

*The Parishes of Adbaston, Gnosall, Knightley & High Offley, Moreton and Norbury*

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)**

Come, let us worship the Lord who makes all things new!

Lord, guide us that we may walk in your way:

**Make us the people that you would have us be**

Lord, guide us that we may rejoice in your truth:

**Make us the people that you would have us be**

Lord guide us that we remain for ever in the life which you give, which is eternal:

**Through Jesus Christ who lived and died and rose for us**

**Amen**

**CONFESSION**

God of healing, God of wholeness, we bring our brokenness and our sinfulness before you and ask to be made whole.

We confess that we fail to love as you love.

Father forgive us: **and renew our spirit**

We push aside those whom we believe are the least in your kingdom.

Father forgive us: **and renew our spirit**

We fail to see your kingdom in each other

Father forgive us: **and renew our spirit**

Form in us a new vision of community in which there is neither East nor West, neither South nor North:

**This we pray for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

**ABSOLUTION**

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**COLLECT**

**Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

**Amen**

**Old Testament Reading: Genesis 8: 1-19**

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided;

the fountains of the deep and the windows of the heavens were closed, the rain from the heavens was restrained, and the waters gradually receded from the earth. At the end of one hundred and fifty days the waters had abated; and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. The waters continued to abate until the tenth month; in the tenth month, on the first day of the month, the tops of the mountains appeared.

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more. In the six hundred and first year, in the first month, on the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, 'Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.' So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives. And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

### **Acts 7: 55 – end**

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John:

### **Glory to you O Lord**

### **John 14: 1-14**

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen

me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

This is the Gospel of the Lord:  
**Praise to you O Christ**

## **REFLECTION**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us declare our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen**

*We bring our prayers using the response:* Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

**Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*As our Saviour taught us, so we pray*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.**

**Amen**

## **Peace**

Jesus says, do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me.'

The peace of the Lord be always with you: **and also with you.**

## **Offering Prayer**

Generous Lord, thank you that you are our strength and you fill our hearts with gladness and joy. Receive our offerings as we recognise that everything we have belongs to you and we rejoice to give some of your abundant gifts back for the work of your church and to your praise and glory.

**Amen.**

## **Act of Spiritual Communion**

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself and keep me in your care. Amen.**

**O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

O Lord and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching you to grant, that by the merits and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all your whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

**Amen**

## **Blessing**

The good and gracious God guide us into the ways that lead to peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

**Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

## **Notices**

### **This Week's Services- 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**Gnosall 8am** Holy Communion  
**10am** Benefice Zoom Service

### **Next Week's Services- 10<sup>th</sup> May**

**Gnosall 8am** Holy Communion  
**10:30am** Holy Communion  
**1pm** Baptism of Beatrix Benson  
**Knightley 9:30am** Morning Worship  
**Adbaston 9:30am** Family Communion  
**Moreton 11am** Holy Communion  
**Norbury 11am** Morning Worship

### Weekly Diary

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup>** Bank Holiday

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup>** 10:30am School Assembly, Woodseaves  
10:30am Interment of Ashes, Steven Jones, Moreton.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>** 11am Funeral of Colin Brown, Gnosall

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup>** 10:15am School Assembly, St Lawrence Primary

**7:30pm** Benefice Leaders Meeting, Vestry, St Lawrence

### 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.

### 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

### 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).

### Gnosall Carnival

Carnival is fast approaching and Messy Church are making a float. We need pop bottles (2 litre if possible) and kitchen roll middles for our making session on Saturday 9th May. Thank you!

### APCM Dates

**Moreton** 13<sup>th</sup> May 4pm

**High Offley and Knightley** 13<sup>th</sup> May 7pm (at Knightley)

**Gnosall** 18<sup>th</sup> May 7:30pm

**Norbury** 20<sup>th</sup> May 7:30pm

**Adbaston** 21<sup>st</sup> May 7pm

### Singalong with the Newport Ukulele Band

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May from 7:30pm. Tickets £10 please contact Sandy 822440, Helen 822347 or Margaret 822507 or pay on the door.

### 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 the 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.

### 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!

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

Support pollinators. Nothing says Spring like the buzz of a bee! But these precious pollinators are declining due to habitat loss, climate change and agricultural intensification. Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May is World Bee Day, so look around to see how you can improve habitats for bees and other pollinators. Read more about bees, butterflies and habitats that support them in our Target 25 resources at [arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/target-25](http://arocha.org.uk/what-we-do/target-25). Sow a pollinator friendly seed mix, make or buy a bee hotel, let some wild flowers grow in your garden, and don't use pesticides. Pray that our pollinator populations will increase. For more about World Bee Day visit: [awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/world-bee-day/](http://awarenessdays.com/awareness-days-calendar/world-bee-day/).

#### **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.