

HAPPY  
ASCENSION DAY  
12th May 2024



**Take me home !!**

## Rector's Tidings

We celebrate the Ascension today. Does that mean that Jesus has left us, is gone? It is true we can no longer touch and see him as could the apostles and disciples. He no longer belongs to a small group but to everyone on earth who wants to accept him. He is now the Lord of all, the Lord of glory, and yet still one of us and very near, more intimate to ourselves than we are, the heart of our own heart, through his Spirit alive in us. We, the Church, have to continue the work he began and to bear witness that he is our living Lord. Let us listen to him speaking in this eucharist and give glory to him and to the Father.

Ascension Day. A Feast of joy. For a part of us is now very close to God: our brother Jesus, who is one of us, is the first to rise from the dead and the first to live fully in God's glory and joy. He leads us, he shows us the way. But in the meantime we have to bring him to our world and to the people of our day. Proclaim with your lives that he is alive. Make the Good News known. Jesus will work with you through the Spirit he gives you and he will confirm what you say and do.

Fr Hugo

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### **Entrance Hymn:**

5 All hail the power of Jesus' name!

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### **Collect:**

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **First Reading:** A reading from Acts (1:1-11):

In my earlier work, *Theophilus*, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

This is the word of the Lord

***Thanks be to God***

## **Responsorial Psalm (47):**

**R./ God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

All you peoples, clap your hands, shout to God with cries of gladness, For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome, is the great king over all the earth. **R/**

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the LORD, amid trumpet blasts. Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R/**

For king of all the earth is God; sing hymns of praise. God reigns over the nations, God sits upon his holy throne. **R/**

**Second Reading:** A reading from the first letter of Ephesians (1:17-23):

Brothers and sisters:

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give unto you the spirit of wisdom and of revelation, in the knowledge of him:

The eyes of your heart enlightened, that you may know what the hope is of the glory of his inheritance in the saints. And what is the exceeding greatness of his power towards us, who believe according to the operation of the might of his power, Which he worked in Christ, raising him up from the dead, and setting him on his right hand in the heavenly places. Above all principality, and power, and virtue, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. And he has subjected all things under his feet, and has made him head over all the church, Which is his body, and the fulness of him who is filled all in all

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

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**Gradual Hymn:**

69 He is Lord

## **Gospel Reading**

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark (16:15-20):

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to them:

'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation. He who believes and is baptised will be saved; he who does not believe will be condemned. These are the signs that will be associated with believers: in my name they will cast out devils; they

will have the gift of tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and be unharmed should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their hands on the sick, who will recover.'

And so the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he took his place, while they, going out, preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word by the signs that accompanied it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Prayers of Intercession

As the church rejoices in the Ascension we lift our hearts to you, O Lord, on high. We remember before you all who are being challenged in their faith, those who have been brought low by oppression, persecution or mockery. We ask your blessing on churches that are struggling to survive, those that are failing to grow and those that have lost sight of their mission and outreach. We seek to share with those who proclaim your love and your presence.

We lift up our hearts.

**We lift them to you, O Lord.**

As we are uplifted by the joy of the Ascension we remember all who suffer from poverty, violence or war. We ask your blessing upon all who have lost hope or vision all who fear for their future. We remember those who are forced out of their homes or off their land. We pray that the world may move towards a greater freed justice for all peoples.

We lift up our hearts.

**We lift them to you, O Lord.**

We give thanks for your great love towards us. O God. We remember before you our loved ones and all who are dear to us. We pray for all who are having difficulties in their relationships. We remember those who are

suffering from broken relationships, broken homes or broken hearts. May all know your everlasting love and biding presence.

We lift up our hearts.

**We lift them to you, O Lord.**

We give thanks for your promise to be with us always and we remember all who feel lonely or unwanted. We ask your blessing upon all who suffer from autism or depression, all who are caught up in despair or feel that they are taken for granted. We remember before you all who are ill at home or in hospital, all who await a doctor's diagnosis or who need constant care and treatment. We ask your blessing on all who work in the healing professions.

We lift up our hearts.

**We lift them to you, O Lord.**

As we rejoice in the glory of your kingdom and the gift of eternal life we give thanks for all your saints. We thank you for all who have revealed your love and your presence to us. We pray for our friends and love ones departed, that they may rejoice in the fullness of your kingdom.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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## Intercessions

### - **For the Church:**

For Justin, our archbishop, Christopher and Martin our bishops and for the bishops, priests, deacons and people of the Diocese of The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East.

For everyone at Christ Church and St Matthew's

### - **For the world:**

Zimbabwe, Russia and Ukraine, the Holy Land.

### - **For our community:**

The Charity Shop and Food Cupboard. For Indiebride. The Halls Trust and Co-op business centre . Christ Church Primary School, Van Gogh Primary

School and Reay Primary School. For our local services, including the post delivery.

**- For the Sick and Bereaved:**

Alice, Anastasia, Bangori, Chester, Christina, Fay and family, Gladstone, John, Julie, Kandy & Benji, Karen, Kenneth, Maria, Neville, Pam, Ruby, Robert, Ron and Stephen.

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**Offertory Hymn**

167 O for a heart to praise my God

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**Communion Hymn**

119 Jesus is Lord

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**Post Communion Prayer**

God our Father, you have raised our humanity in Christ and have fed us with the bread of heaven: mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings, we may set our hearts in the heavenly places; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn**

39 Crown him with many crowns

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**Services This Week**

Saturday 18th May Baptism Preparation,

Sunday 19th May Eucharist, 11am &

Spanish Mass, 6pm

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**Next Baptism Preparation Session**

Our next FREE preparation session for all those exploring children's baptism will be next Saturday 18th May from 9.30-10.30am. We will share breakfast together, sing and have a bible story with puppets and go through parts of the Baptism service looking at water. Children, parents/guardians, grandparents, other family members and potential godparents are all welcome to attend. Don't worry if you missed the first one, and coming to the session doesn't commit you to the July

7th Baptism but it is a way to explore and find out more about what Baptism is and whether it is right for your children or grandchildren.

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## Next Bubble Church

Sunday 2nd June, 9.45am

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## PCC meeting

After today's service, with Bishop Martin

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## Regular Giving

We welcome online donations, which you can make via scanning the QR code. Many thanks for your generosity.



## Daily Bible Verse Reflections

**Monday** Acts 19:8

**Tuesday** Acts 1:24

**Wednesday** Acts 20:28

**Thursday** Acts 23:11

**Friday** Acts 25:19

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