*The Parish Churches of St. Peter & St. Paul, Wincanton*

*and St. Michael, Pen Selwood*

**

Church website: [www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk)

2nd May 2021 5th Sunday of Easter

Dear Friends,

Last week Alison was kind enough to use part of this space to wish me a very happy birthday. Many of you have also contacted me to express the same wish, and I would like to thank everyone for their good wishes, cards, gifts and presents. My house seems to be full of flowers, and every shelf edge has a card on it – I feel very blessed and very loved – thank you all.

As most of you know, this has for me been a ‘significant’ birthday, and I feel that these are significant times for us too as churches. We are approaching our APCMs in both churches – provisional dates having been set for:

• St Peter and St Paul Wincanton – Wednesday 19th May at 7:30pm

• St Michael’s Pen Selwood – Sunday 23rd May at 10:45am (approx.) after the Sunday service that morning.

Both churches will be looking for a new churchwarden, deputy wardens, PCC members and deanery synod representatives, and I do ask you all to consider whether you will be able to serve in any of these ways. There is also a need for more people to take on occasional duties in services such as sidespeople, readers and intercessors – as with all duties, the more volunteers we have, the less onerous the task becomes.

We are also at a point in time in the pandemic, when at last case rates seem to be slowing down, and we hope that the lifting of restrictions will continue and we can consider weekly services in both parishes again – if this is what people want. We must consider whether returning to what we have done in the past is the right way to go forward, or whether some of the new ways learned during lockdown bring extra blessing and enable us to reach more people. It is time for us to spend time asking God what his plans for us are so that our churches may become more relevant to the neighbourhoods we serve. Please give these matters some serious prayerful thought. With love in Christ – Penny.

**Bishop Peter’s farewell (taken from letter from the Bishop and archdeacons received 29th March).**

News from Bishop Peter and Jane is that they are home and +Peter continues to recover well. Plans for his farewell service on 22nd May are being worked on. We hope these will include the opportunity for as many as possible to gather online to say our ‘goodbyes’. We expect that many of you will want to give a gift or send a message. Please can you send messages to andrea.howlett@bathwells.anglican.org by **Friday 14th May** and donations for a gift to the following:

Cheques:

Payable to The Bath & Wells Diocesan Board of Finance - Post to: The Bishops’ Office, The Bishop’s Palace, Wells, Somerset, BA5 2PD

BACS:

Account Name: The Bath & Wells Diocesan Board of Finance

Sort Code 60-23-06, Account Number 52161242, Reference **Bishop Peter** (Please ensure you put this reference when making the transfer)

**Readings for 2nd May: Acts 8: 26-end John 15: 1-8**

**Readings for 9th May: Acts 10: 44-end John 15: 9-17**

**Contact Details for Rev Alison Way -** Please note my contact details are:

Address: The Parish Office; 38 High Street, Wincanton, BA9 9JF

Landline: 01963 33151, Work mobile: 07515 958988

Email: rector@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk, Twitter: @revalisonway

Facebook Group: Wincanton and Pen Selwood

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**The Parish Office** has had to close due to the continued restrictions placed on employers, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Rachel is working from home, during normal office hours: **Tuesday, Thursday & Friday mornings: 9:15am – 1:15pm.** You can contact Rachel on 01963 824503 or via email at: office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk business will continue as normal.

#### Church Diary \* SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE

**Sun 2nd May 10:00am Wincanton Church Public Worship Service**

**Sun 2nd May 10am – 3pm Pen Selwood Church open for Private Prayer**

**Wed 5th May 12:00 -2pm Wincanton Church open for Private Prayer**

**Sun 9th May 10:00am Pen Selwood Church Public Worship Service**

**Sun 9th May 9am - 11am Wincanton Church open for Private Prayer**

#### Church Notices

**Electoral Roll -** If anyone not already on the Church Electoral Roll would like to be added before the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday, 19th May please let me know as soon as possible. Many thanks, **Rosemary.**

Rosemary Keep 01963 33656 email: rosemarykeep@gmail.com

**Planned Giving Envelopes -** If anyone has been unable to hand in their Planned Giving Envelopesto the churchduring the last financial year due to the difficult circumstances caused by the coronavirus pandemic, I would be very happy to collect them from you. Please either phone me on 01963 34965 or leave a message at the Parish Office for Rachel, if you would like me to do this. **Roger Lowe.**

**Contact Pool –** The winners of the **March** Contact Pool draw are:

1st prize £30 Martin Hunt (no.3)

2nd prize £20 Irene Rix (no.54)

3rd prize £10 Kath White (no.109)

**Congratulations** to all our winners! **Joanna Durham-Matthews.**

**Prayer List –** If you would like to be added to our Prayer List, or feel a friend or relative should be on our Prayer List, please do let me know. If you are wanting someone else to be prayed for you must have their permission.

Anybody is welcome to be included in our prayers at any time, and I will also pray for you in my daily prayers. Please use the contact details in this newsletter to contact me. **Alison.**



**Prayer Diary**

**From today’s readings:** “ ‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches.’.”

**Prayer Chain:** If you would like immediate prayers for yourself or someone you know please contact one of the following (requests passed in confidence): Penny Ashton 33990 or Judy Chiplen 33834. If you wish to join the prayer chain, contact Judy 33834. If you wish to be added to our Prayer List, please contact Rev Alison Way 33151.

**Please continue to pray for** those of our fellowship and friends whoare ill or recovering from operations: Derek Ayers, June and Steve Beech, Margaret Brown (Gwen Evans’ Daughter), Irene Rix (Sue Hall’s Mum), Ann and Bryan Phillips, Sam (Gill Oaten’s Great Great Nephew), Joyce Bentley, Mike Gray, Sue Cox, Brenda Piper, Bishop Peter and Jane Hancock, Canon Alan and Rosemary Watson, Elizabeth Vivyan, Elroi Manor, Gwen Evans.

**Please remember** the long-term sick, the housebound & their carers.

**Please pray for those who grieve, and for the departed:** Patricia Mary Lampert, Joan Croft (prayers for Nicky King & family), His Royal Highness – The Duke of Edinburgh (prayers for Her Majesty the Queen & royal family), Alan De Renzie-Brett (prayers for Brenda De Renzie-Brett & family)

We pray for Wincanton Health Centre and Wincanton Community Hospital, for the staff in their work pressures.

**Food for thought and prayer** - We will be looking for another churchwarden, for St Peter and St Paul’s church in Wincanton and for St Michael’s church in Pen Selwood. Please give this your consideration and prayer.

*Parish Office: 38 High Street, Wincanton BA9 9JF 01963 824503*

*Any items, for inclusion the Newsletter, to Rachel by midday on Wednesday.*

 *Email:* *office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk*