

NEWSLETTER

Weeks beginning Sundays 19th and 26th May 2024

Eighth Sunday of Easter - **Pentecost**
and **Trinity Sunday**

Welcome to this edition of the Newsletter



Sunday 19th May – Eighth Sunday of Easter - **PENTECOST**

- Family Communion at **9.30am** at **St Chad's, Wishaw** – The Rector
- Service of the Word at **11.15am** at **St Nicholas', Curdworth** – Mrs Lisa Wilcox
- Pentecost Service at **3.00pm** at **St John's, Middleton** – The Rector

Sunday 26th May – **TRINITY SUNDAY**

- Holy Communion at **9.30am** at **St Chad's, Wishaw** – Rev Roy Allen
- Family Communion at **11.15am** at **St Nicholas', Curdworth** – The Rector

Sunday 2nd June – First Sunday after Trinity

- All Age Worship at **9.30am** at **St Chad's, Wishaw** – The Rector
- Holy Communion at **11.15am** at **St Nicholas', Curdworth** – Rev Roy Allen
- Service of the Word at **11.15am** at **St John's, Middleton** – Mr Andrew Farrow

Sunday 9th June – Second Sunday after Trinity

- Holy Communion at **9.30am** at **St Chad's, Wishaw** – Rev Roy Allen
- Family Communion at **11.15am** at **St Nicholas', Curdworth** – The Rector

New Church bell ropes for Wishaw.

After many years of ringing the bells of St Chad's the ropes had finally reached the end of their useful lives and we were very fortunate to be able to purchase three new ropes.

Thanks to Deborah who climbed precariously up the framework that holds the bells to untie the old and fix on the new.

May these new ropes serve to ring our bells for many years to come.

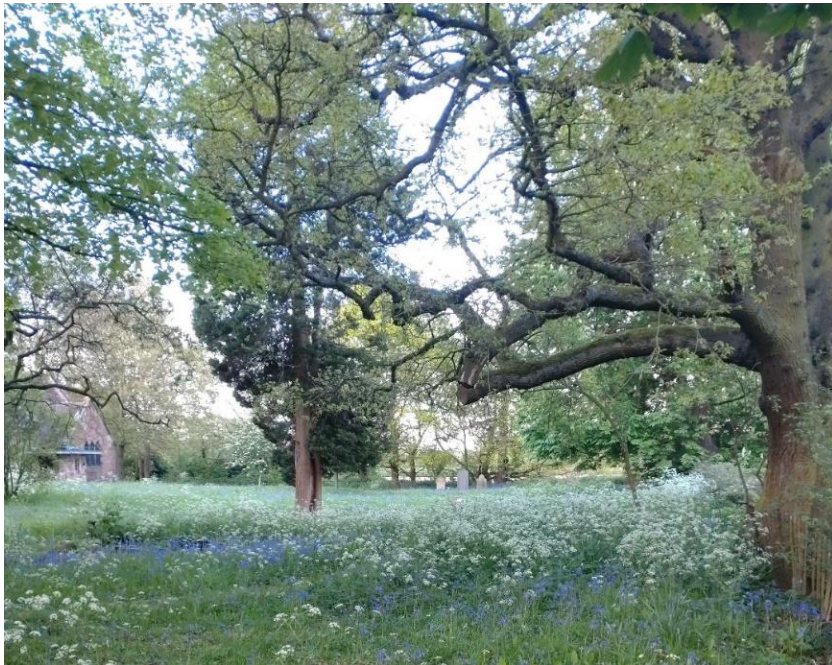


OUR CHURCHYARDS

Following last issue's feature on the churchyards and their similarities and differences, here is an update on Wishaw churchyard. It was described by someone in social media this week as being "more like a field every time I see it". I'm not sure it was meant as a compliment, but.....

This is great news!Because it is **NO MOW MAY!** The month of May sees a profusion of wild flowers in the churchyard, such as Cuckooflower, or Lady's Smock, and Cow Parsley in addition to the bluebells. I am sure all our readers know that bluebells are protected and so the grass cannot be cut until they have died down. This means that we have a beautiful display of wild flowers (plus nettles and thistles, of course!) and grasses swaying in the breeze with every appearance of freedom and ease. Listen out for the sound of the mower at the end of the month and then watch as the churchyard gradually transforms over the weeks of summer.

Come, sit, watch, listen and enjoy.



DIARY

Date	Time	Event	Note
Sunday 19 th May	9.30am	Family Communion	St Chad's, Wishaw
8 th Sunday of Easter	11.15am	Service of the Word	St Nicholas', Curdworth
PENTECOST (Whit Sunday) <i>Red</i>	3.00pm	Pentecost Service	St John's, Middleton
Monday 20 th	7.45pm	Parochial Church Council	Curdworth Church Hall
Tuesday 21 st	7.00pm	Middleton Choir	Middleton Church
Wednesday 8 th	6.00pm	Junior Choir	Curdworth Church Hall
	7.30pm	Church Choir	
Sunday 26 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	St Chad's, Wishaw
TRINITY SUNDAY <i>White</i>	11.15am	Family Communion	St Nicholas', Curdworth
Wednesday 29 th May	11.00am	Middleton Coffee Morning	Middleton Village Hall
	7.15pm	Church Choir	Curdworth Church Hall
Sunday 2 nd June	9.30am	Family Communion	St Chad's, Wishaw
1 st Sunday after Trinity	11.15am	Service of the Word	St Nicholas', Curdworth
Proper 4 Green	3.00pm	Pentecost Service	St John's, Middleton
Tuesday 4 th	7.45pm	Middleton DCC	Park Farm

ASCENSION and PENTECOST–

Ascension Day this year fell on Thursday 9th May, forty days after Easter. It tends to pass us by a little, we just note that the following Sunday is described as the Sunday after Ascension Day. Ascension Day itself celebrates Jesus' return to his Father in heaven and signifies the completion of his time on earth.

Imagine the New Testament writers trying to describe for their readers what actually happened when Jesus ascended. Just how do you put into words something so unworldly in such a way that worldly people can even begin to comprehend such a phenomenon? What's more, how would the disciples have felt on the Mount of Olives, where Jesus took them and then left them?

What the disciples experienced must have left them confused, frightened, disturbed, bereft and much more, but ten days later they came to realise that Jesus had not abandoned them. In his lifetime he had promised that his Father would send his Holy Spirit to teach them all things and remind them of everything he (Jesus) had said to them. The Holy Spirit would give the disciples the power to stand strong and to be his witnesses, telling people about him

“ throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”.

Pentecost comes from the Greek word *pentekoste* which means fiftieth and it is celebrated fifty days after Easter.

Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, mother of Jesus and the Apostles of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in Acts of the Apostles. They experienced the coming of the Holy Spirit as ‘a sound from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind’ and ‘tongues, as of fire’ over their heads. They now had the strength to overcome the fear that had seized them to the point of running away during Jesus’ passion and to go out into the world proclaiming the teachings of Jesus Christ.

We may never experience anything quite so dramatic as described above, but we can be assured that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are with us, especially when we feel at our most lost and alone, our most frightened and vulnerable. How wonderful is that!





VARIETY SHOWS!

CURDWORTH CHOIR are joining with singers from Hampton in Arden and Balsall Common Churches to present three fundraising Variety Shows in the summer/autumn – one each at Curdworth, Hampton and Balsall Common. If there are any would-be singers who would like to add their voices and join in this exciting venture, then please contact **Anton Rawson on 07793 780599** to register your interest. The music will be varied and from different genres, including musicals, popular music and some old favourites. There is no pressure to commit yourself to anything other than this project (unless you want to.....), so just come along to a rehearsal and see how it goes! Funds raised will be split between the church which hosts each event and the project to send supplies in cars to Ukraine.



Finance – Here are the bank details for each church for your reference:

St Nicholas': 30-92-75 00610273 (PCC of St Nicholas Curdworth)

St John's: 05-09-42 57896460 (St John the Baptist PCC)

St Chad's: 30-98-37 00152981 (Parochial Church Council Wishaw)

The Newsletter – if you would like anything added to the Newsletter, here are the details you need: margaret_allen69@yahoo.co.uk 07778 458 789 or n.w.phillips@live.com 07498

Link for online services and meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84233355603?pwd=bmxQMHpCT3RIM28ybFBHRzGdz09>

Meeting ID: 842 3335 5603 Passcode: 746923 You can join us on the phone by dialling 0203 481 5237

Then Entering: 842 3335 5603## Then: 746923#



PRAYER LIST – Please remember in your prayers all who are sick and those who care for them and those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

Prayers for the sick			
Curdworth	<i>Barbara Blaber</i>	<i>Dennis Blaber</i>	Sharon Brown
	Adrian Cionnagh	<i>Yvette Crawford</i>	<i>Claire Eldridge</i>
	<i>Jean Eldridge</i>	<i>Amanda Emerson</i>	Cherie Evans
	Jean Giddings	<i>John Henson</i>	Caroline Lee
	<i>Isabella Murphy</i>	<i>Helen Parry</i>	Jenny Phillips
	Tim Rawson	Ellie Reeves	Lucinda Shelley
	Sue Shelley	<i>Cathy Smith</i>	<i>Elizabeth Walsh</i>
	<i>Peter Wiggins</i>	Barry Wiltshire	Gillian Wiltshire
	Hollie Wiltshire		
Middleton	<i>Jean Nixon</i>		
Wishaw	<i>Isabel Brown</i>	Pat Harris	<i>Cae Hayes</i>
	Margaret Turner		
Prayers for those who have died			

Readings for Sunday 19th May 2024

Eighth Sunday of Easter - Pentecost

The Collect

God, who as at this time
taught the hearts of your faithful people
by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:
grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgement in all things
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The First Reading

is from Acts of the Apostles chapter 2

¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.
²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind,
and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of
fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them
were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the
Spirit gave them ability.

⁵Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in
Jerusalem. ⁶And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because
each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. ⁷Amazed and
astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And
how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? ⁹Parthians,
Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus
and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to
Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, ¹¹Cretans and
Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of
power.' ¹²All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does
this mean?' ¹³But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. ¹⁵Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

¹⁸Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

²⁰The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

²¹Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

is from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 8

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. ²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus spoke to his disciples: ²⁶“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. ⁴I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.

‘I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?”’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: ⁹about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. ¹²I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Faithful God,
who fulfilled the promises of Easter
by sending us your Holy Spirit
and opening to every race and nation
the way of life eternal:
open our lips by your Spirit,
that every tongue may tell of your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Readings for Sunday 26th May 2024

Trinity Sunday

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Old Testament Reading

is from the book of the prophet Isaiah chapter 6

¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.’

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!’

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The New Testament Reading

is from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 8

¹²Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— ¹³for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' ¹⁶it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' ³Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' ⁴Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' ⁹Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,

so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.
¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion

Almighty and eternal God,
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:
hold us firm in this faith,
that we may know you in all your ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three Persons yet one God,
now and for ever.

Amen.

