

St Anne with Holy Trinity, Brondesbury

Confidently sharing the love of Christ

Readings and Notice Sheet

Sunday 9th May 2021

Sixth 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,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

Our first reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In Acts 10:44-48 Luke displays his narrative prowess by seamlessly resolving one storyline (begun with the introduction of Cornelius in 10:1) while simultaneously setting the stage for the ethnic and theological drama about to unfold in Jerusalem (11:1 ff.). At the same time, Luke lets this scene reverberate the theological melody of the entire book: the universal outpouring of the Holy Spirit (2:17).

This passage is a continuation of Peter’s vision and obedience to go to the Gentiles. It marks a major shift in Peter’s ministry; it is Peter’s conversion of sorts.¹ Since 9:32 Peter has been touring the region of Judea, Galilee and

Samaria, witnessing the Spirit's work among the Gentiles. Note that since the great dispersion (8:1) Peter has served as a witness in the passive sense; i.e. he is witnessing the work of the Holy Spirit among the Gentiles. In our pericope, Peter is a witness in the active sense; he is bearing witness to the Word and directly through him the Spirit makes herself manifest.

Acts 10:44-48

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

This the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

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

First John 5:1-6 is the heart of the final summons of this epistle's closing appeal that calls its recipients to understand God as the foundation of love that manifests in faith which, despite any and all evidence to the contrary, conquers the world. God is love, but the author further insists that this love results in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, Christ and Son of God who reconciles humankind to one another and to creation.

The author's closing appeal focuses on the divine attribute that embodies all others—that God is Love. This characteristic is revealed in the love of the believing community for one another that manifests fully when God is present in 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 back to the Beloved Disciple in John's Gospel as their model of faith and love); then repeats the "new commandment" of the gospel, "let us love one another," with a new focus on origins, "because love is from God" (1 John 5:1-3; see John 13:34-35).

1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his

commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

This the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gospel is today taken from John

Love is a word, the meaning of which I take very seriously. Emily Askew notes: "Love in this passage is not a psychological state, nor is it anywhere described as an internal quality. Love is an action—a really difficult action. The definition of love here is a radical willingness to die—not for your child or spouse, but for a fellow follower of Christ." Certainly this meaning is rarely in our minds when we hear the words of Christ's commandments that call Christians to love God and neighbour. And yet that is what this text, this message from Jesus, calls us to embody. How can we give up our lives for others? What can we do to show that depth of love for others within and outside the church?

What does it take to set aside all that one believes about others, to set aside the prejudices that prevent or stifle friendship, in order to join others in being truly the Body of Christ? What would it take to set aside even for a moment the familiar and the cherished, whether simply beliefs or practices, in order to stand in for another, especially someone different, perhaps even someone on the margins? That might well be a form of laying down one's life that a congregation that has been encouraged to embrace true diversity might be open to hearing or even doing. (Gennifer Benjamin Brooks is the Ernest and Bernice Styberg Professor of Preaching and director of the Styberg Preaching Institute at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary)

John 15:9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made

known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

God of love, who calls us to love one another,
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,
who calls us to abide in your love,
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 gave the ultimate example of selfless love,
Help us to love one another you have loved us.
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 friends, 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, Jean Piers, Isobel, Peter, Pearl, Yvonne, Rute, Ron, Josephine, John, Cecilia and Ruth....

Silence is kept.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Creator, your love abides 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 Priscilla Morton, Pearline Laurencin, Jermaine Morris, Walter Clark and Eweton Hawkes 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...

God our Father,

whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:

may we thirst for you,

the spring of life and source of goodness,

Help us to follow your example as we 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 23rd 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 to 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 end of 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 Priscilla Morton, Pearline Laurencin, Jermaine Morris, Walter Clark and Eweton Hawkes.

Services this coming week starting 9th May 2021

Tuesday 11th — 8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom

Thursday 13th— 8.30am Morning Prayer in Chapel and on Zoom

Sunday 16th May 2021– Seventh of Easter

8.30am —Morning Prayer on Zoom

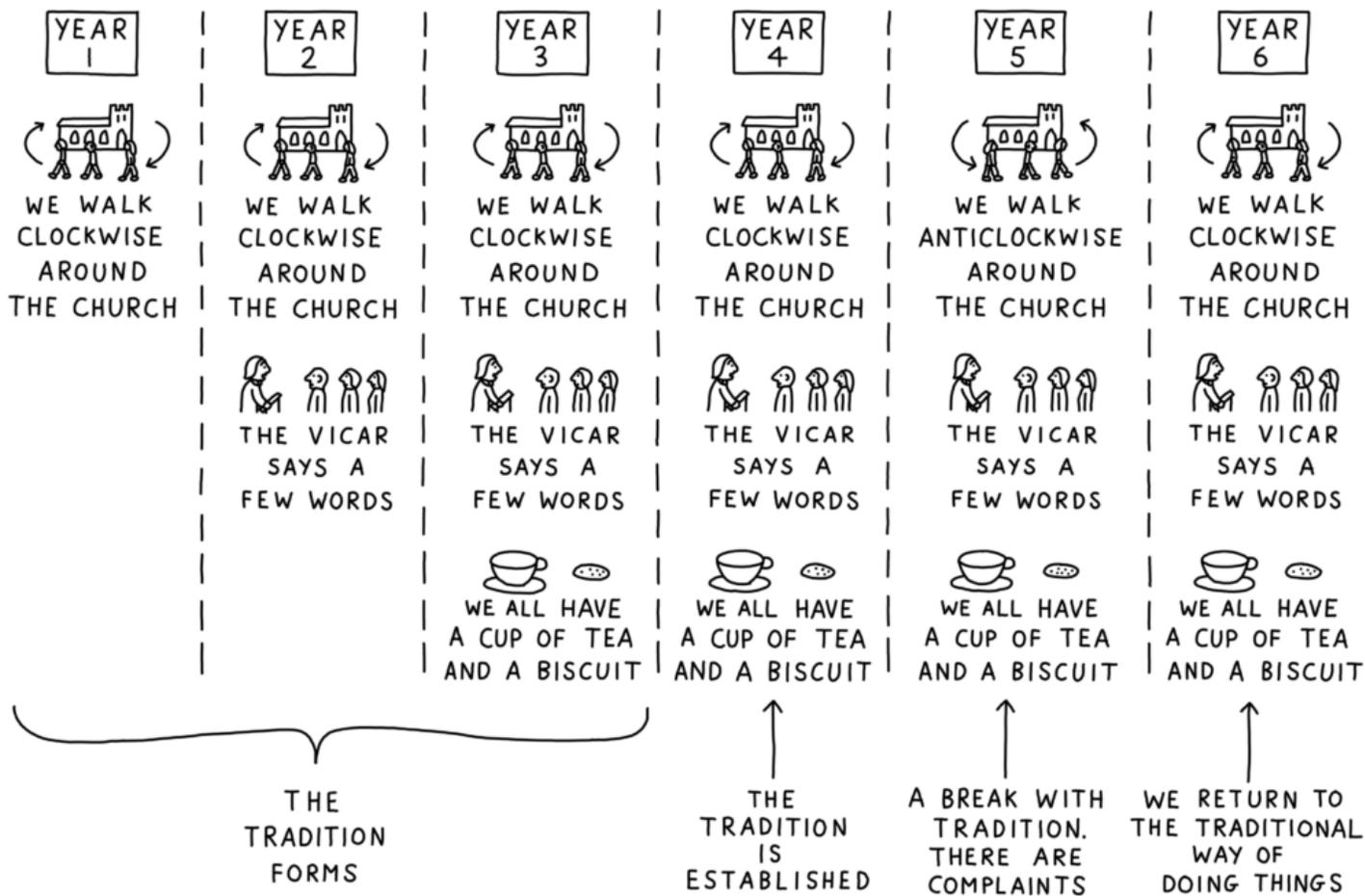
9am—Thought for the Day on Facebook

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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