

St. Andrew and St. Mary The Virgin

Fletching Church Services

Sunday 2nd May, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion, 10 a.m.

Sunday 9th May, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion, 10 a.m. (Revd Margaret Constable)

Sunday 16th May, Seventh Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion, 10 a.m. (Revd Margaret Constable)

Sunday 23rd May, Pentecost (Whitsun)

Holy Communion, 10 a.m.,

followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

A prayer for Eastertide ...

Lord Jesus Christ,
Stay with us, we pray,
in every part of our journey.
No matter how full of doubt or fear we may be today,
Through your Holy Spirit,
we pray that you will open our eyes,
to help us see you as our risen Lord,
in all your loving power.
Amen

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



Sunday 2nd May
Fifth Sunday of Easter



Readings:

Acts Ch 8 vv 26 - end

Psalm 22 vv 25 - 31

St John Ch 15 vv 1 - 8

Our organist this week is Peter Bassett.

Parish News

Organ concert on Saturday 26th June – save the date!

Assuming lockdown restrictions have been lifted, the concert originally scheduled for April last year will take place here on Saturday 26th June at 7.30pm. Peter Bassett will present a programme of 19th century music, illustrating the continental influences on the English organ through music of the most popular composers of the time.

Audio reflections

Apologies from David that there won't be audio reflections circulated for the next two Sundays. Back to normal at Whitsun.

Contactless Card Reader

There is a contactless card reader on the table by the exit. To support the work of this church, the reader will accept your debit or credit card. It is very easy to use, and the instructions are next to it. Thank you!

Please pray for:

Ann Schicht. Anne's funeral was held in church on Tuesday 27th at 1.30. Please pray for her family.

HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. Please pray for Her Majesty the Queen and all the Royal Family.

Please let the vicar know about any news or prayer requests.

Some thoughts on the readings ...

I am the vine, you are the branches ...

In this fascinating bit of the Acts of the Apostles, Philip, prompted by an 'angel of the Lord' baptizes an unnamed Ethiopian eunuch. The 'Candace' that the eunuch worked for was the title given to the Ethiopian Queen Mother. This man was, therefore, an important servant of an important person. But why is this so important an encounter? The answer is that eunuchs were automatically excluded from the community of Israel. Jesus had already famously included the widely despised Samaritans in his remit, and now his disciples go out of their way to include other outsiders.



Psalm 22 contains the heart-breaking words that Jesus uttered from the cross. It alternates words of lament and words of thanksgiving: a sense of desolation before remembering the faithfulness of God. The section we hear this morning is a hymn of personal commitment to God.

Finally, in the Gospel, one of the famous 'I am' sayings: I am the vine ...

Christ, the vine, is the means by which we, the branches, connect with God the Father. To bear much fruit is to bring God's way of seeing things into ordinary life through our thoughts, words and actions.