

'Not the Parish Magazine' but something a little different! Issue 52



What lies ahead for Holy Trinity? ... and what are your thoughts and prayers for God's mission in our parish?

Help us to plan: For a while we've been thinking about God's plans for our parish and its churches. Last July a number of us gathered at St. David's to ponder a vision statement that could inform our planning. This year Rev. Dylan Turner (Archdeaconry Growth Enabler) will be inviting us to build upon those thoughts on **Saturday, 7th May** at St. Alban's Church from 10.00am until 1.00pm – all are welcome, cake and drinks available.

Annual Meetings and Electoral Roll

Like many organisations the parish needs to hold an Annual Meeting, ours will be on **Sunday, 15th May**. To fully participate you need to have signed up to our Electoral Roll – if you are not sure about this then speak with Mike Wareing or the clergy now – names must be entered **before 1st May**.

In our prayers



We remember:

- the conflict in Ukraine and all affected by it; all working for justice and for refugees and all providing aid.
- so many places across the world where lives are overshadowed by war, disasters, injustice and poverty, especially the peoples of Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria and Yemen.
- all families considering baptism.
- couples preparing for their wedding day.
- our Diocese and pray for Bishop Jonathan who is to be the new Bishop of Rochester.
- our brothers and sisters in Christ in local churches and fellowships.
- all involved in education: our local pre-schools, schools and colleges – their staff, pupils and students. – as a new term begins.
- the local foodbanks and their volunteers.
- all working in essential services.
- those in hospital, those recovering from surgery or awaiting tests and treatment and all supporting them.
- all who feel isolated or alone, those who are in pain or who are anxious.
- those who are troubled but feel unable to seek help.
- those who have lost loved ones, the family of Betty Webb recently departed, especially when death has been sudden or unexpected.





Bible Focus and Prayers



Here are the Sunday readings and collects for the coming weeks.

2nd Sunday of Easter – 24th April

from Exodus 14:10-end, 18:20-21, Psalm 150, Acts 5:27-32, Revelation 1:4-6, John 20:19-end.

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred: open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father. Amen.

3rd Sunday of Easter – 1st May

from Zephaniah 3:14-end, Psalm 30, Acts 9:1-6, Revelation 5:11-end, John 21:1-19.

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

4th Sunday of Easter – 8th May

from Genesis: verses from chapters 7-9, Psalm 23, Acts 9:36-end, Revelation 1:4-6, John 10:22-40.

Risen Christ, faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep: teach us to hear your voice and to follow your command, that all your people may be gathered into one flock, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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Next Steps...

It has been wonderful to keep Holy Week and Easter once again in our churches this year and so good to share the services and times of prayer and reflection with worshippers from all three churches no matter the venue. We are still cautious but at last we are able to return to familiar patterns and see both familiar and new faces.

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Saviour and look ahead with renewed life towards the future this time of year is also a time when we prepare for our Annual Parish Meetings. Rather like any organisation it is time to look back and to plan for the future and in only a few weeks' time we shall be doing this: Sunday, 15th May during our 10.00am worship at St. William's – it is appropriate that such 'business' matters take place within the context of prayer and worship.

In some ways this year's meeting has an added significance because it will be the newly elected Wardens and Church Council who will soon be tasked by the Archdeacon with beginning the process of appointing a new Rector for Holy Trinity and so it is important that our parish is fully represented in these roles. As a registered charity it is also important that we comply with responsibilities that are expected of us by the Charity Commission.

This might sound rather heavy and formal but it is really about sharing in the stewardship of the resources we have across Holy Trinity and this is everyone's calling. The annual meetings bring together our discipleship as well as legal duties and they are an opportunity for some to offer the gifts

and skills that God has bestowed upon them in his service and for others to recognise when God is saying ‘well done, good and faithful servant I have another calling for you.’ Some will be ready to hand over tasks and I pray that others will be willing to take on perhaps previous roles but in new ways. There is no template for most tasks – God can and does create new ways of living out the Gospel even through Church Councils.

To help us prepare for the decisions that lie ahead Rev. Dylan Turner (who has the job title of Rochester Archdeaconry Growth Enabler!) will be leading us in a morning to ‘**Stop, Start, Continue**’ building upon the discussions we had at St. David’s last July. All are welcome to join with the wardens and Church Council on Saturday, 7th May from 10.00am until 1.00pm at St. Alban’s, Blue Bell Hill. There will be drinks and plenty of cake available to maintain our energy levels.

God has called us to be His Easter People, prayerfully listening to his Word and living out the Good News of the risen Christ as we breathe new life through all creation.

Elaine

An Easter Blessing

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,
whom death could not contain;
who lives to disturb and heal us,
bless us with power to go forth
and proclaim the gospel. Amen

Janet Morley

For your diaries

Friday, 13th May

From 10.30am until noon there will again be **Coffee and Cake** at St. David's, Lordswood. A chance for all ages to drop in and chat with friends old and new.



Monday, 30th May



At 3.00pm in St. William's you will find **Tea at Three**. Again a light afternoon tea for all to drop by – perhaps time to prepare for the Jubilee celebrations at the end of that week?

It is hoped that over the coming months these will become regular features in our parish calendar.

If you have ideas for other ways in which we can get together like this or something different then do pass on your ideas to our wardens (Pat, Sylvia or Mark) and if you can volunteer to arrange something they'd love to hear from you.

Coming Soon: **The St. Alban's Fellowship** – on the 3rd Monday afternoon of the month, beginning in May. More details as they become available.

Glad to be Grey Holiday 2022

Full details of all the trips and events have been in the churches for a couple of weeks – please complete your booking forms and return them to the church reps now if you are interested.

A Time to Pray

Our monthly parish time of prayer, **Trinity Prayers**, continues on the first Thursday evening of each month – **Thursday, 5th May** from 7.30pm at The Rectory, 18 Marion Close, Walderslade, ME5 9QA.

If you can't come along then why not set aside this hour wherever you are to hold before God

- the opportunities for God's mission across this parish
- the needs of individuals and our local communities
- the wider world



The chapel at St. William's is open for prayer whenever our Cornerstone Coffee Shop is open (Monday- Friday between 10 and 2 and most Saturdays from 9am.)

In church over the coming weeks:

Sunday, 24th April (Easter 2)

10.00am Morning Worship at St. William's, Walderslade



Sunday, 1st May (Easter 3)

10.00am Holy Communion at St. Alban's, Blue Bell Hill



Sunday, 8th May (Easter 4)

10.00am Holy Communion at St. David's, Lordswood



Keeping in touch - don't be left out!

*We continue to encourage everyone to use the hand sanitisers
and to wear a face covering when inside the churches,
especially when singing!*

We shall be continuing this pattern of worshipping at each of our churches in turn. The usual pattern is St. Alban's → St. David's → St. William's and repeat, although occasionally circumstances will cause a change, e.g. a Jubilee BBQ lunch following worship at the beginning of June and possibly something special on Trinity Sunday that month...

The latest information will be shared by email, Newsletter, Facebook and the posters at each church. If you are not sure please pick up the phone and check.



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or visit the parish website www.southchatham.org

and our facebook page Holy Trinity South Chatham 

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