations from yourselves and St Gabriel's and St Chad's congregations, thank you to everyone who has contributed.

We continue to need strong plastic carrier bags, and the following store cupboard items: Breakfast Cereals, UHT Milk, Biscuits, Rice, Pasta, Pasta Sauces, Tinned Fish and Tinned Fruit.

We would welcome more volunteers to help with deliveries and collections from Tesco and Nando's. Please let any member of the team know if you can help. Thank you – The Re:Store Team.