



## NEWSLETTER ❖ EASTER 5

Dear friends

The month of May calls to mind many things apart from the dubious tradition of swimming in the cold waters of the North Sea at the first sunrise. Being the third month of (a chilly) spring, it's associated with fertility through the Greek goddess, Maia. However, the Latin poet Ovid suggests that this month was named in honour of elderly people, *maiores*, and the following month, *iuniores*, for young people.

Whatever the origin of the month's name, it is a favourite time for many as the Sun's warmth begins to banish the colder nights that have lingered quite late this year, and the foliage and flowers burst forth with greater confidence. At our farm, Lil has been busy transferring young plants but has had to bring them back home again more than once, as the forecasts have not infrequently assured of warmer nights only to renege a day or two later. Some days, the temperature in our polytunnel has varied by forty degrees or more, which makes growing things remotely quite a challenge.

Another wide variation is found this year in the liturgical calendars of East and West. Historic differences between the Gregorian and Julian calendars and the calculation of the Paschal feast mean that our Eastern Orthodox friends celebrate the start of Easter today, whereas we are five weeks into Eastertide, nearing the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, a week on Thursday. Hold in your mind, if you will, those two images, the Resurrection and the Ascension.

In his collection of poems, *The Christian Year*, John Keble reflects on this paradox of the wondrous presence of the risen Lord experienced by his disciples, and then his absence. This is suggested in the old Prayer Book Gospel for this Sunday, from St John 16.7: *It is expedient for you that I go away*. One line of Keble's poem is echoing around my mind:

*What secret miracle of love  
Should make their Saviour's going gain.*

Year by year we celebrate the great mystery of the Ascension and so we have, to a greater or lesser extent, habituated to our interior lives what it reveals of God's plan of salvation. The thought that the disciples would trust the Lord's warning that he would be leaving them, that it would indeed in some way be *expedient* to them, and would in fact be a more perfect gift to them - and to the Church - than his physical presence, seems worth holding onto.

Our lives, and the life of the communities that we inhabit, are touched by many challenges and what would seem to be contradictions of God's message of love to the world. Perhaps our faith allows us to employ our imaginations in the search for greater heights of wonder as we search for the secret miracles of love that betray God's providence. Divine, providential love is so much easier to discern with hindsight, yet we believe it is always firmly holding us and the world.

– Fr Alasdair

## SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sunday 2	0800 Mass 1000 Sung Mass 1800 Evening Prayer	<b>Easter 5</b>
Monday 3	0730 Morning Prayer 0800 Mass 1730 Evening Prayer	
Tuesday 4	0900 Morning Prayer 1730 Evening Prayer 1800 Mass	
Wednesday 5	0900 Morning Prayer 0930 Mass 1730 Evening Prayer 2100 Compline	
Thursday 6	0900 Morning Prayer 1730 Evening Prayer 1800 Mass	
Friday 7	0730 Morning Prayer 0800 Mass 1730 Evening Prayer	
Saturday 8	1100 Morning Prayer 1130 Mass 1730 Evening Prayer	<i>St Julian of Norwich</i>
Sunday 9	0800 Mass 1000 Sung Mass 1800 Evensong & Benediction	<b>Easter 6</b>

**Audio recordings** of selected services will continue to be placed on the website here:

<https://www.allsaints-standrews.org.uk/category/virtualservices/>

### **Anne Brumfitt's Funeral**

Anne's funeral will take place in church at 12.30pm on Thursday this week and will be streamed to those family and friends who cannot attend. Please hold them in your prayers in the coming days.

The 12.15 Mass on Thursday will be moved to accommodate the funeral and will be celebrated later this week, after Evening Prayer at 6pm.

### **Zoom Meeting Room**

Wednesday coffee morning at 10.30am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6465967723?pwd=UWFqNlp5M05LckFoRVBIUXhteHR6QT09>

## **Reserving seats**

Please email [allsaints-seats@mail.com](mailto:allsaints-seats@mail.com) by Friday evening with your name and number of seats requested for the following Sunday's 10 am mass. If access to the internet is an issue, one of the church wardens (Fiona: 01334 479941 or Frances: 07931 722221) can reserve a seat for you.

## **Supervising Church Open Hours**

Members of Vestry (the Trustees of All Saints') wish to resume opening the church each day ostensibly for private prayer but also for those who might like to come inside and have a look; people are naturally moved towards prayer in churches like ours, where tourists perhaps become pilgrims rather easily. While we are mindful of the amount of time that is involved for those who supervise these openings, it does seem an important thing to do when many churches remain closed.

Should you be willing to spend a couple of hours in the church every so often, it would be much appreciated. Sometimes several people come in during those hours, sometimes none; some are chatty, others are silent. However, the Government asks that we supervise the building and encourage people, when necessary, to observe protocols to minimise the risk of COVID-19 transmission taking place.

The church is now open **daily from 3–5 pm**. If you are able to help - once or twice a month would be splendid - you can use the online rota to book times here: <http://bit.ly/allsaintsopendoors>

Alternatively, if you would prefer to book a time by 'phone or email, please contact the Rector.

## **Window of Widowhood**

In the past year, six of my friends have lost their partners after long and happy marriages. As I have shared some of my experiences with them, I have been mindful of how much other widowed friends helped me. Thinking about this, I felt strongly that I should start a blog about my personal journey from bereavement to contentment. It is in no way intended to be a manual on grief. It is purely a personal account, sharing my life since Tom died. The blog can be found by following this link: <https://mywindowonwidowhood.org/>. If you enjoy it and would like to follow it, please subscribe to the blog and you will receive updates by email.

– *Marlene Lloyd-Evans*

## **Supporting Residents at St Andrews House Care Home**

One of our serving team, Nathaniel Toning, is conducting a community project through his school and hoping to find support from within the congregation to send hand-written letters to residents of the Care Home. Many have struggled with loneliness during the lock months of lockdown and the personal touch of a hand-written letter may well be welcome form of contact. A rota will be posted at church week by week where volunteers may sign up.

## **Christian Aid 2021**

Christian Aid Week is scheduled for the week commencing May 10th to 16th and will go ahead this year but without the usual house to house collections.

For those who wish to donate this can be done by phone at 08080 006006, by texting GIVE to 70040, by sending a cheque to FREEPOST Christian Aid or online at [caweek.org](http://caweek.org).

## **Giving to All Saints'**

Our bank details:

<i>Bank</i>	Royal Bank of Scotland
<i>Branch</i>	113 – 115 South Street, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9QB
<i>Sort code</i>	83-26-28
<i>Account name</i>	All Saints Episcopal Church – St Andrews
<i>Account number</i>	00104363

Treasurer's contact details:

Mr Ian Palfrey  
8a Howard Place, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9HL  
01334 472358  
[treasurer@allsaints-standrews.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@allsaints-standrews.org.uk)

## **INTERCESSIONS**

### ***In particular need***

Debbie & Priscilla White, Robyn Seenan, Anne Clayton, Jeremy & Elizabeth, Elma, Jenny Bisset, Alec, Steve Scott, Samantha Thomas, Millie Gall, Colette Mignal, Margaret Trimble, Malcolm Macgregor, Kirsty Wiley

### ***Continuing need***

Effie Keracher, Jonah & Chris Andrews, Gareth & Jenni Saunders, Judy, Ashley & Kathleen Cummins, Lawrence Reynolds, Edie, Alice Bullough, Joan Day, Catherine Rowe, Bill Hyland, Angela Allaway, Lori-Mark Quate, Rebecca, Beatrice, & Alexander, Dorothy Clark, Jay Sterling, David McLean, Regan, Florence & Harrison McMillan, Shelagh Brown

### ***Residential care***

Catriona, Fiona Ingham, Marie-Louise Moffett, *Priest*, Janet Reid, Ann Noltie

### ***Recently departed***

Anne Brumfitt, Heather le Dieu, *Deacon*

### ***Year's mind***

4/5 Helen Elizabeth Woods, 1985  
7 Ethel May Warnes, 1960  
8 Russell Ingham, *Priest*, 2017