



# ANGELS & SAINTS

## MONTHLY PARISH NEWS

Issue 46

May 2021

### Thought for May

May is the month when we begin to think that summer is on its way, although I remember my Mother saying to me, as a child who wanted to change into her summer school uniform, 'Ne'er cast a clout till May be out!' I knew what she meant but I have only just checked out what casting a clout meant. I see that it does indeed refer to not taking off winter clothes too soon! And the weather forecast on my phone suggests that we will be getting some of the April rains that didn't appear last month. The gardens certainly need the water.

Water is a necessity for life, but we need to help keep the balance between too little and too much, either can have a devastating effect on people all over the world. And climate change is disturbing that balance. We will reflect on this and our part in it, at our Christian Aid service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May. *(details on page 2)*

This May is also the month when two of the major feasts of the Christian Church occur. The first, Ascension Day, which is 40 days after Easter, is on 13<sup>th</sup> May and the second festival, Pentecost, is on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 50 days after Easter.

The 10 days between these great feast days have become days of waiting between Jesus' ascension into heaven and the sending of the Holy Spirit. There will be services at the church to celebrate both of these celebrations. *(details on page 4)*

Waiting can be difficult but it is often necessary. At the time, it was necessary for the disciples to come to terms with what had happened. Jesus had died and then after the resurrection he had been amongst them and then they had to let Him go again and wait for the promised Spirit to be upon them.

We are waiting now in between lockdown dates, to discover whether It will be safe to relax restrictions and plan for a more 'normal' summer. Whilst I was trying to remember the sequence of events last year, for my annual report, I looked up the dates of the national and local lockdowns, and of the changing regulations, and this made me realise just how difficult 2020 had been. And yet we have come through it, not without great cost, but by making positive contributions to others' wellbeing. Even though we may be in a hurry to reclaim our freedoms, we will need to take time to reflect upon the full enormity of the situation we have been through. Time can't be hurried. But with patience and prayer, like the disciples at Pentecost, we can be joyful as we recognise that the Holy Spirit is with us, guiding and sustaining us as we take the next steps in our recovery.

With love, and God's blessing, Deborah

## Service for Those with Memory Loss

Wednesday 12th May, 11am

A 20-minute Service designed for those with memory loss and their family and friends.

All are welcome.

Please be aware that we may need to restrict numbers attending to ensure social distancing.

## Ascension Day Service

Thursday 13th May, 6.30pm

Come and join us for this Communion service to commemorate Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven.



If you would like to attend, please let the Parish Office know by Sunday 9th May.

We will then confirm your space after that date.

## SAVE THE DATE

Outdoor Service for Pentecost  
Sunday 23rd May, 6pm

To be held in the grounds around the Parish Centre. Further information to follow...

If you would like to attend, please let the Parish Office know by Sunday 16th May.

We will then confirm your space after that date.



Christian Aid  
Week 10-16th  
May 2021

We will be holding a service for Christian Aid on **Sunday 16th May, 10am at St Michael's**. You will be invited to attend this service in the usual way, as well as it being live-streamed on our Facebook page and available on our website and YouTube channel.

Once again this year our fundraising for **Christian Aid week** will be virtual and you can make your donation here via the new **E Envelope**. So all that money saved from from fruity teas and frothy coffee during lockdown can now go to a great cause!

We can share the E-Envelope directly to you via Email or you can find the envelope on our Facebook page and Church Website under the service event page.

This year the focus for Christian Aid is supporting all those whose lives are devastated by the impact of climate change.

With your support, vulnerable communities are joining forces with their neighbours to overcome crisis together.

Just like Angela's farming community in Nicaragua whose coffee farms are threatened by climate change. With your support, they are coming together to share tools and knowledge.

United, this community can make the urgent changes needed to help their family farms last for generations so their children like Ariana can thrive

**Please think about giving a donation and sharing our e-envelope with your family and friends.**

Thank you for your generous donations in advance, Russell White



## From the Treasurer...

### Quarter One Accounts 2021

Income	£25,403	General	£22,371	Restricted	£3,032
Expenditure	£36,616	General	£31,392	Restricted	£5,224
Operating Loss	£11,213		£9,021		£2,192

What does this mean? On the face of it we are losing a lot of our cash reserves. However, envelope giving, collections, Parish Centre Hire and Parish Fees were negligible during the lockdown. Things are going to get better! We do not need to worry about Restricted Funds, only General Funds.

If you are an envelope donor please consider using the **Parish Giving Scheme**. We are now charged by the Bank for paying in cash and cheques. The Parish Giving Scheme costs us nothing, operated by Church Officers. Please speak to me or Andrew Green for details.

Neil Gibson

## Weekly dated Envelopes 2021

If you use Weekly dated Envelopes for your donations, your new box starting Sunday 2nd May 2021 is now available for you to pick up from the meeting room in Church.

If you have any queries or cannot find your box, please contact me on 01202 825059. Andrew Green, Donations Secretary

### Please Support our Church

If you don't currently support your Church and would like to start regular (or even occasional) giving, please either contact me, Andrew Green, Tel. 01202 825059 (email [andrewgreen2000@gmail.com](mailto:andrewgreen2000@gmail.com)) or, pick up a Parish Giving Scheme form in the box labelled 'New Church Donors' on the left side of the main Church entry doors. I would be very happy to help if you have any queries (contact details above), Andrew



## Knitting for Myra's Wells Charity

We have been sent some pictures taken in Burkina Faso recently. Here you can see the children wearing the clothes that members of our congregation have knitted for them.

Thank you to all that already take part. If you would like to get involved, then please get in touch with Roger Johnson or the Parish Office for more information.



## Calendar of Services for May

**Sunday 2nd May**  
5th of Easter

**Sunday 9th May**  
6th of Easter

**Wednesday 12th May, 11am**  
Service for those with Memory Loss

**Thursday 13th May, 6.30pm**  
Ascension Day Service

**Sunday 16th May**  
7th of Easter  
Christian Aid Service

**Sunday 23rd May**  
Pentecost  
10am—Communion Service  
6pm—Outdoor Service

**Sunday 30th May**  
Trinity Sunday



John Allen

Gordon Ohlsen

### Privacy Notice Live Streaming of Public Worship

Please be aware that there will be a camera in church to enable us to broadcast the 10.00am Sunday services.

Our Live Streaming is widely publicised, and the congregation are asked to contact a member of the clergy, churchwarden or the Parish Office if they do not wish to be filmed. We will ensure that we adhere to Safeguarding Practices at all time.

We will all need to adhere to the Government and Public Health England guidelines at all times. For the purposes of the NHS Track and Trace system, we will be keeping a written record of who attends the service each week.

## Together on Zoom in May

TOGETHER  
ON ZOOM



**Sunday 2nd May**  
**Sunday 16th May**

Follow this link between 4.45pm & 5pm to join us.

[us02web.zoom.us/j/87280074630](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87280074630)



Please remember that our [website](#) is updated regularly with service and event information, prayers, thoughts and reflections.

## Church Contacts

Rev. Deborah Matthews 01202 823707  
(Day off Friday)

The Parish Office  
9am to 12pm—Closed Wednesdays  
01202 813256

[stmichaelsverwood@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelsverwood@gmail.com)

Sue Shier (Communications!)  
07585 900810 [suejshier@me.com](mailto:suejshier@me.com)