



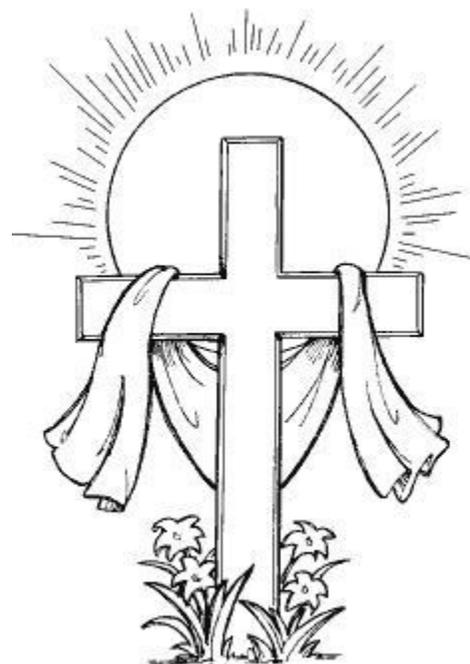
St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Readings and Notice Sheet **Sunday 25th April 2021** **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Today we continue our Easter Celebration.

Easter for Christians is not just one day, but rather a 50-day period. The season of Easter, or Eastertide, begins at sunset on the eve of Easter and ends on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church (see Acts 2). In the early church, Lent was a season for new converts to learn about the faith and prepare for baptism on Easter Sunday. The initial purpose of the 50-day Easter season was to continue the faith formation of new Christians. As “Easter people,” we also celebrate and ponder the birth of the Church and gifts of the Spirit (Pentecost), and how we are to live as faithful disciples.



The Collect

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father’s sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Conflict arises in Acts for the first time in this passage. It’s a story that follows immediately on the heels of last Sunday’s reading, in which Peter, with John at his side, preaches a sermon in the temple complex to a group of the people who gathered to marvel at the healing of a man who could not walk.

The first four verses of Acts 4 provide essential information, and so they deserve to be included in the reading. They tell us that the Sadducees and their allies within the Jerusalem priestly aristocracy flex their muscles and seize the two apostles. They hold them in custody. Displays of power and coercion like this are what rulers do when they don’t know what else to do.

The leaders appear to be provoked by both the content and the effects of

Peter's preaching: it's about resurrection and 5000 men are persuaded by what they've seen and heard.

Acts 4:5-12

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

This the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Epistle reading from the letter to the first letter of John

First John 3:16-24 is the central summons of this epistle that calls its recipients to unity as a new covenant community, despite social, cultural, and mainstream distinctions or challenges.

The letter is structured around three appeals to a community in crisis, where the author calls for unity through the axia that God is light (1 John 1:5-2:27), that God is just (1 John 2:28-4:6), and that God is love (1 John 4:7-5:12). In 1 John 3:3:16-24, the author expounds upon the justness of God by reiterating the form and content of the new covenant community narrated in the Gospel of John.

1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his

commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

This the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gospel is today taken from John

The metaphor of shepherd and specifically of Jesus as the good shepherd is one that the church has long used as a means of assuring Christ's followers of his unending and unfailing care for them. Most likely, we have heard many sermons, where the analogy of shepherd and sheep are representative of the divine/human relationship, the understanding of the nature of sheep and their need for care, protection, and guidance by the shepherd is an image we have heard. If not, it is important that the backdrop be provided as it substantiates the need for such a relationship between God and human beings.

That good shepherd is the one who has made the definitive call to all who will become part of the fold. The divisiveness that plagues both society and the church is contrary to the divine call. God draws all into the kingdom of God—it is an inclusive invitation and one which the church needs to be better at upholding.

John 10: 11-18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Take some time to reflect on the readings set for today—what might they be saying to you and to us as a community

Intercessions

Jesus, our shepherd, hear us as we bring our prayers for the all in need, and for the longings of our world;

Jesus, shepherd of all,
we pray for the Church, your broken body in the world,
Help us to be a community which is generous and helpful
and responds to the needs of those around us.
Guide us in nurturing one another and shining your grace in the world.

Silence is kept.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Holy God,
As a shepherd protects the flock,
protect our world from violence and oppressions;
and make it subject to your gentle rule.
We pray for all places torn apart by war, disaster, and pandemic; and for
all who are working for justice, mercy and peace.

Silence is kept.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Jesus, the Good Shepherd
who gave your life for the sheep,
recover the straggler, bind up the injured,
strengthen the sick
and lead us all in building communities of justice and grace,
We pray for the communities in which we live,
for the changes and new ways of being;
that we may always see you in each other.

Silence is kept.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

As a shepherd cares for its flock,
Holy God help us to care for one another,
We pray for our sisters and brothers in need, distress, or sorrow.
We pray for all who mourn; and all who are lost or uncertain.
We pray for all who long for your healing including Jean, David, Piers,
Isobel, Peter, Pearl, Yvonne, Rute, Ron, Josephine, John, Cecilia and
Ruth...

Silence is kept.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Good Shepherd who brings the hope of eternal life;
we pray for all who have left their mark on our lives but we see no more;
and those whose anniversaries fall at this time including Gwynhwyfar
Cole, Janet Harris, Edith Bowden, Barny Joel, Rufina Rivera and Joyce
Wilson.

Rest Eternal, Grant unto them O Lord

And may light perpetual shine upon them.

May they rest in peace

And rise in Glory

In the stillness of this moment, we lift to you our other concerns and
prayers...

Merciful Father,

you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,

and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:

keep us always under his protection,

and give us grace to follow in his steps;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Notices

Bishop of Willesden to retire

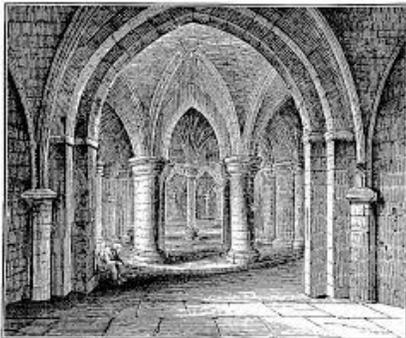
The Bishop of Willesden, the Rt Revd Pete Broadbent, has announced his intention to resign as from 30th September 2021. Bishop Pete has volunteered to stand down a year before his normal retirement date. The Bishop of London is exploring with him another role, which would see him facilitating some of the transition and implementation work for the Diocese of London's 2030 Vision. This will enable the potential appointment of a new Bishop of Willesden and provide an opportunity for the Diocese's senior team in London to become more diverse.

Annual General Meeting and update of Electoral Roll

This year our Annual General Meeting will take place this **Sunday 25th April**. Papers are available on the website and have also been emailed to those on the Electoral Roll.

Garage Sale—In Lue of Queens Park Day

On Sunday 9th May immediately after the service we will have a garage sale in the Vicarage Driveway offering the 'left over' QPS goods—and anything else you would like to drop off! We need some volunteers to help with this, and then taking any leftovers to either a charity shop or the dump on Monday. Please let Mo C know if you can help.



Possible Pilgrimage to Canterbury

We are hoping to have a day pilgrimage to Canterbury in the Summer. We would go on the fast train from either St Pancras or Stratford; visit the Cathedral and hopefully attend a service, as well as explore other parts of the Cathedral precinct. We would be interested in knowing what you would like to see and whether you would be interested in such a trip.

Celebrating Local Heroes

We would like celebrate all those who have contributed to our local area over the past 12 months. Those who have delivered food, phoned the lonely, worked in Frontline Services or helped out their neighbours. All those nominated will have their photo and contribution displayed as part of a Public Exhibition at St Anne's during June 2021. You must ask the nominee's permission before submitting their name and photo. Nominations must be received no later than the 20th May 2021 for inclusion in the exhibition. At the end of the Exhibition the displayed poster will be presented to the nominee.

News from Laurence's Larder and Sufra

Laurence's Larder is open on a Thursday for a takeaway - though they are currently not cooking on site—food is being distributed. Donations can be left in the box in church or at the Larder on a Thursday Morning. Please see their website : <https://www.laurenceslarder.org.uk>

We are also sharing our food donations with Sufra. You can read all about what they are doing during this period on their website <https://www.sufra-nwlondon.org.uk/> **We have some wonderful volunteers from St Anne's supporting both Laurence's Larder and Sufra.**

If you need assistance getting to an appointment, or you need things dropped off, we have some drivers who are willing to help.

Daily Hope 24hour phonenumber

Daily Hope offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a telephone line. The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044.**



For our prayers Jean, David, Piers, Isobel, Peter, Pearl, Yvonne, Rute, Ron, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth.

We remember those who have died and those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including Gwynhwyfar Cole, Janet Harris, Edith Bowden, Barny Joel, Rufina Rivera and Joyce Wilson.

Services this coming week starting 25th April 2021

Tuesday 27th—8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom

Thursday 29th— 8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom

Sunday 2nd May 2021– Fourth of Easter

8.30am —Morning Prayer on Zoom

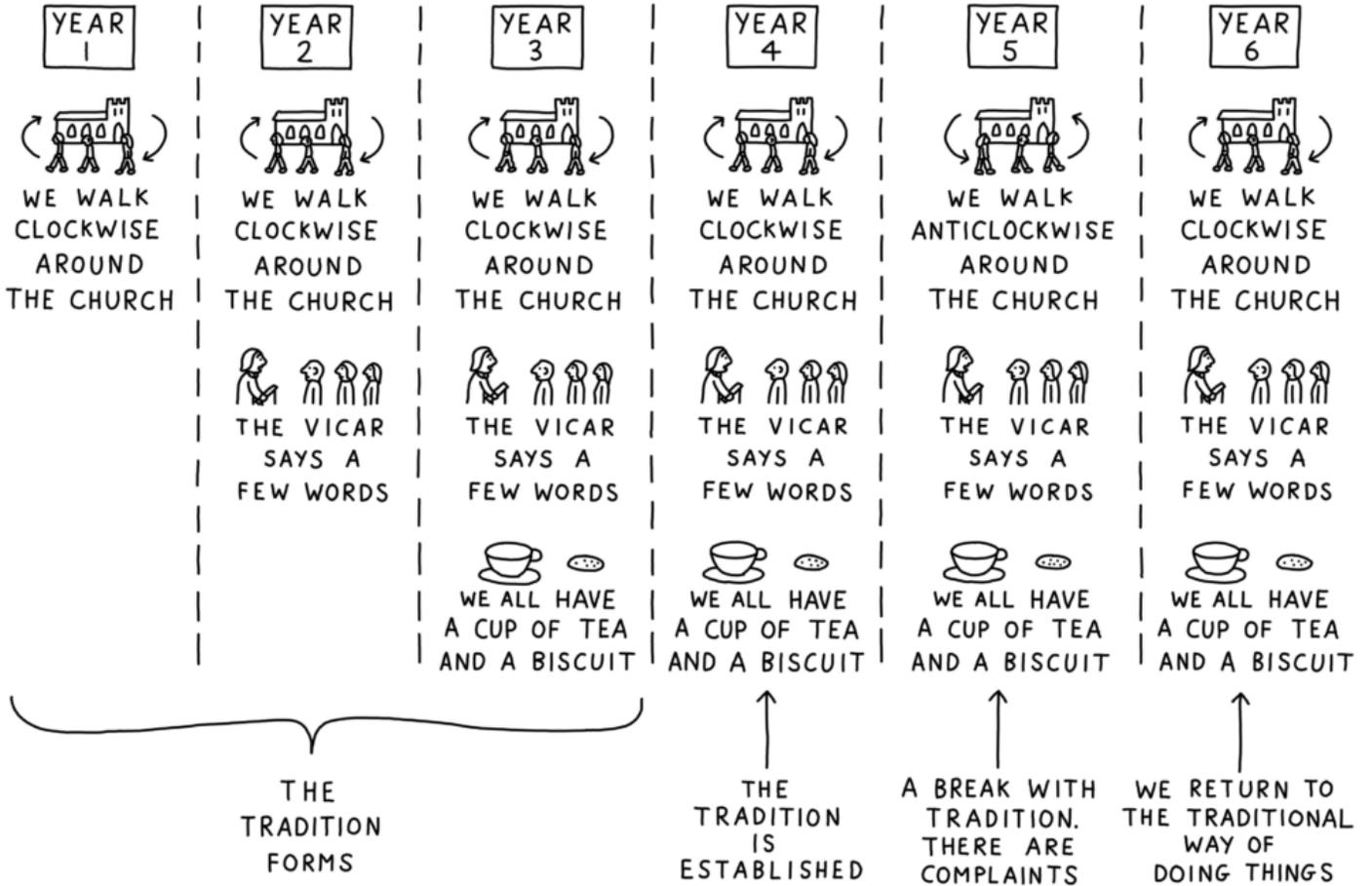
9am—Thought for the Day on Facebook

9.30am — Eucharist in Church

5pm—Service for the day on Zoom

TRADITION

HOW IT DEVELOPS



CartoonChurch.com

Parish contact details

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