



Living churches at the heart of their communities...

St Giles', Durham, St Cuthbert's, Shadforth and St Mary's, Sherburn

**Sunday 24 May 2020
Easter 7**

Collect

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is
gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen



Bible Readings

Acts 1. 6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

1 Peter 4. 12-14; 5. 6-11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves; keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters throughout the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

John 17. 1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.





Christian Aid 2020

After discussion with someone from the Christian Aid HQ, I would like to share this with you:

Firstly, Christian Aid Week has not been cancelled, but has to be approached in a very different way. Of course, we have not been allowed to host events or do any house to house or church cash collections. However, there is information about various payment options to donate, on the web page at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>.

We will be allowed to hold a fund-raising event when church life is back to normal, and do a bucket collection in church.

The theme of Christian Aid Week 2020, is "Love Never Fails", with particular emphasis on climate change, which first and foremost affects those living in poverty in the developing world. Again, the website gives lots of information about projects in progress.

But, perhaps most importantly, there are prayer resources and suggestions on the webpage.

Christian Aid Week is a special act of Christian witness because it is shared by all mainstream denominations across huge parts of the world. It is a chance to show our care for God's creation, and his people, and to be better stewards by working for a fairer sharing of all the gifts He blesses us with.

Please do support Christian Aid with your prayers and donations, and we hope to be together for some form of celebration before too long.

Thank you, as always, for your generous support.

*Rowena Ashworth
Christian Aid Rep*

The following is taken from the Christian Aid website:

As this virus spreads across the world, love rises up in response. You've already shown incredible kindness to your neighbours. Now is the time to reach out to your neighbours both near and far.

Your love protects. From storms, from drought, and now from coronavirus. Your love protects our global neighbours battling the spread of this illness. Your love protects. With soap, clean water and medical supplies.

By supporting us this Christian Aid Week, you can reach out and protect more of your neighbours today.



God of heaven and earth, in these times of isolation, apart from loved ones, distant from friends, away from neighbours, thank you that there is nothing in all of creation, not even coronavirus, that is able to separate us from your love.

And may your love that never fails continue to be shared through the kindness of strangers looking out for each other, for neighbours near and far all recognising our shared vulnerability, each of us grateful for every breath, and willing everyone to know the gift of a full and healthy life. Keep us all in your care. Amen

Online services

The following services will be available to join via zoom this week. We hope as many of you as possible will join in - and if you know of anyone else who would like to join, please let Rev'd Tom know and he will send them an invitation:

Sunday 24 May	10.00am	Service of the Word
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday 27 May	10.00am	Morning Prayer

Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to
peace;
taking, as He did, this sinful world
as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that He will make all things right
if I surrender to His Will;
that I may be reasonably happy in this life
and supremely happy with Him
forever in the next. Amen.



Morning and Evening Prayer for the coming week

	Morning Prayer	Evening Prayer
Sunday 24 May	Isaiah 65. 17-end Revelation 21. 1-8	2 Samuel 23. 1-5 Ephesians 1. 15-end
Monday 25 May <i>The Venerable Bede, 735</i>	Numbers 22. 1-35 Luke 7. 36-end	Deuteronomy 31. 1-13 1 John 2. 18-end
Tuesday 26 May <i>Augustine, 605</i>	Numbers 22.36 - 23.12 Luke 8. 1-15	Deuteronomy 31. 14-29 1 John 3. 1-10
Wednesday 27 May	Numbers 23. 13-end Luke 8. 16-25	Deuteronomy 31.30 - 32.14 1 John 3. 11-end
Thursday 28 May	Numbers 24 Luke 8. 26-39	Deuteronomy 32. 15-47 1 John 4. 1-6
Friday 29 May	Numbers 27. 12-end Luke 8. 40-end	Deuteronomy 33 1 John 4. 7-end
Saturday 30 May <i>Josephine Butler, 1906</i>	Numbers 32. 1-27 Luke 9. 1-17	Deuteronomy 16. 9-15 John 15.26 - 16.5