



08 May, 2022

4th Sunday of Easter

Said Eucharists – Sunday 8.30am. and 10.00 am. Tuesday 10.30am.

Gathered Round –All-Age informal Communion service – 10.00am.

A copy of Fr. Peter's reflection has been sent with these notices.

Tea and coffee will be served after the 10.00am. service. Please stay for a chat with other members of the congregation if you can.

Collect

Alternative Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

Acts 9.36–43

8.30am. only

In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

For the word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23 **Response: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. **Response**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **Response**

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full. **Response**

Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Gradual Hymn

God to enfold you,

Christ to uphold you,

Spirit to keep you in heaven's sight;

so may God grace you,

heal and embrace you

lead you through darkness to the light.

John 10.22–30

8.30am. and 10.00am.

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Forthcoming Activities and Events at St. Michael's

TRAIDCRAFT STALL – Today, Sunday, 08 May, after the 10.00am. Gathered Round service

The monthly Traidcraft stall will be returning to its former place in the North Transept. A selection of products is available on the day. Special orders should be given to Sue Eames, or left in the Office, to ensure availability.

OFFICE CLOSED – Monday, 09 – Tuesday, 10 May

The Office will be closed at the beginning of the week, returning to normal hours on Wednesday, 11 May. E-mail will be monitored during this time, but phone messages may not be picked up every day.

NAPPY DAYS - North Transept – Wednesday, 11 May– 1.30pm.-3.00pm.

A church-sponsored drop-in group for parents with new babies, offering a cuppa and a chat with other parents.

CRAFTY CUPPA – North Transept – Friday, 13 May – 10.30am. – 11.30am.

A monthly drop-in session for everyone, especially those on their own. If you engage in a craft such as knitting or embroidery, bring it with you and enjoy some company while you work. Fancy just a cuppa, or would you enjoy an opportunity to chat? Then come along. You will be very welcome.

CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF RICHARD BAER - Chesham and Ley Hill Golf Club, HP5 1UZ – Friday, 13 May - 12.30pm. – 3.00pm. -

All are welcome, and a buffet lunch will be served. This is not a formal event, so please dress comfortably. If you have any questions, please email davidbaer2@gmail.com or text 07980 176816.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – FUNDRAISING EVENT – St. Michael's Square – Saturday, 14 May – 9.30am. -2.00pm.

Plant, Bric-a-Brac and Nearly New stalls plus children's 'Fishing' game. Online donations to the local Christian Aid appeal can be made at <https://giving.give-star.com/online/christianaid/amersham-chesham-bois-christian-aid-group>

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING (APCM) – Sunday, 15 May 10.00am.

The APCM will take place in church, and will be followed by a short Holy Communion Service. Attendance at the APCM is limited to those on the electoral roll of the parish. The agenda and other papers relating to the meeting will be made available shortly to those on the roll. The meeting agenda will include elections for vacancies on the PCC. For further details about this role and/or a nomination form, please speak to one of the churchwardens.

"POP IN AND PAINT" - St. Michael's – Friday, 03 June – 10.30am. – 12.15pm.

Join Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed - only enthusiasm and interest. All materials supplied, but you are welcome to bring your own paints. If you prefer just to come along for a chat and to watch the proceedings, that's fine too!

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

The church is open for private prayer, from 10.00am. to 4.00pm. Mon.-Fri. The Lady Chapel has been set aside as a quiet space, and the votive candle stand moved into there.

Activities and Events beyond St. Michael's

COTHA FAMILY WALK AND PICNIC – Little Chalfont Nature Park, HP7 9QB – Today, Sunday, 08 May – 12noon – 2.00m.

Bring your sandwiches and drinks, and we will bring treats! There will be games and quizzes, and a chance to look at what nature is doing at this lovely time of the year. Meet in the car park by the side of Little Chalfont Library, or in the park. More information from Hazel Richardson or Liz Waumsley of Amersham Free Church.

LUNCH BREAK - Amersham Free Church – Tuesday, 10 May- Midday to 2pm.

Tea, coffee and soup are available throughout. The church is open for quiet reflection and offers a varied programme of music, worship, meditation and speakers between 1.10pm. and 1.30pm. **This week: Challoner's Grammar School in Recital**

AMCHOR CONCERT - St. Mary's Church, Old Amersham - Saturday, 14 May - 7.30pm.

Rheinberger: *Stabat Mater*; Rossini: *Petite Messe solennelle*, performed by Amersham and Chesham Bois Choral Society, with soloists: Soprano: Daisy Mitchell; Alto: Katey Rylands; Tenor: Ryan Davies; Bass: Johannes Moore. Conductor: Nick Austin. With Ben Giddens (Piano) and Simon Dinsdale (Harmonium)
Tickets: £16.00/£8.00 students, available from Perfect Pitch (Chesham), The Record Shop (Amersham), boxoffice@amchor.com or wegottickets.com/amchor

AMERSHAM GARDENING ASSOCIATION SALE – St. Michael's Square – Saturday, 21 May – 9.00am. – 2.00pm.

FOODBANK UPDATE from Margaret Dykes

Apologies for the delay in providing this update. Part of my challenge is finding something new to say. The need remains great and growing; your continuing support is humbling and amazing and the economic challenges keep rolling down the track. We have achieved a milestone. In the 25 months since we began on this challenging pathway; people have donated collectively £ 50,000.00, which we have spent buying ethically-sourced and fairly-traded quality goods, requested by, and delivered to, the Food bank. The original challenge around the first covid lock down was superseded by the second and third, and then new cost of living challenges, driven by rising costs, inflation beating fuel price rises and the consequences of the terrible tragedy unfolding in Ukraine. Throughout all these challenges your generous support has been fundamental in enabling those in most need to be given a helping hand, and again demonstrating the value of our service, allowing the food bank to provide a balanced range of goods in support of their clients. Thank you so much.