



FAMILY SERVICE



Parish of Christchurch

We welcome you to St George's Church
this Sunday 13th May 2018,
the Seventh Sunday of Easter
and our **FAMILY SERVICE**

We welcome our President for today's service,
Rev Canon Charles Stewart

A COLLECT FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. AMEN

READINGS FOR THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER:

First Reading: Acts 1; 15-17, 21-26
Second Reading: 1 John 5; 9-13
Gospel: John 17; 6-19

TODAY'S HYMNS:

There is a redeemer
Spirit of God, unseen as the wind
O Breath of Life, come sweeping through us
(Hymns may be sung during communion)
I, the Lord of sea and sky

Tomorrow the Church celebrates the feast of Matthias the Apostle. After the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot, the apostles brought their number back up to twelve by choosing Matthias to replace him. He was chosen by lot from amongst the disciples. The author of the Acts of the Apostles sees apostleship differently from St Paul's interpretation of the rôle and seems to reflect the understanding of the Gospel of Luke. The number had to be restored so that Jesus's prediction might be fulfilled, they might "sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (Matthew 19 27-28). It was conditional that they had to have been with Jesus during his earthly ministry and witnesses to the resurrection. The point of being chosen by lot, rather than by some democratic method, indicated the election or choosing by God, rather than by mortals.

THANKS AGAIN TO 'EXCITING HOLINESS' FOR THIS ARTICLE.

The May coffee morning raised a total of £47.50, which includes a donation and the £10 Thunderball Prize. Thanks again to Gill and Pat for allowing us into their home and for organising this monthly event.

Our first Worship Song today, "There is a Redeemer" was originally written by Melody Green in 1977 and popularised by her husband, gospel singer Keith Green. Keith wrote the final verse; he had a Jewish heritage but was raised in Christian Science. He grew up reading the New Testament and called the mixture of being Jewish and learning about Jesus "an odd combination" that left him open minded but deeply unsatisfied. He began doing drugs and became interested in eastern mysticism and "free love." After experiencing what Green described as a "bad trip," he abandoned drug use and became interested in philosophy and theology. When Green was 19 he met a fellow seeker/musician named Melody. They were inseparable and got married a year later – now he had a partner as his spiritual and musical quest continued. Green later stated, however, that in the midst of his scepticism, he had, "been lost in a fantasy", till God's love broke through, and he renounced Christian Science and became a Jewish believer in Jesus the Messiah (or Messianic Jew). A week later, Green's wife Melody, whom he had married in 1973 and was also Jewish, became a Jewish believer in

Jesus. It was during this time that the newlyweds became involved with the Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Southern California. Sadly, along with eleven others, Green died on July 28, 1982, when the Robertson STOL-modified Cessna 414 leased by 'Last Days Ministries' crashed after take-off from a private airstrip.

SOME LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY:

Did you know that:

- 1) In 2001 there were no less than 33,830 different Christian denominations?
- 2) Christianity is severely persecuted in AT LEAST 27 countries
- 3) The late Billy Graham personally preached Christianity to over 200 million people.
- 4) Going to church is good for you: Services lower your blood pressure, a study found.
- 5) Christianity is the fastest growing religion in Iran.
- 6) Armenia became the first nation to adopt Christianity as a State Religion in the year 301.
- 7) 16,000 African Muslims convert to Christianity every day.
- 8) The Catholic Church had a list of banned books until 1966, one of which was "Les Miserables."
- 9) Only half of American 'Christians' can name the four Gospels.

Christianity is the world's largest religion, with over 2.4 billion adherents, about a third of the world's population.



If you have something interesting to include in a future St. George's News (serious or amusing), please contact Bob Savage or Norma Lund.

**Any articles for inclusion in next week's St George's News must be in by Friday evening please to Bob Savage at: Breezy Corner, 1 Hampshire Close, Fairmile, Christchurch, BH23 2TH.
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