*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)

9th May 2021 6th Sunday of Easter - Rogation

Dear Friends,

It was good to have a break and some rest and refreshment, and I have been picking up the threads this week. As it has been for the past year or more it is still difficult to know how this next few months will pan out. The numbers of cases are at a much lower level, and we are heading towards the next stages of the road map. We will continue with a safety first approach to the life of our churches, which has served us well thus far. Please be aware that the detailed guidance we need is often produced significantly after announcements in the media (and the work needed locally to refresh our risk assessments and approaches then has to be worked on and factored in). Patience is a fruit of the spirit – so let’s pray to be really blessed with it through the days, weeks and months ahead.

On Sunday, we mark Rogation in the festivals of the agricultural year – traditionally when we pray for the crops and the coming harvest. I checked in with Charles Buckler about concerns for prayer for our farmers earlier this week. The top three were:

* Rain (which is impacting the available pastures for life stock)
* The need for seasonal workers (which has a danger of impacting the harvest of a variety of different crops/food stuffs – you may remember the pictures of tulip and daffodil fields earlier this year when it had been impossible to pick the flowers)
* The impact of new trading rules (particularly where much of our crops and food stuffs are exported and farmers and other types of harvesters are reliant on export revenue to stay in business)

This year's Bruton & Cary Deanery Ascension Day service on Thursday 13th May at 7.00pm will be held via Zoom. Julia Hill, Diocesan Discipleship Team Leader - Everyday Faith, will be giving the talk.

The Zoom meeting can be accessed in any of the following three ways:

1. By clicking on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88130379992?pwd=cy9qUjliTlFCNGR3MWNzd0xLUXkyZz09>

2. By manually downloading the Zoom App from your browser and joining a meeting using the following:

Meeting ID: 881 3037 9992 Passcode: 368815

3. By using your landline and dialling 020 3481 5240, and following the prompts using the following:

Meeting ID: 881 3037 9992 followed by # Passcode: 368815 followed by #

We are also 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.

Please pray for what God is putting on your heart to build his church here.

With love in Christ – Alison

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

**Readings for 16th May: Acts 1: 15-17, 21-end John 17: 6-19**

**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

**This week my day off will be Friday (because of Ascension day)**



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

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

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

**Sun 16th May 10:00am Wincanton Church Public Worship Service**

**Sun 16th May 10am – 3pm Pen Selwood Church open for Private Prayer**

#### Church Notices

**Electoral Roll for St Peter and St Paul -** 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

**Churchwarden for St Peter and St Paul’s Church** - Very soon our APCM will take place. At this time I will be retiring as Churchwarden, after 6 years. We are therefore seeking another person to take over this important role, to accompany Sue.

Due to the Covid situation it has not been easy to meet or speak to anyone about this position. As a result I have put together these few words, to allay any fears you may have which prevent you from coming forward. I have enjoyed my time and met many people, both in our parish and Diocese during my term.

I see the basic role as preparing our church for services, unlocking before and locking the church after, attending PCC meetings, liaising with and supporting Alison, ensuring adequate church supplies, overseeing charity accounts.

Some of the duties I have undertaken are not specific Churchwarden duties, but I have been happy to do them. It is really up to you if you want to do more.

I am more than happy to speak to you if you need more details. Please feel free to contact me. With best wishes, **Richard.**

**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:** “As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.”

**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*