

Prayer for the Christian community

We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.

Barbara Glasson, President of the Methodist Conference

Ascension Day Poem

'We saw his light break through the cloud of glory
Whilst we were rooted still in time and place
As earth became a part of Heaven's story
And heaven opened to his human face.
We saw him go and yet we were not parted
He took us with him to the heart of things
The heart that broke for all the broken-hearted
Is whole and Heaven-centred now, and sings,
Sings in the strength that rises out of weakness,
Sings through the clouds that veil him from our sight,
Whilst we our selves become his clouds of witness
And sing the waning darkness into light,
His light in us, and ours in him concealed,
Which all creation waits to see revealed.'

Malcolm Guite



Sunday 24th May 2020
The Seventh Sunday of Easter
Sunday after Ascension Day



Additional Collect

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

Post Communion

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all
the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we
proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Readings John 17.1–11 & Acts 1.6–14

Working from Home

Ascension Day is when Jesus went back to working from home! I write this working from home, trying not to be distracted by pinging emails or my now famous cat (if you have had a chance to see some of the services broadcast from our house she makes several appearances) and balancing the general mayhem of having three children in and out of my office. Jesus had experienced our earthiness. You could say that Ascension is the reverse of Christmas. God came to earth and got his hands dirty. Now Christ takes our humanity into the very heart and divinity of God.

In our John reading Jesus turns from talking to the disciples to talking to God his heavenly Father. Jesus does not take the place of superiority but seeks oneness and unity with the Father and between the disciples (us) and God. It is a wonderful image of giving, nurturing and mutuality. We even get stage directions! In the tradition of great rabbis from the past, Jesus looks up to heaven. Jesus hands the disciples (and us) into the care of God. We are reassured that we belong to God, created to glorify him and that we are as one. The Christmas baby and crucified Christ bring heaven to earth and now earth is brought to heaven. We are one with God and it is spectacular! The two angels in Acts ask why the disciples are looking towards heaven for Jesus - like they don't know! It echoes the scene at the tomb where the angels question Mary. It is saying, you can't understand this. Switch on the faith goggles because your normal thinking won't help you here. Jesus has gone but the Holy Spirit will be the seal on our relationship with God and befuddle the world and its

thinking. God got dirt on his hands and we get some of heaven's glory!

But it doesn't always feel that way. We are waiting. Waiting for hugs. Waiting to go back to our jobs. Waiting to return to school. Waiting to enter our church to worship. How should we wait? Maybe a clue can be found with the disciples waiting for the Holy Spirit in the upper room. They prayed together. We can't pop into church to pray due to social distancing but we are as one. Jesus has brought our humanity to the Father. And Jesus has left us God's glory to shake up the world. So we can count our blessings, laugh and weep as we share our humanity with each other and God who chooses the messiness of relationship with us. **Bob**

Online links;

including daily reflections and Sunday worship.

<http://www.barwickcofechurch.co.uk>

After service Zoom Coffee on a Sunday at 11.30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86594041181>

Meeting ID: 865 9404 1181

Direct link to the Benefice YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2ID3IKIfaJisVxxttTBJJg>

Dial-in services on Wednesday and Sunday at 10am;

Dial 0330 336 0036 and when asked enter the PIN 716 416.

Thursday Prayers via Zoom and telephone, 9.15am

If you would like to pray with us via Zoom on a Thursday morning, please use the details below. It is now also possible to join the meeting by telephone.

To join the Zoom meeting by telephone dial 0203 481 5240. You will be charged for the call. Follow the instructions. You will be asked to enter the meeting identification number on your telephone keypad. The meeting identification number is; 871 3972 6660, then press # as instructed. You can ignore the instructions asking for participants identification number. Just press # again.

When you are in the meeting it is possible to mute yourself and also raise a hand (an icon of a hand) so that other users who are in video mode can see you would like to speak. To do this press star and then a number.

*6 - Toggle mute/unmute

*9 - Raise hand

To join the meeting through a computer with a microphone and camera use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87139726660>

If you have not used Zoom before you will be asked to install some software on your computer. Just follow the instructions.

Sunday evening prayers

Bob will be praying every Sunday evening in All Saints' at 9pm, continuing our prayers for the families of those bereaved during this time. If you would like a prayer said for someone

please let me know. Tel. 07885 386932 / rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com.

Messy Church at home, Tuesday June 2nd live on YouTube at 12.30pm.

This will be our 3rd Messy Church at home with craft activities, song and a story. Around 25 minutes of fun things to do for all ages. This month we are looking at the story of Ruth from the bible. Watch live or come back and see it again at; <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2ID3IKIfaJisVxxttTBJJg>

Dad's Club, Saturday June 13th live on Zoom at 10.30am.

Dad's Club is still happening online with a Zoom meeting at 10.30am on the second Saturday of each month. Sadly we have to cook our own breakfast! More details to follow. All Dads with younger children are welcome for a catch up, games, craft and song. Contact Bob for details of how to join us or find us on Facebook. rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com

All Saints All Stars, Wednesday June 17th live on Zoom at 3.45pm

Last month's get together was truly international! Open to any families in the Benefice, we explore the readings for Sunday, have an activity together and a sing. All children are welcome with their parents. Contact Bob for details of how to join us or find us on Facebook. rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com

For further information;

prayer, pastoral care, practical help or some conversation contact;

Revd Andy Nicholson 0113 289 2437 reverandy1@gmail.com

Revd Kathryn Elliott 07597 078567 kathrynellott60@yahoo.com

Revd Bob Bailey 0113 260 7721 rev.bob.bailey@gmail.com

Leslye Thomas 0113 281 2488 leslyeanglican@btinternet.com

Carole Cassidy 0113 281 2149 carole.cassidy39@gmail.com

Year 6 School Leavers

Our local C of E Primary School is a wonderful example of a Church School, and their school motto says it all.

"A community of faith where we believe, achieve and grow together."

When the pupils leave Barwick to move onto high school they go with our good wishes and prayers, and for the last 2 years they have also received a bible.

These bibles were bought by members of the PCC on behalf of the church community. This year we are hoping that members of the wider church family would be happy to contribute to the cost of the bibles.

Norman, the church treasurer, will accept cheques or cash - 14 Beck Meadow

Please make cheques payable to "Barwick Parochial Church Council."

If you can pay online the account details are:-

"Barwick Parochial Church Council" sort code 40-27-15 and account number 20134759

Thank you if you are able to contribute to the cost of the bibles.