

St John's, Pevensey Road



**Pews News & Service Sheet
for Sunday 9th May 2021**

The Sixth Sunday of Easter



Welcome to our Parish Mass service today - also viewable later via the Broadcast Page of our church website www.stjohnspevenseyroad.org.uk/broadcast

Sunday Parish Mass is held at 10:30 a.m. with a socially-distanced congregation; recorded and broadcast via our church website, by about Sunday lunchtime.

The church is open for **private prayer on weekday mornings**, following **Morning Prayer** which is said in church on weekdays at 9 a.m.

Midweek Mass Wednesday at 10 a.m.

Online "Zoom" service: 10 a.m. on Wednesday. Send Rev Jill or Deacon Michael an email and they will send you the necessary "link".

People for whom our prayers are asked:

Jean & Geoff, Geraldine, Brenda R, Jane G, Jo, Amber, Shirley, Andrew N, Kath Q, Linda, Alison Nunes, Don F, Sue T, and Cynthia C.

Please pray also for...

...the repose of the souls of the departed, especially those whose Years Minds fall around this time: Derek Warner, Beatty McNulty, Ernest Nunes, and Robin Allcorn,

...and all who mourn.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* sung by Colin B.

It is said that one Sunday afternoon the young Isaac Watts (1674-1748) was complaining about the deplorable hymns that were sung at church. At that time, metered renditions of the Psalms were intoned by a cantor and then repeated (none too fervently, Watts would add) by the congregation. His father, the pastor of the church, rebuked him with "I'd like to see you write something better!" As legend has it, Isaac retired to his room and appeared several hours later with his first hymn, and it was enthusiastically received at the Sunday evening service that same night.

Although the tale probably is more legend than fact, it does illustrate the point that the songs of the church need constant infusion of new life, of new generations' praises. With over 600 hymns to his credit – many of them classics like *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* – Isaac Watts has rightfully earned the title, "The Father of English Hymnody." This hymn, which is known as Watts' crowning achievement, was first published in his *Hymns and Spiritual Songs* (1707). Nowadays it is popularly sung to the tune *Rockingham* by Edward Miller, the son of a stone mason, who ran away from home to become a musician, later becoming a flautist in Handel's orchestra.

Watts starts with contemplation of the Cross and the fact that all our worldly achievements and possessions pale in comparison. Next he shows that Christ went to the Cross out of love for us. In the most powerful image of the hymn, he affirms the deity of the suffering Christ with the paradox: "Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?" And the last verse shows that the only proper response to this amazing love is complete devotion. --Greg Scheer, *Hymnary.org*

Mass for Easter 6

The Greeting

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

Christ our passover lamb has been
sacrificed for us.

Let us therefore rejoice by putting
away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins
with a sincere and true heart.

**All Almighty God,
our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son
Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

The priest says the Absolution

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria in Excelsis is said:

**All Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen**

The Collect

Let us pray:

Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call
to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your
command
and draw the nations to the fire of
your love,
to the glory of God the Father.

All Amen.

A reading from Isaiah

Isaiah 55.1-11

The LORD says this:

Everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
Why do you spend your money for that
which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does
not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is
good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting
covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
See, I made him a witness to the
peoples,
a leader and commander for the
peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you
do not know,
and nations that do not know you
shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God,

the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he
may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly
pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says
the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the
earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down
from heaven,
and do not return there until they
have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread
to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from
my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I
sent it.

For the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 10.44-48

While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit
fell upon all who heard the word. The
circumcised believers who had come with
Peter were astounded that the gift of the
Holy Spirit had been poured out even on

the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

For the Word of the Lord
All Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn

When I survey the wondrous Cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.
Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Gospel Reading

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.

All Alleluia

The Lord be with you
All And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to John
All Glory to you, O Lord.

John 15.9-17

Jesus said to his disciples:
'As the Father has loved me, so I have
loved you; abide in my love. If you keep
my commandments, you will abide in my
love, just as I have kept my Father's
commandments and abide in his love. I
have said these things to you so that my
joy may be in you, and that your joy may
be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love
one another as I have loved you. No one
has greater love than this, to lay down
one's life for one's friends. You are my
friends if you do what I command you.
I do not call you servants any longer,
because the servant does not know what
the master is doing; but I have called you
friends, because I have made known to
you everything that I have heard from my
Father. You did not choose me but I chose
you. And I appointed you to go and bear
fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father
will give you whatever you ask him in my
name. I am giving you these commands
so that you may love one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God, Father,
Son and Holy Spirit.

All We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and
the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.

He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and
the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the
Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the
dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

That our risen Saviour may fill us [and ...]
with the joy of his glorious and life-giving
resurrection ...

we pray to the Father.

All Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches
may find fresh strength in the good news of
Easter...

we pray to the Father.

All Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility
to be subject to one another in
Christian love ...

we pray to the Father.

All Hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack
food, work or shelter...

we pray to the Father.

All Hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine may
cease through all the world ...

we pray to the Father.

All Hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence
to the sick,

the weak and the dying,

to comfort and strengthen them ...

we pray to the Father.

All Hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises,
all who have died in the faith of the
resurrection
may be raised on the last day ...
we pray to the Father.
All Hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy
Spirit upon his people,
so that we may bear faithful witness
to his resurrection,
we pray to the Father.
All Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father,
you have delivered us from the power
of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of
your Son:
grant that, as his death has recalled
us to life,
so his continual presence in us may
raise us to eternal joy;
through Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

The Peace is introduced

The risen Christ came and stood
among his disciples and said 'Peace
be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw
the Lord. Alleluia.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of
peace.

We may exchange a sign of peace

The Preparation of the Table

*The table is prepared and bread and wine
are placed upon it.*

Music: Siciliano - John Stanley (1713-86)

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.
All Blessed be God for ever.

The president takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here
All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death
and hell
and restored in men and women
the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the
powers of all creation
proclaim for ever the hymn of your glory:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of
your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed,
the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was
betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples,
saying:
Take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his
death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the
sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and
glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our
redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of
praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this
cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one
cup,
so that we, in the company of Saint John
the Evangelist, Saint Peter, Mary the
Mother of God, and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us pray with confidence as our
Saviour has taught us:

All 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.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All Though we are many,
we are one body,
because we all share in one bread

Agnus Dei is said:

All Jesus, Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
Have mercy on us
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
Grant us peace

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is
sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia.

Communion is received.

Music: *Voluntary in B flat -
Maurice Greene (1695-1755)*

Prayer after Communion

*The priest prays the Post
Communion for the day:*

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water
of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns,
now and for ever.

All Amen.

All Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off,
you met us in your Son
and brought us home.
Dying and living,
he declared your love,
gave us grace,
and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body
live his risen life;
we who drink his cup
bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights
give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope
you have set before us,
so we and all your children
shall be free,
and the whole earth live
to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Notices

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you

All **And also with you**

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord
Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to
do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing
in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you
always.

All **Amen.**

Priest Go in the the peace of Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia

All **Thanks be to God.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

*We are encouraged to sit to listen to
the organ voluntary, before leaving
via the exit door*

Concluding Voluntary: Voluntary in G
- William Boyce (1710-1779)



Christian Aid Week, 10th - 16th May 2021

Christian Aid's focus this year is on the Climate crisis and access to clean water.

Many of you may be aware of the government's aim to cut aid to third world countries. This money would have helped to build earth dams and other means of conserving water when it does eventually rain, not only for growing crops, but for basic health and hygiene especially in the current pandemic.

There are many ways we can support our brothers and sisters in poorer countries. As well as the "giving thanks for vaccination" scheme highlighted in the Pews News recently, you can donate personally online on the Christian Aid website. **Today there will also be Christian Aid envelopes on the seats in church.** You might also like to write to our local MP, urging the government to reconsider cutting aid.

Whatever your choice our help is needed now more than ever.

The Christian Aid Team



Kath Q says a very big thank you to everyone who remembered her 100th birthday recently, and to those who contributed to her present. It was a very special day.



On **Saturday 5th June** we will be taking part in the "Churches Count on Nature" survey - counting the wildlife, insects etc to be seen in St John's Churchyard.

Volunteers welcome - please let us know if you'd like to help! There will also be a bric-a-brac stall for church funds.

Today is Rogation Sunday (Sunday before Ascension)

Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead, and for any emergency, war, plague, drought or bad weather.

The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, making sacrifices, and driving away winter with sticks. The idea was to rid the cornfields of evil.

In about 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremony.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century. On Rogation-tide, a procession would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish, led by the bishop or priest, with a Cross-bearer, and after them the people of the parish, most of them carrying slender wands of willow.

At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the party would gather about the priest, and a litany or rogation was said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest. At some point beer and cheese would be waiting - what a great way to instill the parish boundaries in the people's minds!

Thursday is Ascension Day:

Here's an Ascension Prayer (inspired by Acts 1:9-11) from Christian Aid:

Lord of life,

We do not know the face of the future, any more than your disciples did.

Like them, we have many questions:

how to live, how to bear witness.

Like them, we thirst for the spring waters of the Spirit, to inspire us in our living,
to give us a heart language in our testimony.

You have been raised in glory,

that we might rise with dignity.

You live in power, that we might live in peace.

You are present everywhere

that we might be fully present in our own lives.

This we believe, and with this faith we step out in the world. Amen.



Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre is now open

Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Surrounded by beautiful countryside, you can walk in the spacious grounds, receive prayer from the

Chaplain, and participate in the 10 a.m. time of worship, healing and prayer in the large chapel. The Howard's Well eatery offers tea, coffee, home-made cakes, breakfasts and lunches.



The Small Print for this pewsheet:

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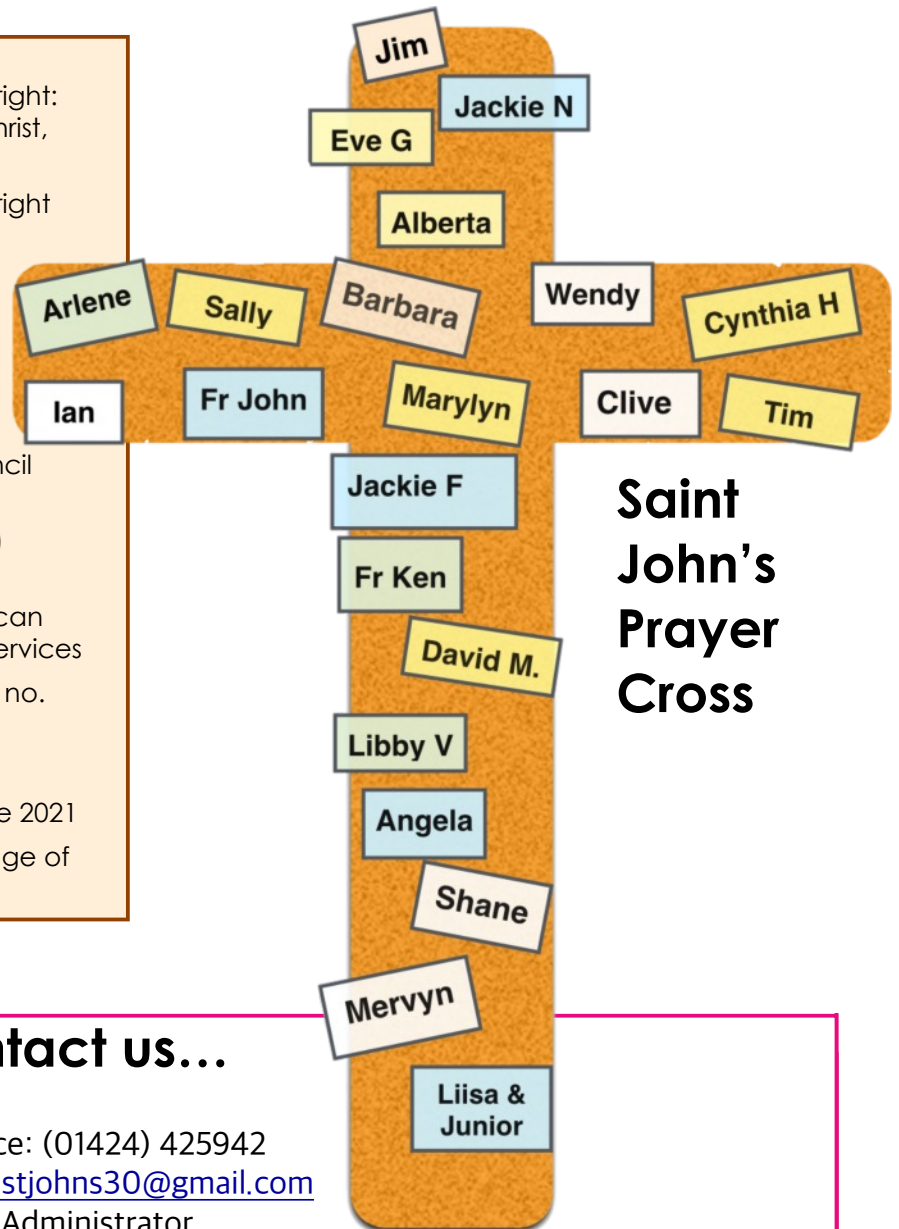
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Hymn of the week info from Hymnary.org

Some other items from Parish Pump, May/June 2021

Ascension Prayer from the Weekly Worship page of
the Christian Aid website.



Saint John's Prayer Cross

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Tina is our Administrator.

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Please contact her also for **Church Hall bookings**

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