



**Benefice of Christ Church and St Mary's, Frome**

Diocese of Bath and Wells

**Fifth Sunday of Easter - Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

9.00am Parish Eucharist at St. Marys

10.30am Parish Eucharist and Baptism at Christ Church

Next Week: 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Christ Church

10.30am Parish Eucharist St Mary's

6.00pm Choral Evensong at Christ Church

**Prayers:**

**Welcome:** Noah Townsend

**RIP:** Steve Legge, Shirley Wheeler

**Sick:** Judy Kirkham, Alan Charlesworth, Suzanne, Arthur, David Fielden, Reg Garrett. Koji Saki, Jean Boucher, Jonathon Aburrow

**Years Mind for April:**

Sharon Garland, John Haskins, Les Ellison, Samuel Stephenson, Alan Greenhalgh, Louis John, Hayley Lidbitter, Philip Littlewood, Arthur Smith, Mary Williams, George Stephenson Snr

**Contact Details:**

Revd Liz: 01373 473249/07305 623160

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**Parish Office and Hall Bookings Tues and Thurs 1pm – 4pm**

**Tel: 07557 751 795** [admin@christchurch-stmarys-frome.co.uk](mailto:admin@christchurch-stmarys-frome.co.uk)

Parish Office St John's Parish Office, The Cottage, 1 Church Steps, BA11 1PL

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**The Week Ahead**

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> May 10.00am Holy Communion at St Mary's

Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> 9.00am Open the Book at Christ Church School

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> 12.30pm Bereavement Journey at St. Mary's Hall

4.00pm Scallop Shells at Christ Church

5.15pm Choir Practice at Christ Church

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Breakfast Club at St. Mary's Hall

**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.

## **First Reading: Acts 8 26-40**

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

## **Psalm 22.25-end– St Mary**

God has not despised the poorest,  
Nor detested those in need;  
He has not ignored their crying,  
Or their yearning, as they plead.  
All my praise, in open worship,  
Will proclaim your word and deed.

Now I will fulfil my pledges,  
On the presence of the poor;  
Minister the holy portions,  
To the hungry, as I swore.  
They will seek the Lord, and praise him,  
Have their full for evermore.

All the earth will long remember,  
Turning to the Lord again;  
Every country, every nation,  
Will acknowledge your domain.  
You are Lord of all the peoples,  
Yours the kingdom, yours the reign.

In your kingdom none will hunger,  
All will eat your sacred feast;  
You will raise their souls to worship,  
Every one from death released,  
Heaven and earth and hell together,  
From the greatest to the least.

Generations in the future,  
Serving you in every place,  
Praising you before their children,  
Every tribe and every race,  
They will tell your righteous wonders,  
Through the years, in time and space.

### **Second Reading: 1 John 4 7-21**

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

### **Gospel: John 15 1-8**

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

**Post Communion**

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Notices**

Help needed: Can you offer transport to a lady at Longleat Court who would like to attend services at Christ Church? Speak to Revd Liz

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**Spring Fair at St Mary's  
Saturday May 11th**

Our Spring Fair is fast approaching.

Please start bringing donations of goodies to sell.

The usual lovely things:

Plants and garden related items

Raffle and Tombola prizes, jewellery, fashion accessories,  
toys, books, bric a brac  
cakes and preserves

Collection boxes at the back of church and sign up sheet in the hall

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May 9<sup>th</sup> Ascension Day Eucharist 7.30pm at Christ Church

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Christian Aid Week begins on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

There will be collectors in the precinct during this week.

If anyone can help please contact Jean Fraser on [jeanvobe@gmail.com](mailto:jeanvobe@gmail.com) or speak to churchwardens after the service