



The Smestow Vale Team Ministry
St Benedict's and the Venerable Bede
Keeping in Touch with our Church Family
Sunday 24th May

The Sunday after the Ascension

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

Luke tells the story of the Ascension

When the apostles had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.' Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers

Acts 1:6-14

Jesus tells of the glory to come.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you,

the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

John 14:15-21

A Reflection for the Seventh Week of Eastertide. Paul Brown

At home I have an old spoon, a bit like a teaspoon, but which has never been used to stir a cup pf tea! It's a bit yellowey, and a strange shape, it is dated 1901, and the date is the clue to its purpose. It is a souvenir of the coronation of Edward the 7th, a replica of one of the most treasured parts of the royal regalia the anointing spoon. The spoon used to anoint the sovereign with the holy oil, as symbol that they have been chosen by God to do a particular job, the job of leading a people, a nation a country.

It is Ascension tide. Forty days after Easter we celebrate Jesus return to God, to the kingdom of heaven. We celebrate Christ the king. Gone but still involved, blessing, interceding, ruling. Luke's account of the Ascension tells us that we are to be witnesses to the good news. You can't tell people that you are concerned for their souls. If you are not concerned about the here and now. The conditions in which they live, the homes they live in, the food they eat, the way they travel, the way in which their children learn and their sick and aged are cared for.

Jesus tells us what eternal life is, it is to know God. That is the one thing that lasts, that doesn't decay, it doesn't waste away. In the incarnation we see the self-emptying of God in a baby. Power from the top down. In the Ascension we see the acceptance of what we can be, power from the bottom up, so that we can help build the kingdom here and now. Jesus left his friends with a blessing and a promise of help to come so that they could go out to love and to serve to the glory of God the Father.

Sunday

Pray that the Church may speak with one voice to grow God's kingdom. (John 17:10, 11)

Monday (Venerable Bede)

Pray for the congregation that worship at the Church of the Venerable Bede.

Tuesday

Pray for those designing safe protocols for all returning to schools next month.

Wednesday

Pray for those learning how to work at home and on line during this crisis,

Thursday

Pray that we may continue to follow the safe practices we have learnt in recent weeks

Friday

Pray that countries emerging from lockdown will not experience a second spike.

Saturday

Pray for safety for residents and carers in care homes.

Prayer During the Week

Please remember those who have asked for our prayers Sarah Stephenson, David Kingston, Lisa, Julia McCormick, Morgan, Michael Concannon, Heather Gent, Jean and Margaret Hatton

Those who have died recently and their families:

David Nabbs, Jean Nightingale, Edna Tromans, Beryl Allen, Irene Hobbs, Janet Watkiss, Jacqueline Hinton.

Sunday Worship on Facebook

Thank you to Preb Ben from Penn for all the help with last Sunday's service and to everyone who has made appreciative comments. Don't forget to "like" the service as this encourages other people to listen.

There will be a service led by Paul on Facebook this Sunday from 10.30am.

Thy Kingdom Come Light up the World with prayer

Global wave of prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost 21st-31st May.

To Download from the Net

Prayer Journal a delightful booklet with Daily readings, a short reflection, prayer and suggestions for action and a daily prayer app just right for your iPhone

Can you ?

Prayer for five people who you would like to Come to a closer relationship with God.

An invitation from the Bishop of Lichfield

To join him in the simple but beautiful service of Night Prayer, also known as Compline. Led by my colleagues and myself, this will be streamed at 9pm every evening between 21st and 31st May. Compline speaks of the protection of the angels, the faithfulness of God, and the light and peace which are promised us in Jesus Christ. I pray that you may know these realities in your own life as we walk together through these unsettled times.

Share the Good News

You are very welcome to share Keeping in Touch with others. If you know of anyone who would like it emailing to them direct please let Maxine know.

Sunday Worship for the seventh Sunday of Easter 10.45am BBC 1

Please join is in prayer and worship on Sunday Morning. The Very Rev Kathy Jones leads a service from Bangor Cathedral. The preacher is the Right Reverend Andy John, the bishop of Bangor. Interspersed with hymns recorded for Songs of Praise in March 2018.

Christian Aid Week.

Thank you to those who made donations to Christian Aid, they are doing very important work

