



Week beginning 17th May 2020
6th Sunday of Easter



COVID-19, there will be no Christian Aid envelopes and collections this year but if you would like to make a donation, please follow the link below or visit the Christian Aid website.

<https://envelope.christianaid.org.uk/>

Reflection

This week has been one of small disappointments and dawning realisations. When we went into lockdown just before Easter, I imagined that we would all return to our churches with one glorious celebration. Easter was postponed and before long, we'd all gather together to light new fires and process and sing our hearts out and (so I'm told is the tradition at St John's) do the Conga round the church. This week, having heard of various socially distanced street parties to mark the anniversary of the end of hostilities in Europe, I came to realise that this would not be how we returned to our churches. The lockdown is going to be lifted very gradually with different groups of people being affected at different stages. It is likely that our church won't be open for public worship until the beginning of July and even then, it won't be open for the kind of worship we're used to. Quite probably, the Eucharist won't be shared, there will be limited opportunities to socialise with each other and quite possibly, no singing.

With this in mind, we are going to try and put some worship online, making use of our furloughed You Tube channel and the media tech skills of my teenage son. We will also be trying out some ZOOM prayer. This Thursday, all being well, we will post a service for Ascension Day followed by something for Pentecost Sunday. There will also be invitations sent round to Compline and opportunities to pray together. There are resources online for 'Thy Kingdom Come', the nine days of prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost and they can be found here:

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

If nothing else, we can make a commitment to pray every day.

The readings this Sunday start to turn our attention away from Easter and look towards the coming of the Holy Spirit. In John's Gospel, Jesus speaks of 'another advocate'. The Greek word is 'PARACLETE' which is another of those words that doesn't quite have an equivalent in English. It could mean counsellor as in someone who listens and supports, it could mean comforter or encourager. Jesus says, 'I will not leave you orphaned.' We are never abandoned by him. He is always present through the power of the Holy Spirit. The world might not be able to see him, and we can't always but that doesn't mean that Jesus isn't there.

In the creed, we identify the Holy Spirit as one who has 'spoken through the prophets.' We are called to be prophetic. To reimagine a future that is hopeful and governed by love.

The sense of a hopeful future is a feature of the Old Testament reading from Genesis. After the great flood, God makes a covenant with Noah and the sign is the rainbow in the sky. Whenever you see the rainbow, you know that God has not broken his promise. The future is hopeful and better than before. The flood is a great turning point. The future is there for Noah and his family to discover and shape.

I've seen hundreds of rainbows recently. We are not orphans we are prophets. The future is full of hope.

Collect (until Ascension Day)

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us
to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion (until Ascension Day)

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,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Collect for Ascension Day

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.

Post Communion Prayer for Ascension Day

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.

Response to Psalm 66:

Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard.

Response to Psalm 93:

The Lord is king and has girded himself with strength.

Readings for today	Readings for Ascensions Day	Readings for next Sunday
Genesis 8: 20 – 9: 17	Daniel 7: 9 – 14	Ezekiel 36: 24 – 28
Psalm 66: 7 – 18	Psalm 93	Psalm 68: 1 – 10, 32 – end
Acts 17: 22 – 31	Acts 1: 1 – 11	Acts 1: 6 – 14
John 14: 15 – 21	Luke 24: 44 – end	John 17: 1 - 11

A copy of the information sent to 1000 homes, delivered by sixth-form students from Lincoln Castle Academy.

Members of Lincoln, St John the Baptist Parish Church are working together to help the residents of the Ermine Estate through this difficult time.

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 (corona virus) and need help with shopping, urgent supplies or just want to chat, please call us on 07954 035865. To contact the vicar, Revd Rachel Heskins directly call 07813 617977.



If you are a resident who is happy to be added to the list of volunteers who are willing to help, please call either of these numbers and let us know.

This is a FREE service so please don't hesitate to call us if you need to.

You can also follow us on Facebook  St John the Baptist Church Ermine

There will be no public worship at St John the Baptist Church until further notice. Daily offices are being said at the Vicarage at 9 am and 5 pm and a weekly Eucharist is being said on Sundays. If you are accessing this newsletter online and you know of a neighbour who might like to see it, please print off a copy and pop it through their letter box.

You can join in prayer wherever you are by downloading the Church of England free app 'Daily Prayer'. <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/apps>

For the latest updates on COVID-19 visit <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

PRAYER THIS WEEK

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
6th Sunday of Easter	Local councillors and MPs Karl McCartney MP Cllr Christopher Edward Reid (Lincoln City and Lincolnshire County Council) Cllr Yvonne Bodger (Lincoln City) Cllr Naomi Tweddle (Lincoln City)	We pray for signs of the Holy Spirit at work transforming lives in Greater Lincolnshire <i>Pray for the Anglican Church of Korea</i> <i>The Most Revd Moses Nagjun Yoo - Primate of Korea and Bishop of Daejeon</i>
Monday 18th Rogation Day	Our parish and people Residents of: Allandale Close, Allandale View, Amble Close, Apley Close, Ashlar Close	The Deanery of Horncastle. The Revd Mark Holden, Rural Dean; Judith Parkin, Lay Chair. <i>Nakuru (Kenya) The Rt Revd Joseph Mucha;</i> <i>Abakaliki (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Monday Nkwoagu;</i> <i>Ilaje (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Fredrick Olugbemi</i>
Tuesday 19th Rogation Day; Dunstan, archbishop, monastic reformer, 988	Lay Reader Jackie Howell Residents of: Asterby Close, Aubourn Avenue, Aylesby Avenue, Bain Street	The licensing of The Revd Julie Wearing to the benefice of Crosby. The Diocesan Safeguarding Team <i>Nambale (Kenya) The Rt Revd Robert Magina Barasa;</i> <i>Aberdeen & Orkney (Scotland) The Rt Revd Anne Dyer;</i> <i>Ile - Oluji (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Abel Oluayemi Ajibodu</i>
Wednesday 20th Rogation Day Alcuin, Deacon, Abbott of Tours 804	Our Lady of Lincoln church and school The clergy and people; the staff, governors and pupils of Our Lady Primary School Residents of: Barkston Gardens, Bassingham Crescent, Bilsby Close, Blankney Crescent	Church schools in Horncastle Deanery: Bardney; St Michael's Coningsby; Kirkby-on-Bain; Mareham-le-Fen; Holy Trinity Tattershall; Scamblesby; St Andrew's Woodhall Spa. <i>Namibia (Southern Africa) The Rt Revd Luke Pato;</i> <i>Abuja (Nigeria) The Most Revd Henry Chukwudum Ndukuba (Primate)</i>
Thursday 21st Ascension Day	Ermine House Residents of: Brattleby Crescent, Broxholme	Clergy Housing Committee Meeting. Retired Clergy

	Gardens, Buchanan Street, Burnside Close	<i>Namirembe (Uganda) The Rt Revd Wilberforce Kityo Luwalira;</i> <i>Abyei (South Sudan) The Rt Revd Michael Deng K Bol;</i> <i>Accra (West Africa) The Rt Revd Daniel Sylvanus Mensah Torto</i>
Friday 22 nd 'Thy Kingdom Come'	Our parish visitors Residents of: Burwell Close, Cabourne Avenue, Carlton Grove, Carlton Walk, and Cathedral View Court	The Asterby Group - Benniworth, Biscathorpe, Burgh on Bain, Donnington on Bain, Gayton le Wold, Goulceby, Ranby, Scamblesby, Stenigot: Revd Cilla Smith <i>Nandyal (South India) The Rt Revd Eggoni Pushpalalitha;</i> <i>Adelaide (Australia) The Most Revd Geoffrey Martyn Smith</i>
Saturday 23 rd 'Thy Kingdom Come'	Flower arrangers, Community Larder Residents of: Chatterton Avenue, Clarendon Gardens, Clarendon View, David Avenue	The Bain Valley Group - Coningsby, Tattershall, Kirkby on Bain, Roughton w Haltham: Revd Sue Allison We pray for our communities, and for a greater sense of becoming the presence of Christ outside our buildings, in all we are and will be. <i>Nasik (North India) Vacant;</i> <i>Afikpo (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Paul Udogu;</i> <i>Ilesa (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Samuel Olubayu Sowale;</i> <i>Ilesa South West (Nigeria) The Rt Revd Samuel Egbeunmi</i>

The Diocesan Prayer Calendar can be downloaded from the website:
<https://www.lincoln.anglican.org/sharing-in-prayer>

Give thanks for:	The gradual lifting of lockdown and signs of hope.
Special prayers this week for:	Schools in our parish preparing for a partial return of students in June.
People in need:	Clive Seabury, Dave Notman,
Rest in peace:	David Redrob, Linda Liversage, Revd Michael Shrewsbury

Coming up this week:

Sunday	10:00am	Parish Eucharist IN THE VICARAGE
Monday to Saturday	9.00am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer Evening Prayer

Revd Rachel can be contacted Saturday – Thursday
on 07813 617977

e-mail: revd-rachel@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk

Web site: www.stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk

Any items for this weekly sheet should be received by Revd Rachel
no later than Wednesday evening.

If you would like to receive this weekly sheet by email, please e-mail
revd-rachel@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk or speak to a churchwarden