

# Welcome to the Parish of Rushall and the Churches of St. Michael the Archangel and Christ the King

## Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Third Sunday of Easter Services this week

<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b>	26 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		9am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St. Michael's
<b>Monday</b>	27 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
<b>Tuesday</b>	28 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
<b>Wednesday</b>	29 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
<b>Thursday</b>	30 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		10am	Drop In	St. Michael's
<b>Friday</b> <i>Philip &amp; James</i>	1 <sup>st</sup>		No services	
<b>Saturday</b> <i>Athanasius, 373</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
<b>Fifth Sunday Of Easter</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		9am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		10.30am	Seeker Service	St. Michael's
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St. Michael's

## Services online

The Sunday 10.30am service at St. Michael's is streamed live on Facebook for those unable to attend in person.

Morning and Evening Prayer take place on Zoom on various days of the week: please contact us for the link if you wish to join us.

We enter into Passiontide as we draw closer to Holy Week and Easter.

## Readings for Holy Communion – 26<sup>th</sup> April

### The 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**

### First Reading *Acts 2.42-47*

Many were baptized and were added to the community. <sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup>Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup>they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup>Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

### Psalm 23

**R: The Lord is my shepherd, there is nothing I shall want**

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

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

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

4 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. **R**

5 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. **R**

6 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. **R**

## **Second Reading**      *1 Peter 2.19-25*

Brothers and sisters: <sup>19</sup>It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup>'He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.'

<sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup>For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;  
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

**Alleluia.**

## **Gospel**      *John 10.1-10*

Jesus said to the Pharisees: <sup>1</sup>'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup>So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'

### **Prayer of preparation**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.

In your loving care you spread before us the table of life

and give us the cup of salvation to drink.

Keep us always in the fold of our Saviour and our Shepherd, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

### **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.**

### **Readings for Evening Prayer**

#### **Psalm 29**

**R: The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace**

1 Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

2 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;  
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. **R**

3 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders;  
the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

4 The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;  
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice. **R**

5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf  
and Sirion like a young wild ox. **R**

7 The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;  
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

8 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe  
and strips the forests bare;

in his temple all cry, 'Glory!' **R**

9 The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

10 The Lord shall give strength to his people;  
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **R**

## First Reading

*Ezra 3.1-13*

<sup>1</sup>When the seventh month came, and the Israelites were in the towns, the people gathered together in Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup>Then Jeshua son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel with his kin set out to build the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt-offerings on it, as prescribed in the law of Moses the man of God. <sup>3</sup>They set up the altar on its foundation, because they were in dread of the neighbouring peoples, and they offered burnt-offerings upon it to the LORD, morning and evening. <sup>4</sup>And they kept the festival of booths, as prescribed, and offered the daily burnt-offerings by number according to the ordinance, as required for each day, <sup>5</sup>and after that the regular burnt-offerings, the offerings at the new moon and at all the sacred festivals of the LORD, and the offerings of everyone who made a freewill-offering to the LORD. <sup>6</sup>From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt-offerings to the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid. <sup>7</sup>So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from King Cyrus of Persia.

<sup>8</sup>In the second year after their arrival at the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their people, the priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upwards, to have the oversight of the work on the house of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And Jeshua with his sons and his kin, and Kadmiel and his sons, Binnui and Hodaviah along with the sons of Henadad, the Levites, their sons and kin, together took charge of the workers in the house of God.

<sup>10</sup>When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the LORD with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; <sup>11</sup>and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD,

‘For he is good,

for his steadfast love endures for ever towards Israel.’

And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. <sup>12</sup>But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, <sup>13</sup>so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people’s weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away.

## Second Reading

*Ephesians 2.11-22*

<sup>11</sup>Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called 'the uncircumcision' by those who are called 'the circumcision' – a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands – <sup>12</sup>remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. <sup>15</sup>He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. <sup>17</sup>So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; <sup>18</sup>for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. <sup>19</sup>So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, <sup>20</sup>built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

GATHER WITH OUR  
CLUSTER CHURCHES FOR OUR TRADITIONAL

# ASCENSION

## Day Service

Join us as we come together to  
celebrate the Ascension of our Lord

 THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026

 6:30pm

 ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
WALSALL WOOD

 **Celebrant:**  
Rev. Lisa Mitchell

 **Preacher:**  
The Venerable  
Liz Jackson  
*Archdeacon of Walsall*

 REFRESHMENTS  
AFTER THE SERVICE

All are warmly welcome!

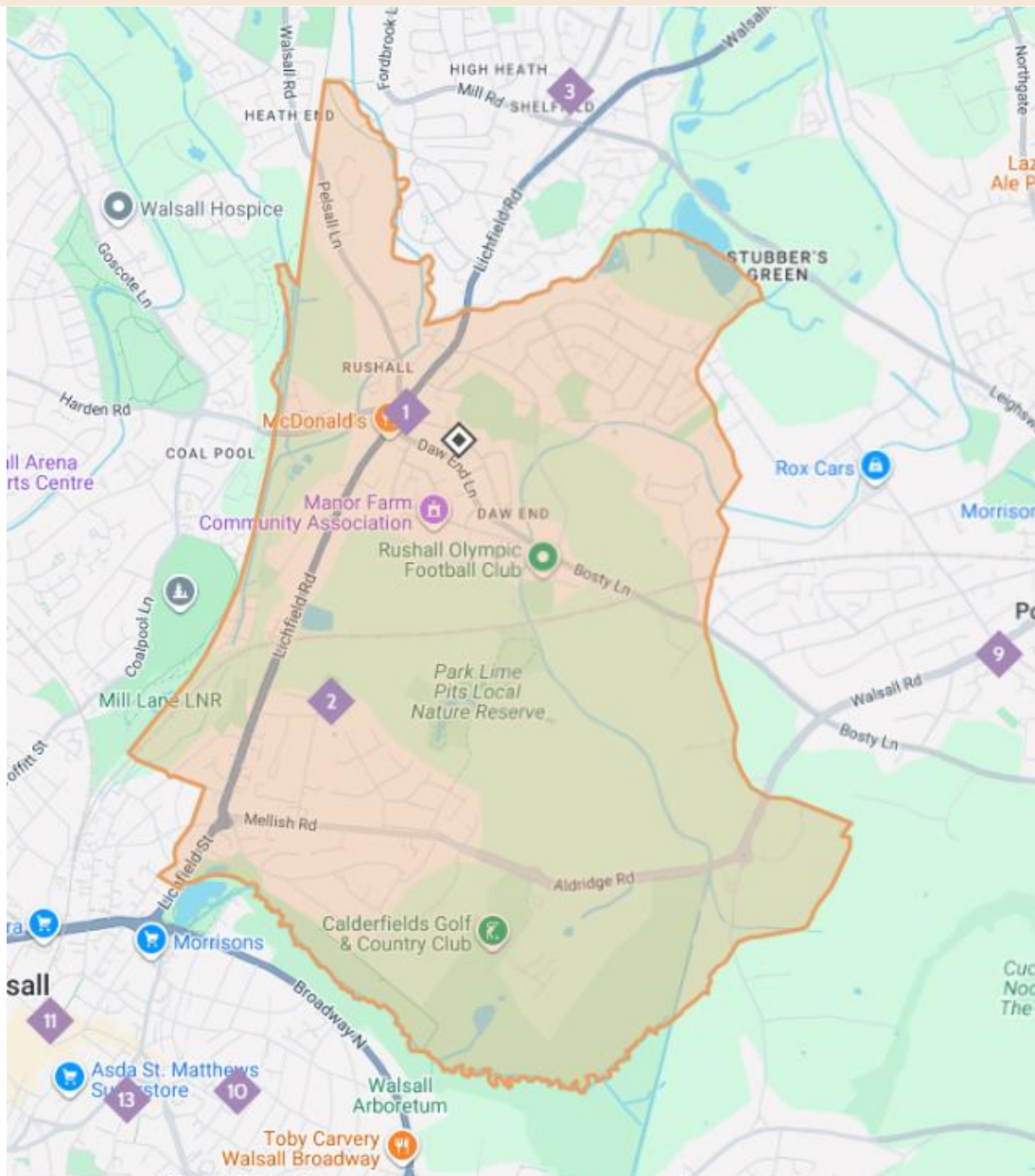
## Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Our annual meeting takes place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May after the 10.30am service.

Formal notices will be going up soon and we shall be looking for 2 churchwardens, 3 deanery synod representatives and (depending upon the number on the church electoral roll) either 9 or 12 elected members.

Please pray for those who have undertaken these roles over the last 12 months and for those who may feel themselves called to serve in the next 12 months.

Those appointed will be concerned with the needs of the church; our buildings at St. Michael's and Christ the King, our congregations on Sunday at 8am, 9am, 10.30am and 6.30pm and the Tuesday and Thursday congregations, those who join us online and also the parish itself and those who live within it as seen in the map below.



## Coming up soon:

Fifth Sunday Of Easter	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		9am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		10.30am	Seeker Service	St. Michael's
		6.30pm	BCP Evening Prayer	St. Michael's
Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>		No services	
Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Thursday	7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		10am	Drop In	St. Michael's
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Friday	8 <sup>th</sup>		No services	
<i>Julian of Norwich</i>				
Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Morning Prayer	Zoom
		6pm	Evening Prayer	Zoom
Sixth Sunday Of Easter	10 <sup>th</sup>	8am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		9am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		10.30am	Holy Communion	St. Michael's
		6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St. Michael's

**Vicar:** Revd Colin Such Tel: 01922 624677 Email colinsuch01@gmail.com

**Safeguarding Officer:** Mrs Gill Clark Tel: 01922 624583

**Churchwardens:** Mr Bob Barnard Tel: 01922 624943 Mrs Jan Firth (Lay Reader) Tel: 01922 449089

**Lay Reader & Dementia Lead** Mrs Carol Beckwith Tel: 01922 648138

**To hire the hall:** Mrs Gill Clark Tel: 01922 624583. Email clagilli@aol.com