

**The Parishes of Adbaston, Gnosall, High Offley & Knightley,  
Moreton and Norbury  
Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April. (Easter 2)**

**Collect**

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*Post Communion*

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**Exodus 14: 10-end, 15: 20-21**

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.' But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself

over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.'

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.'

Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went

out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: 'Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.'

### Acts 2: 14a, 22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,

"I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;

moreover, my flesh will live in hope.  
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.  
You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

"He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption."  
This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

### John 20: 19-end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he

showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**In our year's mind (St Lawrence, Gnosall) we remember:** Robert John (Bob) Edwards, Doreen J. Fraser, Nigel Russell Buckley-Robins, Peter William Thomas, Arthur Edwards, Betty Patricia Tunncliffe, Kenneth (Ken) Evans, Gwendoline Key, Geoffrey Robert Robotham.

### Notices

#### This Week's Services- 12<sup>th</sup> April

**Gnosall 8am** Holy Communion  
**10:30am** Holy Communion  
**Knightley 9:30am** Morning Worship  
**Adbaston 9:30am** Morning Worship  
**Norbury 11am** Morning Worship



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### **Next Week's Services- 19<sup>th</sup> April**

**Gnosall 8am** Holy Communion

**10:30am** Morning Worship

**4pm** Messy Church

**Knightley 9:30am** Holy Communion

**Norbury 11am** Holy Communion

### **Flower Rota**

The new flower rota is now on the notice board at the back of Church. Please sign up if you would like to do the flowers on a special date. I would welcome more help with the weekly flowers too. Many thanks, Helen Air

### **Gnosall Singers Spring Concert**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 7:30pm Grosvenor Centre.

Tickets £10. Contact Pat Tweed 01785822523 or Pat Simcock 01952 971010

### **House of Bread**

House of Bread will be hosting a concert with Eccleshall Singers at Gnosall Methodist Church at 7:30pm on 25<sup>th</sup> April. Tickets £10. Available from: Tony Gee: 01785-824868 or 07805-433852 William Morris: 01785-332413, Nancy Rae: 01785-822808

### **Prayer Diary**

Please contact Ruth Finister if you would like the name of someone to be added to the benefice prayer diary. Please make sure that you obtain their consent before passing on their details. You can contact Ruth on ([ruthfinister@gmail.com](mailto:ruthfinister@gmail.com)) or telephone (01785 823232).

### **Easter Flowers**

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Easter flowers in our churches across the benefice, all of which looked wonderful on Easter Day. Thank you to everyone who helped towards the cost of the flowers, and to the fantastic teams of flower arrangers. Please do encourage your friends, family and neighbours to visit our churches in the coming week to enjoy the flowers.

### **PCC Members**

In May, we will be holding our annual church meetings at which we appoint members to serve on our Parochial Church Councils (PCCs). PCCs help support and promote the wider mission of the Church and they meet around four times a year to discuss matters relating to a range of issues including maintenance of our buildings, finance, worship and outreach. As churches have charitable status, they are required to have a PCC in order to continue as places of worship. We therefore need people to serve on our PCCs, initially for a 3-year term. If you are interested, please speak to Rev Rachael for more information. It is vital that we have enough people to serve on our PCCs if we want our churches to remain open.

### **PCC Secretary (Gnosall)**

St Lawrence PCC need someone to stand as Secretary after their APCM in May. The role involves taking minutes at PCC meetings, responding to correspondence on behalf of the PCC and ensuring that PCC members receive the information they need in advance of meetings. If you think you might be able to help, please speak to Rev Rachael. The PCC is required to have a Secretary so please pray that God would call someone to this role.

### **Praying for our Benefice**

Rev Rachael is looking for volunteers who might be able to help her develop and enrich the prayer life of our benefice. She isn't yet sure what this might look like, but is looking forward to the ways in which God might lead us towards deepening our prayerfulness as a worshipping community. Please pray if you might be one of the people she is looking for! And if you think God might be nudging you in this direction, please let her know!

### **Coffee and Chat**

All Welcome for Coffee and Chat 10:30-12:30 at St Lawrence Church. 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month.



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### **Eco Tip of the Month**

Celebrate new life this Easter and have a go at growing something! April is the perfect time to try to grow something edible or, if you are a seasoned gardener, to encourage someone else to try. Salad leaves or herbs are a great place to start and will reduce your reliance on those oh-so-convenient supermarket salad bags. For indoor space, try 'micro-greens' (vegetable leaves harvested soon after they open) For greenhouses, try sowing salad leaf seed mixes. For outdoors, beetroot, lettuce, onion and pea plants are frost-resistant so can all be planted outside in April. As you sow, thank God for the opportunity to grow food, and pray for those communities that are facing food shortages and famine.

### **Contact Details for the Church Office.**

Phone: 01785 822820 Benefice Administrator:  
Victoria Hainsworth  
Office email: [churchofficegnosall@gmail.com](mailto:churchofficegnosall@gmail.com)  
Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9-12.00,  
Friday 9-1:00. When the office is not staffed,  
leave a message and someone will reply as soon  
as possible.



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