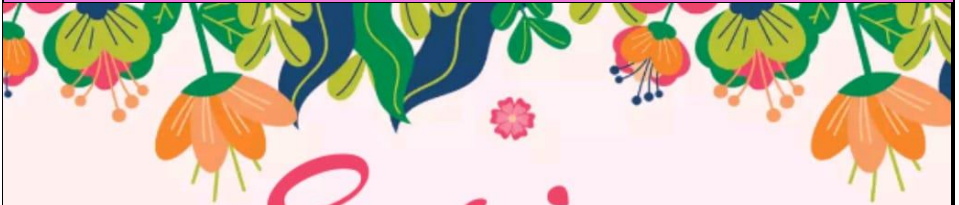


THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, HANGER HILL WITH ST MARY'S, WEST TWYFORD

# PARISH NEWS

**May 2024**



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We are pleased to share your happy times – we love your weddings and baptisms – we hope you tell us when you are in trouble.

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## **May letter:**

Thursday 9th May is Ascension Day. It's often one of the forgotten festivals of the Christian year, but fortunately one of our churches takes its name from it and so we make sure we always celebrate it.

Although the event itself is only described at the end of Luke's Gospel and at the start of Acts, it is assumed everywhere else in the New Testament. Whatever precisely happened on Mount Olivet outside Jerusalem, the first Christians knew exactly what it meant. This was nothing less than Jesus's coronation. For forty days after his resurrection he repeatedly came and spent time with his disciples, but at the end of that time he left the physical world to take his rightful place on the throne of God in the unseen reality we call heaven. The Bible repeatedly talks about Jesus in the same words it uses for God and in the book of Revelation Jesus is described as "the ruler of the kings of the earth" (Rev 1:5).

What does this really mean? In some ways it was clearer in those first centuries. The Roman emperor had god-like status and demanded absolute loyalty. To say that Jesus was Lord was to say that Caesar was not. The Christians believed they were to be law-abiding citizens, but they refused to take part in the pagan sacrifices and for many

years refused to serve in the Roman army. Their ultimate loyalty was to God's kingdom above any human kingdom.

Today in Britain it has less immediate impact to say that Jesus is Lord. Our leaders do not demand absolute loyalty – in fact they often struggle even to gain respect. We still have a memory of being a country shaped by Christianity in its laws and values. Increasingly however, this is no longer the case. We have seen too many politicians, even in the highest offices, whose beliefs and behaviour are far from Christian. The same might be said for many of the policies we see put forward which are devoid of care for God's creation and lacking in compassion for the poor and vulnerable for whom the Bible says God has special concern. As Christians we will continue to be law-abiding members of society who work for the common good. At the same time there will be occasions when our belief that Jesus is Lord means that we can no longer fit comfortably into the status quo.

In what sense, also, does Jesus rule the kings [or rulers] of the earth"? That rule seems pretty ineffective in today's Middle East. The Bible makes clear that although Jesus is the world's true ruler, the world continues to resist his rule until the day when he comes again in his true majesty. That is why, in the prayer Jesus taught us, we pray "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven." We pray this because it is not happening yet, and part of

the reason why we pray is because by doing so we bring it closer to reality.

This month, instead of our usual monthly prayer evening, we will be taking part in a global Anglican prayer movement called “Your Kingdom Come” which now takes place annually between Ascension Day (May 9th) and Pentecost (May 19th). This year we are encouraged to go on prayer walks around our neighbourhoods, observing what is going on around us and quietly praying “your kingdom come” for the people and places that we see. We are planning to do this in twos and threes in the early evening on Friday 10th May. Please do give an hour to take part – with the added encouragement that we will probably go and eat somewhere afterwards.

The Ascension is not just a day in the year or the name of one of our Parish churches. It is an event in the life of Jesus which shapes how we think about God and about the world in which we live, and as a result how we live. If you are a Christian, you say that Jesus is Lord. What does that mean for you?

Best wishes



## **2024 Annual Meeting**

At our AGM on April 21st we were delighted to reappoint Philippa Bird from the Ascension as churchwarden. We are also glad that Arby Ghazarian at St Mary's and Rosy Sookias at the Ascension are carrying on in their roles. We still have one vacancy for a churchwarden

Colin McKenzie and Kester Worme were re-elected to the Parochial Church Council. Sue Lawes and Lucy Pavesi were re-elected to the Ascension District Church Council and we welcomed new members, Yemi Adeola and Ray Adey. We also welcomed back Annlinda Buckingham to the St Mary's District Church Council.

Our thanks go to Iyabo Adeola, Denise Avanesian, and Lee Dewsnap who have all stepped down from our Councils this year.

We are grateful to everyone who serves in this way and also to Liz Williams and Rae White, our two Parish Safeguarding Officers. All three of our Church Councils have only half the number of people they are intended to have. We know we have the right people but smaller numbers means greater responsibility for them. We can co-opt members throughout the year if you would like to serve in this way.

## Ascension Day And Patronal Festival

Ascension Day is Thursday 9th May and we will marking it with an evening Holy Communion service at the Ascension at 7.45pm.

As usual our main celebration will be a joint Sunday Morning Service at the Ascension on Sunday May 12th. This is what is known as our Patronal Festival. Many churches are named after a saint who is their “patron saint.” The Ascension takes its name from the festival of Jesus returning to heaven after his resurrection, but we still call it a “patronal” festival in reference to where the church name comes from. There will not be a service at St Mary’s on that Sunday.

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## Prayer Walking The Parish



**Friday 10th May, 7pm-8pm**

In unity with other Christians across London, the UK, and the world, we are invited to spend time between Ascension Day and Pentecost, the period which the disciples spent in prayer, walking our neighbourhoods to pray for our local communities.

Planned walking routes will cover the different areas of the Ascension and St Mary's districts of the Parish. In groups of twos or threes we will walk these routes, quietly praying for the people and places along the way. Afterwards we will gather for a short time back at the Ascension to share our reflections from our prayer time. After that we hope there will be a plan to all go and eat somewhere.

Routes and sign up sheets for the walk will be available in both churches shortly. You can learn more about the Thy Kingdom Come initiative and about prayer walking here - <https://www.london.anglican.org/articles/prayer-journeying-practice/>

## Silver Eco Award With Bishop Lusa



Last month Bishop Lusa visited the Ascension as part of a bicycle pilgrimage around all the parishes – of which ours is one – who have achieved an Eco Church Silver Award for their practical commitment to caring for the environment.

Congratulations to our Parish eco team, Gillian Harrison, Philippa Bird, and Colin McKenzie, for all their work which has led to this award.



**Spring Festival – 18th May**



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# ASCENSION NEWS

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## **The Ascension Friends**

April was a happy meeting. Although it was the Tuesday after Easter we still enjoyed our usual Easter celebration tea. Thank you to Roger and Diana for providing us with a fun quiz and congratulations to you all for making such beautiful greetings cards.

This month we will be celebrating 25 years of fun and friendship at the Ascension Friends. We'll be looking back at some of the happy times we've had and reminding ourselves of some of the outings we've enjoyed. One of the highlights was visiting the Millennium Dome back in 2000! Who remembers the green and yellow Ealing Community Transport minibus? Of course there were many other memorable outings too.



*The Ascension friends  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party!  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm  
in the Welcome Area*

There will be a celebration tea, and of course no party is complete without balloons and party poppers! Do come and bring your friends. - Liz Williams (020 8997 5578 [williams13qr@gmail.com](mailto:williams13qr@gmail.com))



# The Ascension Friends

A club for retired people - old or young

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month 2pm-4pm  
for talks and teas in The Welcome Area,  
The Church of the Ascension, Beaufort Road W5 3EB

## **Summer Programme 2024**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May

***Happy Anniversary Ascension Friends  
Celebrating 25 years of fun and friendship***

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June

***The Basotho Educational Trust  
Funding education and giving hope to young people  
in Lesotho***

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July (please note later date)

***Midsummer music  
With Lee Dewsnap and Rae White***

For more information please contact Mrs Liz Williams  
020 8997 5578 or [williams13qr@gmail.com](mailto:williams13qr@gmail.com)



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# ASCENSION NEWS

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## Good Bye To Lee

Lee Dewsnap, who has been our organist and Director of Music for over ten years is leaving this month for a new job at another West London church. His enthusiastic and energetic playing have been much appreciated at both churches and brought a freshness to both our traditional and contemporary repertoire. He has also been a valued and committed member of the congregation, a gifted service leader, and an example of prayerfulness. His final Sunday will be the joint Patronal Festival service on May 12th. We wish him well in the next stage of his career.

- Simon

## Junior Church

Over the Easter period, we ran a competition for the children, designing Easter Eggs. As St Mary's children did not enter, we had only two eggs to choose from. They were both very beautiful, and I cannot possibly choose a winner so I am happy to say that both Thanusika and Thushyan have won a prize. Well done and many thanks to both of them for getting involved .

- Rae



## The Open Door



The Open Door continues to thrive and we are regularly welcoming 20 people or more on a Friday morning. We have people coming back week after week; some needing food and/or clothing, some just wanting to come in for coffee and spend time with other people.

Whatever the reason for people being there, we know that we are providing a very important service. Jesus himself tells us to give to the poor, and to be in a position to do so means that we are doing God's work.

Giving and donating to projects such as this is what we are called to do as Christians, yet it occurs to me that the biggest donations to The Open Door come from people outside the church and from non-Christians. Is there more that you can do to help?

I must use this opportunity to thank Raj and Niro who are there every week helping with set-up, making drinks and hot food and packing shopping; we genuinely couldn't do this without them.

- Can you volunteer a couple of hours on a Friday once in a while? Please contact Rae on 07414 990645.

- Rae White





## **The Open Door**

**Coffee and chat for all  
Food and clothes if you  
need them**

**Fridays in term time 10am-midday.**

**Bags of shopping available for those  
who need them.**

**Clothing available for those who  
need them.**

**Coffee and conversation for all.**

**You are welcome! The Door is open!**

**St Mary's Church Hall  
Brentmead Gardens, West Twyford  
NW10 7ED**

**Contact Rae on 07414 990645**

### **Stay And Play**

In partnership with West Twyford Children's Centre (<https://www.west-twyford.ealing.sch.uk/services-timetable/>) we run a parent and toddler group every Monday morning of term time from 9.15am to 11am.



Not only is it great fun for children with lots of space and large toys like slides and pedal cars, but it also allows access to the range of support and services offered by the Children's Centre.

Do come along if you have young children, and do tell local families about it.

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# ST MARY'S NEWS

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## Jazz at St Mary's



Every third Tuesday evening of the month from 7.30pm. The house band features St Mary's keyboard player Ben Croft

(<https://www.benjamincroftmusic.com/>)

and local saxophonist Andrew McKay

(<https://andrew-mckay.co.uk>) but there is

always an opportunity for other musicians and singers to take part. To find out more contact Pete Harris (details inside back cover

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## Windows

A wife texted her husband on a cold winter morning:  
"Windows frozen."

Her husband texted back: "Pour some lukewarm water over it."

The wife texted back five minutes later: "Computer's completely not working now."

o - o - o - O - O - o - o - o

Scientists have finally discovered exactly how much sleep a human being needs ... just five minutes more.

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# CALENDAR, DIARY & REGISTERS

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**Calendar**

**May**

**Intercessions**

Our regular service times can be found on the back cover. On Sundays the intercessions (which are being used in an alphabetical sequence) are for the people who live or work in the various roads and schools of our Parish.

***Daily Prayer can be accessed via the website.***

Week beginning April 28th (5th Sunday of Easter)

Weds 11am - Coffee Morning at St Mary's

Week beginning May 5th (6th Sunday of Easter)

*Iveagh Terrace & Lakeside Drive*

Sunday 10.30am - All Age Service at the Ascension

10.30am - All Age Service at St Mary's

6pm - The Sunday Word (Evening Worship) online

Tuesday 2pm - Ascension Friends at the Welcome Area

Thursday - ASCENSION DAY

7.45pm - Holy Communion at the Ascension

Friday 10am - The Open Door at St Mary's

Week beginning May 12th (Sunday after Ascension - Patronal)

*Links Road & Lytham Grove*

Sunday 10.30am - Joint Morning Service at the Ascension

*\*No 1030 Service at St Mary's today, please go to Joint Service\**

4.30pm - Youth Group at the Ascension

Monday 9.15am – Stay and Play Toddler Group at St Mary's

Thursday 8pm - District Church Council at the Ascension

Friday 10am - The Open Door at St Mary's

Saturday 12noon-3pm - Ascension Spring Festival event

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## CALENDAR, DIARY & REGISTERS

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### Week beginning May 19th (Pentecost)

*The Maria Montessori School & Monks Drive*

- Sunday 10.30am - Morning Service at the Ascension  
10.30am - Morning Service at St Mary's
- Monday 9.15am – Stay and Play Toddler Group at St Mary's
- Tuesday 7pm - Jazz at St Mary's
- Weds 8pm - District Church Council at St Mary's
- Friday 10am - The Open Door at St Mary's

### Week beginning May 26th (Trinity Sunday)

*Marryatt Court & Meadway Court*

- Sunday 10.30am – Morning Service at Ascension  
10.30am – Morning Service at St Mary's  
4.30pm - Youth Group at the Ascension
- Monday 9.15am – Stay and Play Toddler Group at St Mary's
- Wed. 8pm - Parochial Church Council at Ascension
- Friday 10am – The Open Door at St Mary's

All Ascension Sunday services are livestreamed on Zoom, recorded, and posted as videos on the Parish website where they can be accessed for the next week.

## **PARISH REGISTERS**

### **FUNERAL**

11th April 2024

Elizabeth (Betty) Mary Barker

Aged 96 of The Meadows, Greenford

*Our prayers and sympathy are with her family and friends*

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# CALENDAR, DIARY & REGISTERS

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## Important Dates

- 5th June – Hanger Hill East Residents' Association AGM
  - 13th July – St Mary's Neighbourhood Barbecue
- 

### Thought For The Day

Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate. – *Albert Schweitzer*

o - o - O - O - o - o - o

### **Noah had problems too**

When Noah sailed the waters blue,  
he had his troubles same as you.  
For 40 days he drove the Ark  
before he found a place to park.

o - o - O - O - o - o - o

Life can be like a box of chocolates.  
Sometimes it makes you sick.

o - o - O - O - o - o - o

# SUDOKU CHALLENGE

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How to play : place a number from 1-9 in each empty cell so that each row, each column & each 3x3 block contains all the numbers from 1-9.

(N.B. No number can appear twice in any row, column or 3 x 3 box)

9			2					
		5						1
			8		7		3	
	5		1		8		4	
	4	7						3
	8		7		5		2	
			3		4		8	
		6						7
5			9					

Solution page : 29



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## ARTICLES

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### **Beaufort Players Drama Group** [www.beaufortplayers.org.uk](http://www.beaufortplayers.org.uk)



It says here that their next production will be two – 1 Act plays  
***'Lockdown in Little Grimley' and 'Murder in Little Grimley'***  
on 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024

o - o - o - O - O - o - o - o

Check here next month for further information, but meanwhile  
*sign up to our [mailing list](#) here or on our website at  
<https://www.beaufortplayers.org.uk/maillist/>  
and be the first to know when tickets go on sale.*

If you're interested in getting involved, either as an actor or behind the scenes, you'll be pleased to hear we're currently looking for new members - click to [join us](#) here or go to <https://www.beaufortplayers.org.uk/join-us/> for more information, and become part of this highly successful and award-winning group.

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## ARTICLES

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### Remembering Betty Barker



Betty Barker (1927 to 2024), whose funeral was held at the Church of the Ascension on 11th April, grew up around Leeds before moving to London in 1949 to take up a job as a nanny in Sussex Square.

In 1952 Betty made a career move and joined the Civil Service as a typist. She met her husband, Ron Barker, when working in an office in Waterloo and they were married in 1959. Betty was a dedicated mother to her two sons, Geoffrey and John and also cared for her parents-in-law, with whom she shared a home in Boileau Road.

Betty attended the Church of the Ascension and Geoffrey and John were baptised there – and later introduced to the Sunday School. By the 1970s, the whole Barker family was active in the life of the church. Ron, Geoffrey and John were confirmed on the same day, 26th November 1975. Ron acted as Stewardship Recorder, helping to keep the church finances in order; Geoffrey and John were altar servers and enjoyed the Saturday night youth club.

Betty returned to work in the 1970s and from 1980 to 1992 she worked as a typist in Ealing Tax Office.

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## ARTICLES

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Betty and Ron enjoyed hosting a sherry and mince pies reception in their home each year for members of the church who had been out carol singing around the parish. This was always a popular and enjoyable occasion. Betty was a popular member of the community and helpful neighbour, often doing the shopping for neighbours in Boileau Road and taking older members of the church family in her car on her weekly visits to Sainsbury's.

Betty loved her family, including her nephews and niece and the children they produced when they got married. She loved family gatherings at Christmas and on other occasions and was always up to speed with family news. She was a kind neighbour and good friend to many people throughout her long life. She was always cheerful, never judgemental and was always more ready to listen than be listened to.

She spent the last 14 months of her life in The Meadows Care Home, Greenford, and was very content there. She still kept in touch with her many friends, many of whom visited her in The Meadows. She maintained her mental ability and could still send emails, do online banking and use her iPad until the end of her life.

Betty had a strong and practical Christian faith and received monthly Bible reading notes until the end of her life.

Geoffrey, Betty's son, delivered the eulogy at the Service of Thanksgiving and asserted his confidence that his mother is now safe in eternal life.

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## ARTICLES

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### **Bishop Lusa Cycles To The Ascension For Earth Day**

As reported earlier in this month's Parish News, to mark Earth Day last month the Bishop of Willesden cycled between the 14 churches in the Diocese that have achieved a Silver Award in A Rocha's environmental programme. It was a 26-mile circuit starting at St Anselm Belmont in Harrow ending at the Ascension where the small group of cyclists were greeted by welcome cups of tea and biscuits.

Bishop Lusa explained how this year's Earth Day theme is to highlight the urgent need to curb plastic pollution, a global problem which is affecting every citizen on Earth. Started in 1970 in the USA it is now a global environmental movement across 141 countries and has a different theme each year. The aim this time is for countries to start working towards a 60% reduction in the production of plastics by 2040 and ultimately a plastic pollution treaty backed by the United Nations to see single-use plastics being phased out altogether.

On the cycling circuit the Bishop was accompanied by Christopher Ramsay, Willesden's Director of Mission and was joined for the last two legs to our parish by Colin McKenzie at St Stephen's and then Gillian Harrison at St Barnabas. At the Ascension, Philippa Bird and Simon, waiting with tea-makers Josette Lubbock and Sue Lawes, had the opportunity to tell the Bishop about what we are trying to do locally on environmental matters and were encouraged by him in our efforts. He reminded us of the wise words often attributed either to Mahatma Gandhi or Mother Teresa: "We need to live simply so others can simply live."

*- Gillian Harrison*

### **Poem: Up And Down**

Up and down is always changing  
Sometimes for good, like a lovely sunny morn  
And then downtime, disaster with torrential rain  
We can never guarantee the weather  
Changes come so quickly, up & down again

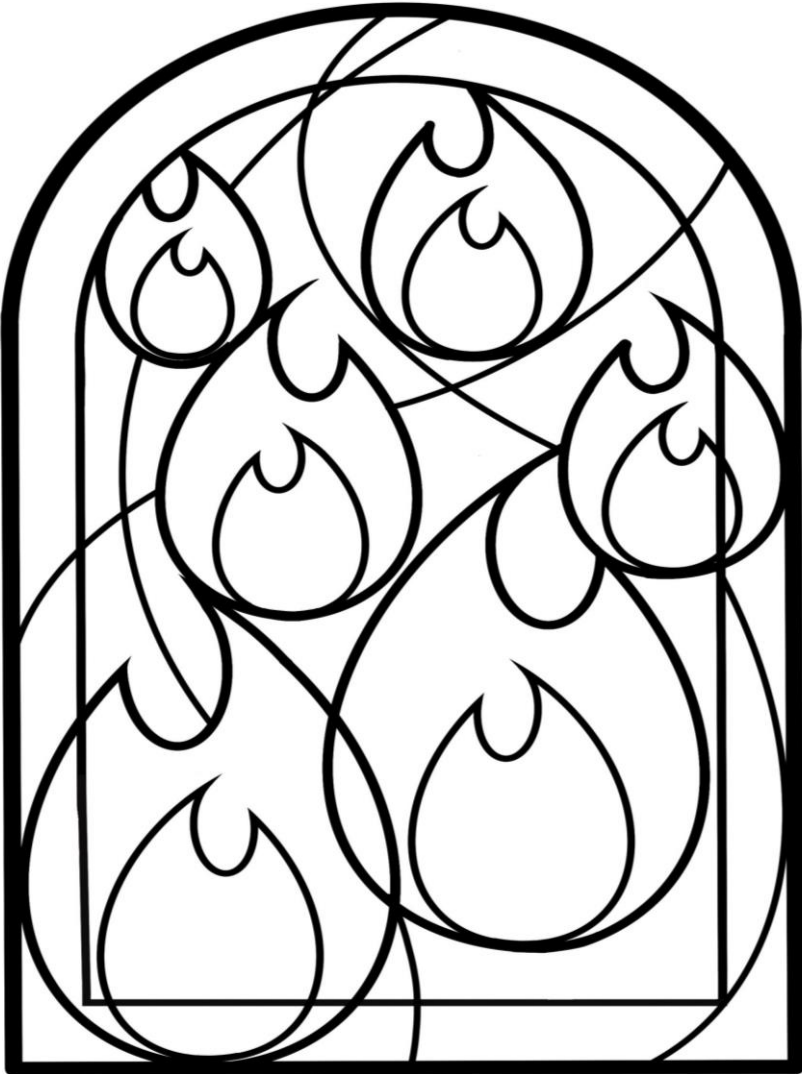
The changes can also apply to our minds  
Good mood, bad mood are always changing  
It all depends on what's around us  
Success brings joy and happiness  
Whilst a down mood, can bring sadness & fear.

Thank you, God, that you are always with us  
Most of us start our days with a prayer  
A prayer to ask for help to help others who are in a bad way  
And also in our own times of panic or despair  
We know who to ask for help

The Lord is always there for us  
To lead us to the track he wants us to go  
Good and bad, and up and down  
Through prayer for help we can find the right way to go

© *Diana Dishley – May 2024*

Colouring Page – Pentecost Flames



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# SUDOKU SOLUTION

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9	1	3	2	5	6	4	7	8
8	7	5	4	9	3	2	6	1
2	6	4	8	1	7	9	3	5
6	5	2	1	3	8	7	4	9
1	4	7	6	2	9	8	5	3
3	8	9	7	4	5	1	2	6
7	9	1	3	6	4	5	8	2
4	2	6	5	8	1	3	9	7
5	3	8	9	7	2	6	1	4

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**Roger Dishley**

**07957 180288**

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## PRAYER SECTION

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*We'd love to hear from you about prayer. Have you got a story about answered prayer? An insight which has helped you to pray better? An inspiring quotation about prayer? A prayer someone has written which you find useful? A question about prayer you'd like answered?*

**The Silent Minute** began in 1940 during the Blitz on London. With the backing of the King and the Prime Minister people were called to spend one minute in silent prayer for peace and freedom at 9pm every evening. The idea was revived after 9/11 and has gained recent impetus with the ongoing war in Ukraine and the increasing bloodshed in the Middle East.

The call is for people all over the world to pray for peace for one minute at 9pm (or the equivalent in their time zone) either in silence or using the following words:

*Source of my being,  
Help me to live in peace,  
And save my home the planet Earth.*

<https://www.thesilentminute.org.uk/>

**Our next prayer Parish Prayer Gathering will be the Prayer Walk on Friday May 10th, 7pm-8pm.** Keep in touch with the WhatsApp group, website, and Facebook page for prayer information.





### **SUPPORTING MISSION: CHRISTIAN AID**

*Each month we profile one of the agencies the Parish supports through its financial giving.*



Christian Aid insists that the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

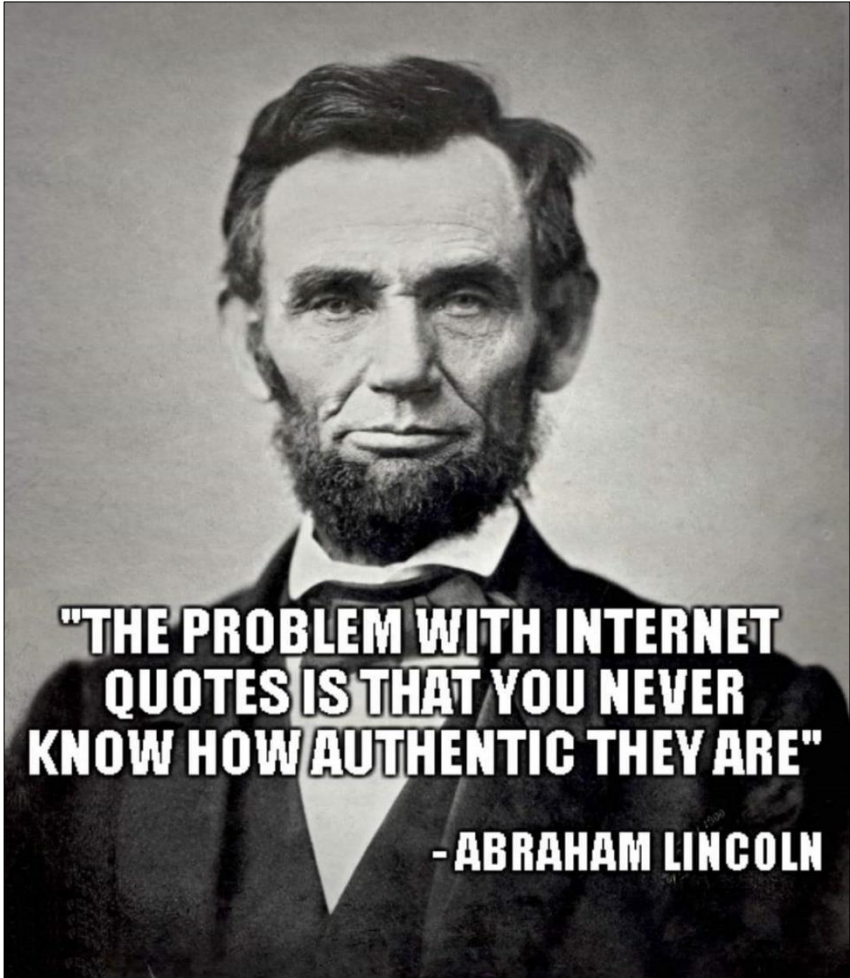
They work globally for change to eradicate the causes of poverty, and to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality. They provide urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is great, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes.

Christian Aid are an agency of the churches in Britain and Ireland. Their work is founded on Christian faith, inspired by hope and acts to change an unjust world through charity – a practical love and care for our neighbours.

Christian Aid has an integrated approach to poverty eradication – working on humanitarian relief, long term development, specific advocacy issues and campaigns for change and influence. They work with partners of all faiths and none for the common good. More at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk).

Look out for Christian Aid week later this month.

**And Finally**



There's a serious point here. Einstein and Ghandi did not say most of the things attributed to them online. Please check your sources before you post something – especially any message which asks you to send it to all your friends!

---

# PARISH PERSONNEL

---

VICAR:	The Revd Simon Reed..... 020 8566 9920 The Ascension Vicarage, Beaufort Road, Ealing W5 3EB E: <a href="mailto:simonreed@ascensionealing.org">simonreed@ascensionealing.org</a>
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JUNIOR CHURCH	Rae White (see above) ..... 07414 990645
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:	Lee Dewsnap (until 17th May) ..... 07702 126971
SACRISTAN:	Denise Avanessian..... 020 8810 7140
HALL BOOKINGS:	Rae White..... 07414 990645 E: <a href="mailto:darwinrae@hotmail.co.uk">darwinrae@hotmail.co.uk</a>
PARISH NEWS MAGAZINE:	
CONTENT	Revd Simon Reed E: <a href="mailto:simonreed@ascensionealing.org">simonreed@ascensionealing.org</a>
ADVERTISING	Roger Dishley..... 020 8567 0275
DISTRIBUTION	Eija O'Gorman [A]..... 020 8992 0061 Kester Worme [M]..... 020 8963 0112

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# THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, HANGER HILL

**Beaufort Road, London W5 3EB**

Wheel chair access at front entrance

- Sundays**      1030 MORNING WORSHIP (with Holy Communion)  
*including Children's activities*  
*All Age Service - 1st Sunday of the month*  
The 10.30am service is also streamed live on Zoom.
- 1800 THE SUNDAY WORD – Evening Service on Zoom only  
1st Sunday of the month.

The Church is normally open for DAILY PRAYER 9.00-9.30am and 5.30-6pm weekdays

## Other Activities

- Ascension Friends retired people's club
  - Youth Group
- 

# ST MARY'S, WEST TWYFORD

**Brentmead Gardens, London NW10 7ED**

- Sundays**      1030 MORNING SERVICE (with Holy Communion)  
*including Children's activities*  
*All Age Service - 1st Sunday of the month*

## Other Activities

- Stay and Play Toddler Group (term time)
  - Coffee Morning
  - Jazz Club
  - Youth Group
  - The Open Door Café and Help
- 

**HOME GROUPS, COURSES, AND YOUTH GROUP** (Yr 7 upwards – enquire for details)

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Please check the website [www.ascensionealing.org](http://www.ascensionealing.org) to gain access to Zoom events.

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Copy for next issue must be received by **Simon**  
by end of Wednesday **15th May 2024**..

