

28th April 2024



Always be prepared

The reading for today from "The Acts of the Apostles" describes the encounter between Philip and an Ethiopian. Philip is an interesting character. This is not the Philip who was a disciple of Jesus whom we read about in the Gospels. He is one of seven men we are told about in Acts 6:1-6 who were chosen to carry out administrative duties. However, when we come to Chapter 8, we find that he is one of the many early Christians who, following the martyrdom of Stephen and the persecution that followed, had left Jerusalem and had arrived in Samaria. There we find he "preached Christ", many believed and were baptised, and many great signs and miracles were witnessed. But then, directed by an angel, Philip was sent to desert road on the way to Gaza (a place we hear a lot about in today's news) where a solitary man was travelling on his way from Jerusalem to his home in Ethiopia. This man was in fact an important official in the court of the Queen of Ethiopia. The Ethiopian was reading the Scriptures from the Book of Isaiah and Philip went up to him and asked if he understood what he was reading. This gave Philip the opportunity of telling the man "The Good News about Jesus".

What strikes me is that Philip had been chosen to do administrative work but, when the opportunity was presented to him, he was able to help people to know about the Good News of Jesus. Is this a challenge to all of us that, whatever we see our role in serving Jesus in our Church (administration, caring, cleaning, welcoming, singing, playing an instrument, making coffee, etc.), we all need to be able to explain the Good News of Jesus to those we meet, for we are told: "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect". (1 Peter 3:15).

David

Iona Communion Service

6.30pm this week, **Sunday 28th April**. These services are informal contemplative services held in the round.



Please pray for...

Ron Jones, John Panter, Laura McGarry, Helen Hughes, Beryl Hinton, Colin Smith, David Lucas, Marilyn Reeves, Ray Croucher, Helen Smith, Joe McPhee's grandson Jaiden Roberts, David Halford and John Barnes.

We periodically update our prayer section. Please let the Church Office know if you wish names to remain on or be removed from the list.

****Treasurer Needed****

Lindsay Bashford will be stepping down as Churchwarden the APCM (20th May). Lindsay has also been covering the role of Treasurer. Since we can't expect a new Churchwarden to assume this additional role, it is really important that we appoint a new Treasurer. In fact, without a Treasurer, it will become increasingly difficult to find those willing to take on the role of Churchwarden. We have now developed a team approach to managing our church finances, so that the burden doesn't fall on one person. In addition, we also now have Elaine as our Operations Manager, who is able to assist in many ways. If you think you may be interested in taking on this important role and would like to find out more (a role description is available), please speak to Catherine McBride (details overleaf) or Lindsay Bashford (01630 652656). Thank you.

****PCC Secretary Needed****

We are also seeking someone to take on the role of Secretary to the PCC. This involves taking notes and preparing minutes of PCC meetings plus circulating all relevant papers to members of the PCC. If you would like to find out more, please speak to Catherine. Thank you.

APCM

Application forms for PCC, Deanery Synod and the Electoral Roll are available at the back of church.

Services

Services are in St Mary's Church unless otherwise indicated.

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion CW

Readings: Acts 8:26-end, John 15:1-8

This service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRM R2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdzO9>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

6.30pm Iona Communion

Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3Rm OG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZzO9>

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday 10.00am BCP Holy Communion

Longlands appeal for plants



We're looking to spruce up and further develop our school garden and could use a little help from our community. If anyone is splitting their plants or ideally has any spare perennials that will come back year on year, spare summer flowering bulbs, or extra seeds lying around, we'd be incredibly grateful to put them to good use. Help make our garden bloom! Please bring items into our school reception or drop us a message at admin@lon.mmat.co.uk if you can contribute. Thank you so much in advance!

Word for Today

Copies of the Word for Today covering May/June/ July 2024 are available at the back of church.



Swap Shop



The next Swap Shop will be on **Saturday 11th May**, from 10.30 in the Parish. Donations, as well as offers of help, would be gratefully received. Please tell friends, family, neighbours.

Messy Church

Tuesday 7th May

3.30pm – 5.15pm in the Parish Rooms



Bring and Share

Thank you everyone who has signed up to host a bring and share this year. There is **one** space left on **16th June** if anyone else would like to offer to host. For those that do not have space at home for this, the Parish Rooms may be used.



Foodbank Items Needed



Stock Items urgently required.

Laundry Pods/Powder/liquids;

Bleach & Cleaning Sprays;

Packets of Mashed potato

We have plenty of—Cereals; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Tinned Tomatoes.

If you need to contact the Foodbank, please call **01630 654007** (not the one in the church directory).

The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

Dementia Week Coffee Morning and 'Bake-Off'



15th May 10.00am-12.00pm. Proceeds for a performance of the "Disappearance of Eliza Grey" to be held in church 10th September.

Donations of baked goods appreciated, there are sign up sheets at the back of church.

Also at this coffee morning, the St Mary's 'Bake-off' scones heat will be judged. The winner will go forward to compete with the winners of heats from other local churches making a Victoria Sponge on **Saturday 22nd June** in aid of Foodbank. **Participants needed – entries most welcome.** *Scones are not made live, as on TV, but in the comfort of your own kitchen!*

To do all this we would really be glad of some help! If you can assist in anyway, big or small, we would love to have you join us! Please speak to Val Creasey, Steph or Malcolm Grey-Smart or Avril Innocent for more information and to enter the 'Bake-off'. Thank you.

Weekly Giving Envelopes

Envelopes for the new tax year are ready for collection by the Noticeboard at the back of church. If you wish to change your stewardship method from envelope to direct bank deposit, please contact Avril Innocent.



Staying in Touch

Please either leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Church Administrator: Helen Hughes

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If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.