

# The Parish of Christchurch



*The Priory Church of the Holy Trinity, Christchurch  
St George, Jumpers • St John at Purewell*

*for Sunday 9 May, 2021*

Dear Friends,

Our journey through these eight weeks of Easter takes a new direction on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup>, when the Church celebrates Ascension Day. In addition to our customary morning services at the Priory (11.00) and St George's (10.00), we shall mark this important festival by holding a Eucharist for Ascension Day at 7.00pm that evening in the Priory.

The Ascension appears in the list of Jesus' life events recorded in the Apostles' Creed – conception, birth, crucifixion, death, resurrection, ascension and, the only one yet to happen, when Jesus shall “come again to judge the living and the dead”. Ascension is the sign that Jesus has been vindicated as our Saviour and now reigns as Lord; that “at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Phil 2.10).

Ascension is the confirmation that the salvation Jesus achieved on the cross and released through the resurrection means that humanity has been redeemed and is now taken up into heaven with Christ. Ascension is the sign that, in Christ, we have direct access to God our Father, to worship him in all we are and in all we do; for Christ has restored the fellowship of heaven and earth.

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As every year since 2016, **Thy Kingdom Come** begins on Ascension Day and continues until Pentecost, on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Of course, we pray “Thy kingdom come” whenever we pray the Lord's Prayer individually or together. What is different about **Thy Kingdom Come** is that this global prayer movement invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

The **Thy Kingdom Come** website puts it like this: “During the 11 days of Thy Kingdom Come, it is hoped that everyone who takes part will:

- Deepen their own relationship with Jesus Christ
- Pray for 5 friends or family to come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the empowerment of the Spirit that we would be effective in our witness

There are many resources available to help us pray in these days; they can be found on the **Thy Kingdom Come** website: [www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/new-2021](http://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources/new-2021). Alternatively, why not join in with our parish Morning Prayer on Zoom for these nine days, at 8.30am every weekday morning. If you are interested in this possibility, please email [conference@christchurchpriory.org](mailto:conference@christchurchpriory.org) or phone 01202 800888 for information on how you can share in Morning Prayer.

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## **A new arrival**

This week we welcome Stephen Noble as our new Chief Operations Administrator (COA). Stephen lives in Christchurch with his family and comes to us with a CV which includes work at the Wembley Arena and the O2 Arena, as Operations Manager at Highcliffe Castle and, most recently, as General Manager of a large independent church in Southampton. When he came to interview on 19 March, it was soon clear that here was someone we could trust with this important new role.

At the same time, Ian Penny moves from his previous role as Administrator to the new post of Finance Administrator. On behalf of us all, I want to take this opportunity to thank Ian for his unstinting hard work and commitment since he joined the staff team, and to wish him well in this new position.

The PCC's decision in January to create these two new roles, following a careful process of reflection, recognised an important reality: that our capacity to take forward the work of this busy parish, to take forward a number of important projects in the coming years, to plan for growth, and to enable us to recover from the impact of Covid-19 – in terms of our income, developing our welcome to visitors, renewal of our ministry to the congregations, and support of the wider community – all this requires us to have sufficient administrative resource to make all this possible.

This is the context in which we welcome Stephen to the parish. Please keep Stephen in your prayers as he begins his new role as a member of the staff team.

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### **Parish Summer Fayre**

Although there is, as yet, nothing beyond some strategic leaks to indicate what the June 21<sup>st</sup> fourth stage of relaxation of lockdown will mean, nevertheless we trust, hope and pray that the Summer Fayre will be on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, from 10.30 – 4.30pm. I look forward to seeing you there. Thank you.

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### **The Revised copy of the Parish Electoral Roll**

The draft copy of the Revised Ecclesiastical Parish of Christchurch's Electoral Roll has been revised and, is now available for viewing in the Cloister Way, for the next fourteen days.

This will enable those members of the church who wish to check their names do actually appear on the Roll to do so. The final copy of the Roll will be presented to the APCM. Please NB I cannot make any additions only corrections at this time. However, after the APCM I can start taking additions for the 2022 electoral Roll. Robert J Phillipson Parish Electoral Roll Officer. Email: [electoralroll@christchurchpriory.org](mailto:electoralroll@christchurchpriory.org)

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It has been said that Ascension confirms that Jesus' work is done, but ours is just beginning. With this in mind, please pray between now and Pentecost for the renewal and refreshment that the Holy Spirit brings – the same Spirit who descended on the believers who gathered together at the first Christian Pentecost, and whom the Spirit empowered to be witnesses for Christ "to the end of the earth."

Many of you will remember Bishop Jonathan Frost, till recently Bishop of Southampton, with great affection and respect. What you may not know is that +Jonathan's characteristic opening in a time of prayer was to say, quietly, "Come, Holy Spirit ... come, Holy Spirit ... come, Holy Spirit" – always three times; always with a pause between each request, to remind us to wait, to listen and to trust.

Please feel able to borrow +Jonathan's model; I know he wouldn't mind. I'm not sure there's a more effective prayer for these days, or indeed for any day. Come, Holy Spirit.

With every blessing,

