

## NOTICES

### could you help at church events?

We are looking for people to provide occasional help at events (including weddings, funerals, and concerts), when the usual staff/team are not available. This includes: - Supporting the clergy at weddings and funerals (this is a paid role per event for around 2 hours attendance), and Event Volunteer (opening and closing the church building for occasional concerts and other bookings). Please speak with Andy or contact the church office if you would like more details. Thank you.

### April Prayer Focus:

**1 Peter 1:3-4** Praise to God for a Living Hope

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.*

**Reflection:** Through Easter we have again remembered the cost of our salvation, the way Jesus was forsaken and left alone by His Father, to take our sin on Himself. We celebrated Jesus' resurrection from death. With the death and resurrection of Jesus we have freedom to access God our Father without having to use a priest as an intermediary as in Old Testament times or have to bring sacrifices to God to atone for our wrongdoing. We are such a privileged people.

Over the coming weeks let us remind ourselves what we have been saved from (an eternity cut off from Father God) and truly give thanks to Him for His salvation plan.

As Church family, let us encourage each other with this Good News.



### Today's Services and Events – Easter 2

- 8.00am Holy Communion.
- 9.15am Morning Eucharist.
- 11.00am Informal Gathering.

*Gluten free Communion breads are available. Do please ask one of the welcomers or the Wardens if you require this. The Church is fitted with a loop system. To use this, please switch your hearing aid to 'T'.*

### Church Diary for the Week

- Tues 9<sup>th</sup> April: 10.00am – Holy Communion.
- Tues 9<sup>th</sup> April: 7.30pm – Prayer Meeting.
- Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> April: 3.00pm Ashes Burial: Rev Victor Leonard Story.
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am - Choir Practice.
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April: 1.00pm – Funeral of Mr. Neville Cole.

### Next Sunday's Services and Events – 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024

- 8.00am Holy Communion.
- 9.15am Morning Praise.
- 11.00am Informal Gathering.

### **Collect:**

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Reading: Acts 4:32-35**

<sup>32</sup> All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all <sup>34</sup> that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales <sup>35</sup> and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 7:24-34**

<sup>24</sup> After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? <sup>25</sup> If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. <sup>26</sup> But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup> This is the one about whom it is written: "'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'" <sup>28</sup> I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

<sup>29</sup> (All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. <sup>30</sup> But the Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)

<sup>31</sup> Jesus went on to say, "To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? <sup>32</sup> They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other:

"'We played the pipe for you,  
and you did not dance;  
we sang a dirge,  
and you did not cry.'

<sup>33</sup> For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, 'He has a demon.' <sup>34</sup> The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.'

### **Post Communion:**

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **For our Prayers this Week:**

For those who are sick, in special need or housebound: Mark Bartlett, Dave Cockram, Colin Hemming, Ella Graves, Stuart Pickett, Eileen Pieters, Helen Shepherd (Pat Bullman's daughter).

For the family and friends of those who have died: Neville Cole, Pauline Collins, Marilyn James, David Holmes, Joan Nightingale, Rev Victor Leonard Story.

