



# St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

*Confidently sharing the love of Christ*

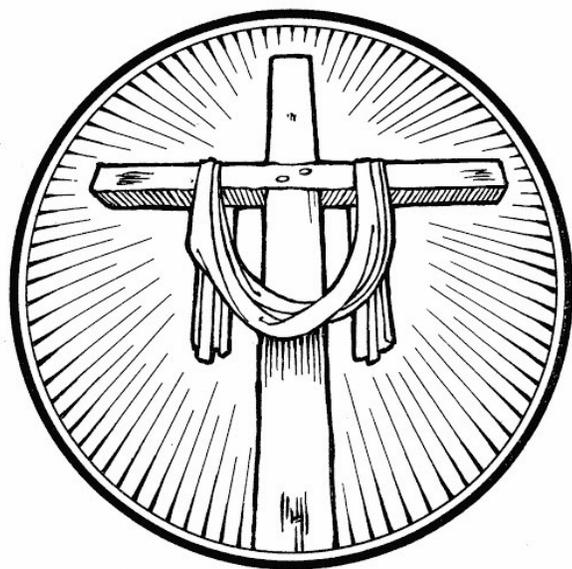
## Readings and Notice Sheet

**Sunday 2nd May 2021**

**Fifth 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**

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,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

### **Our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles.**

*Acts follows a pattern giving us a picture of the early church in terms of growth, and also broadening out to draw in those inside and out.*

*Today's story begins with Philip answering the angel's call to go south on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip had witnessed the conversion of many*

*Samaritans (cf. Acts 8.9-25), and will now bear witness to another outsider: an Ethiopian eunuch. The story of the eunuch's conversion is followed by the conversion of Paul. All three stories lead us to the "Gentile Pentecost" in Acts 10-11 and the "conversion" of a Gentile Centurion.*

### **Acts 8:26-end**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea

This the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

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

*First John 4:7-21 calls its recipients to recognize the presence of God in their relationships, in terms of love for God and for one another, despite social, cultural, and mainstream challenges. The author's closing appeal to his new community focuses on the divine attribute that embodies all others—that God is Love. This is revealed in the love of the believing community for one another*

*that manifests in full when God is present in all their relationships (1 John 4:7-21). Indeed, God is the foundation of all love which, in turn, actualizes a faith that conquers the world (1 John 5:1-12).*

*The author therefore begins his final appeal with the imperative for his “beloved” (a strong reflection to the Beloved Disciple of the Gospel as their model of faith and love), then repeats the “new commandment” of the Gospel, “let us love one another,” with a novel focus on origins, “because love is from God.”*

### **1 John 4: 7-end**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, ‘I love God’, and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

This the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### ***The Gospel is today taken from John***

*The imagery of the vine and the relationship of the branches, appendages to the main source of nourishment, has long been used to describe the church. Theologian asks Gennifer Benjamin Brooks “What does it mean for the*

*church to live as the branches of Christ, the vine? What would “church” look like if it embraced this model for its corporate life?”*

*These questions transcend the challenge of being “church” virtually because of the strictures necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. It speaks of the interrelationship wrought by and required for true community. It speaks also of mutuality, evidenced in love of neighbour, expressed to those outside of our immediate and normal circles. The imagery speaks of interdependence rather than the independence and self-dependence, so often valued by our society. How might we answer these questions? How do we relate to the image of the vine and its branches.*

### **John 15:1-8**

”I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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**

Holy God, in whom we abide,

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, The great vine grower,  
help us to bear much fruit as we care for the world  
bringing glory to your creation.

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, who gathers us in  
and helps us to grow.

Strengthen us and  
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 we seek to be your disciples, 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**

Creator, you abide in us in life and death

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 Ted Wilson, Bill  
Clements and Alice Goode

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...

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; as we follow his example and 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**

A huge thank you to everyone for their contributions to our Annual meeting last Sunday. Please note that the meeting moved a formal motion of thanks to all who have contributed to the life of the parish in 2020—that includes you!

In terms of appointments for the year ahead.

**Wardens**— Alice Hudson and Simon Judge

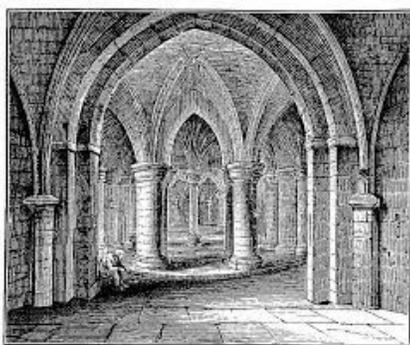
**Deputy Wardens**—Rhona Christie and Richard Brindley

**PCC**—Bob Vickers, Lindsay O'Hagan , Maggie Gibbs , Michael Lyon and Tim Collett.

**Deanery Synod Representative**—Karen Ngo

### **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, Jean, 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 Ted Wilson, Bill Clements and Alice Goode.

### **Services this coming week starting 2nd May 2021**

**Tuesday 4th** *No Morning Prayer today*

**Thursday 6th— 8.30am** Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom

### **Sunday 9th May 2021– Sixth 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

#### **Parish contact details**

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