

9th May - The Parish of Cowbridge Pews News

The Sixth Sunday of Easter (colour - white) Rogation Sunday

Collect

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever **Amen.**

The First Reading

A reading from Acts (10.44-48)

Then While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God.

Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98

R. The Lord has made known his salvation.

The Lord has made known his salvation.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things. His own right hand and his holy arm have won for him the victory. The Lord has made known his salvation; his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

The Lord has made known his salvation.

He has remembered his mercy and faithfulness towards the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth; break into singing and make music.

The Lord has made known his salvation.

Make music to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the voice of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn sound praises before the Lord, the King.

The Lord has made known his salvation.

Let the sea thunder and all that fills it, the world and all that dwell upon it. Let the rivers clap their hands and let the hills ring out together before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

The Lord has made known his salvation.

The Second Reading

A reading from 1 John (5.1-6)

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God,

when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore. **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St John (15.9-17) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has

greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Post Communion Prayer Bountiful God, your Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life: may we thirst for you, the spring of life and source of goodness, through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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Readings for Evensong Psalm 98 Isaiah 55.1-11 John 15.18-21

to join our worship online, use this link and joining details: [Click here to attend](#) ; Passcode *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450 (Meeting ID 447 849 545)*

Prayer Intentions

In the Anglican Communion please pray for the Church of Kenya.

In the Diocese of Llandaff please pray for the Clergy and People of the Deanery of Cardiff and for Dyfrig Lloyd, Area Dean.

All who are sick particularly Dawn Conrad, Maureen Dixon, Charlotte Carpenter, Grayson Finn, Margaret Launder, Crispin Clay, Joanna Cory, Sharon Grainger, Eric Cooke, Maz Parkinson and Barbara Ashley.

Those who have recently departed this life.

Among them Elizabeth Davies, Helen Saunders and William Watkins.

Those whose 'years mind' fall during the coming week: Sun: James Mansley, Jamie Raleigh, Megan Olwen David, Walter Ernest Lever and Philip Howard Edward Francis. Mon: Vera Florence Davies and Phyllis Catherine Morgan. Tue: Gary Davies and Joan Phyllis Lloyd. Wed: Paul Galton and Sir David Herbert Mervyn Davies. Thurs: Willie Jones. Fri: Clive Davies, Glyn Oakley and Francis Hayes. Sat: Arthur Tudor. ***May they rest in peace and rise in glory.***

Next week's readings - The Seventh Sunday of Easter (colour - white)

Acts 1.15-17, 21-26 Psalm 1 1 John 5.9-13 John 17.6-19 (Year B) **Readings for Evensong** Psalm 147 Isaiah 61.1-11 Luke 4.14-21

Services for the Sixth Sunday of Easter (9th May) Rogation Sunday

The following churches will be open for services (Booking is essential)

- 09:15 am - Holy Eucharist at Llanblethian, St. Mary Church and Llansannor;
- 11:00 am - Holy Eucharist at Holy Cross, Penllyn, Ystradowen, Llangan and St Hilary;
- 6.00 pm - Eucharist at Flemingston.

Online Zoom services

9:30 am – Sunday School on Zoom – families welcome. [Link to Sunday School](#): Meeting ID: 842 7508 5595 Passcode: *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450*

- 11.00 am – The service from Holy Cross
- 6.00 pm – Evensong

[Click here to attend online at 11 am or 6 pm](#); *Passcode Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450 (Meeting ID 447 849545)*

Midweek Services

- 9:15 am Monday to Friday – Morning Prayer on Zoom: [Click here to attend](#) *Passcode Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450 (Meeting ID 447 849545)*
- 10.30 am Wednesday – Holy Eucharist at Llanblethian

- 10.30 am Thursday – Holy Eucharist at Holy Cross

We look forward to welcoming you.

Services for the Seventh Sunday of Easter (16th May)

The following churches will be open for services (Booking is essential)

- 09:15 am - Holy Eucharist at Llanblethian and St. Mary Church;
- 11:00 am - Holy Eucharist at Holy Cross, Ystradowen, Llansannor and St Hilary;
- 4.30 pm - Informal service at Penllyn;
- 6.00 pm - Evening Prayer at Flemingston.

Online Zoom services

- 9:30 am – Sunday School on Zoom – families welcome. [Link to Sunday School](#): Meeting ID: 842 7508 5595 Passcode: *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450*
- 11.00 am – The service from Holy Cross
- 6.00 pm – Evensong

[Click here to attend online at 11 am or 6 pm](#) ;

Passcode Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450 (Meeting ID 447 849545)

For booking or more information please contact anyone listed below:

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All arrangements are still dependant on the Welsh Government regulations in place and subject to the social distancing and other measures needed to keep us all safe. PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE IN PLENTY OF TIME, SPACES ARE LIMITED IN SOME CHURCHES. We hope this will not be the case but please be aware that you may not be admitted if the church is full and you haven't booked in advance.

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals

Before formulating any plans, all requests for weddings, baptisms, or funerals must be made to one of the following:

Stephen Adams (Rector), Victoria Ashley (Team Vicar), David-Lloyd Jones (Parish Administrator) See below for contact details

Celebrating Rogation Sunday 2021

What is Rogation Sunday? And what is it about?

The word Rogation comes from a Latin word – *rogare* – which means ‘to ask.’ Rogation Sunday is therefore a Sunday when we specifically and traditionally ask God’s blessing on the land, particularly on emerging crops, be that in the field or garden.

Traditionally it has been a day to also pray for the communities in which we live – a day that was often associated with a mediaeval practice - ‘beating the bounds’ of the parish, processing round and praying for different areas and buildings, as people prayed together and publically for their community life.

Both these aspects of Rogation Sunday bear resonance today in 2021. During the COVID pandemic much of our communal life has been affected with repeated lockdown and social distancing measures still in place – opportunities to be together in person are limited. Within this many people have also experienced an increasing awareness and appreciation of the natural, created world around us, and of the increasing threat to it by climate change and global environmental injustice. We’ve also acknowledged afresh that farmers are key workers, producing and supplying food to help feed the nation, and others across the globe.

So, this Rogation Sunday let’s pray for the emerging crops; farmers, their families and

businesses; those affected most by climate injustice and change; our communities and the places where we live.

You may like to do one or more of the following:

- Do a Prayer Walk around your community, stopping at various places such as a village hall, a farm, community garden, river, home etc, asking God’s blessing on that place and the people. There are some suggested prayers on the Arthur Rank Centre website <https://arthurrankcentre.org.uk/church-life/rogation-sunday-2021/> (copy and paste link into your browser to go straight there). Depending on the COVID restrictions at the time you may like to do this in small groups or as a family, or you may wish to do a virtual prayer walk in your home/church building.
- Send a donation to a farming charity such as Farming Community Network, RABI, The Addington Fund, DPJ Foundation, or any others that you know of.
- Spend some time outside giving thanks to God for all that you can see, hear, and smell, wherever you live.
- Reflect with God on the question: *what can I do today to play a part in helping to renew and restore the earth?* and then act on whatever comes from your reflection,

remembering that small changes matter and can make a huge difference.

- Read and/or listen to Psalm 65

Prayer Creator God, whose will it is that the earth and the sea should bear fruit in due season, and that the good news should be proclaimed to all the world: bless the labours of those who work on land and sea, granting safety and a good harvest; bless the lives of our communities as we emerge together from the pandemic and reconnect once more; bless all those who work, campaign and strive for environmental justice, seeking to mitigate the disastrous effects of climate change. And may the blessing of God, who renews the face of the earth day by day, be upon and remain with us, those we love and pray for, this day and always. **Amen.**

Ordination to the Priesthood

On Ascension Day (Thursday 13th May) at 7.00 pm, our curate, the Rev'd Ian Yemm will be ordained priest by Bishop June. The service will be at Holy Cross. Usually, we would want as many people as possible to crowd into the church to witness the occasion and support Ian. We cannot do as we would like yet and so attendance at the service will be by invitation only. However, we are going to live-stream everything, and the link is here:

[Click here to join the Ordination service](#)

Meeting ID: 815 3888 5444

Passcode: *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450*

We won't be displaying the text of the service as it will be better to view the action as it happens. However, we will put a link to the text on the parish website for you to follow if you wish.

Following his ordination on the 13th, Ian will preside at the Eucharist for the first time the next day (Friday 14th at 11.00 am). Again, attendance is by invitation, but we will also stream this service using the same link as above. Over the following weeks, each congregation will have the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist with Ian for the first time. Do pray for Ian and all those to be ordained this year. Ian will be on retreat before the ordination as he prepares for this major event in his life.

Why another ordination?

So, you may ask, why is Ian being ordained again? Didn't it take a year ago?

The answer is that the Church in Wales holds to the historic threefold order of ministry of Bishops, Priests and Deacons. Each of the orders relates to the other two, and ordination is sequential. Consequently, every bishop is also a priest and deacon, and every priest is also a deacon.

Over the last year, Ian has been learning what it means to live as a deacon. Several of us in the parish recently wrote reports on Ian for Bishop June, affirming that we believe he

is now ready to be ordained as a priest. However, for each of the three orders, the crucial event is still our baptism. In many ways, being ordained as a bishop, priest or deacon, is simply a very public way of living out our baptismal promises. As such, it makes our weaknesses and failures all too apparent to ourselves and others. That, of course, should drive us back to God's grace and forgiveness. You can read the Charge to those to be ordained priest below. It will give you a sense of the commitment Ian is making and how God is equipping him for this ministry.

THE CHARGE *The bishop addresses those to be ordained as priests:* Priests in the Church of God are called to work with their bishop, their fellow priests and all the people of God, as servants and shepherds. You are to proclaim the Word of the Lord, to call people to repentance, and in Christ's name to absolve those who are penitent. You are to bless, baptize, and preside at the holy Eucharist. You are to teach the faith that comes to us from the Apostles and proclaim it afresh. You are to lead the people of God into holiness of life, and encourage the ministry of all God's people. You are to explore new ventures in mission and work for peace and justice. You are to minister to the sick and prepare the dying for their death. You are to pray and to admonish, to counsel and encourage, and guide God's people through the temptations and confusions of this world, that they may be

saved through Christ for ever. Remember with thanksgiving that this ministry now to be entrusted to you is a sharing in the ministry of him who died on the cross. It will require sacrifice and bring suffering, but, lived faithfully, it will also bring you joy and peace. You will need determination and perseverance, and because you cannot fulfil this ministry in your own strength, pray that each day the Lord will renew your calling that you may follow the Good Shepherd wherever he leads. My brothers and sisters: pray without ceasing; labour in the Lord's service; be of good courage; let no one suffer hurt through your neglect; serve the Church of Christ; build the Kingdom of God; rejoice in the Lord.

God in the Sciences

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

Finding Expression – and God's Response – in Lament

The question of suffering comes up regularly in discussions about science and faith. I once visited a school to speak to some of the older teenagers. One of the pupils had sadly passed away from cancer a few weeks before and his classmates asked, "How God could let this happen?" Of course, these young people's questions about where God was in this situation were important. But the

chaplain also gently reminded the class that their friend's family were Christians, and that they were finding that their experience of loss had brought them even closer to God than before.

One way that grief can bring us near to God is when we share it with Him, telling Him exactly how we feel. The biblical writers had no scruples about expressing themselves to God, giving vent to emotions we often hold back in a church context. As my colleague Roger Abbott has written in his book on *'Unanswered' Prayer*, "Let us not confuse reverence with spiritual prudishness. Perhaps honesty, the way it feels, is precisely what God is waiting to hear from us."

About one third of the Psalms express some form of grief. The book of Job is a series of responses to one man's suffering as he loses his children, property and health in quick succession. Lamentations is also one long outpouring of sadness at what happened to Israel under the Babylonians. Some of the prophets, especially Jeremiah, also express their pain at these sorts of events – which reflect something of God's own feelings at the suffering of His people.

Most of these biblical authors would have had access to Scriptures that encouraged them to turn to God whatever the circumstances. Emboldened by their knowledge of His character and promises, these divinely inspired writers even express their anger to God about the things He lets happen, or complain that He seems to act

unfairly or ignore them in their plight. Not only do these people let out all their feelings without fear of reprisal, but they also clearly expect a helpful answer. Some record a resolution to their troubles – often simply because God speaks to and comforts them, enabling them to keep going.

The biblical writers demonstrated that God can handle pretty much anything – anger, blame, bitterness – if we are actively looking to Him for help. As Pete Greig of the 24-7 prayer movement has written, "pain that is not expressed can never be transformed".

Five Acts of Kindness for the month of May

The fifty days of Eastertide conclude with the great feast of Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2 1-31). Christian communities use these days to be renewed in their faith having prepared themselves to live life differently during Lent. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). The more we live by these fruits of the Holy Spirit, the more we will reach out to those around us in faith. Whilst raising the morale of others we will also feel more positive about ourselves too.

These principles are very similar to the positive psychology research of renowned psychologist Martin Seligman. His fascination for what makes people feel happier and more fulfilled, led him to investigate the impact of world religions. He discovered that following a faith can make us feel happier

and more positive about ourselves, and increase overall wellbeing.

One excellent book is Vanessa King's *10 Keys of Happier Living* where she describes an activity called **Five Acts of Kindness**.

Vanessa King notices that carrying out acts of kindness can promote an increased sense of wellbeing and positivity in ourselves as well as the people we help. To do this activity, we need to give to those around us with kindness and do five acts of kindness per week for six weeks. This can be very simple such as saying a kind word to someone, helping them with their shopping or picking up a prescription, chatting to someone, listening to someone, smiling at someone, forgiving someone, giving someone a sincere compliment, cooking a meal or baking a cake. This someone could be a member of your family, a friend or a neighbour.

Could you embed this activity into your daily living during the month of May as we prepare for Pentecost?

Remember that the acts of kindness should be really simple and part of everyday life rather than being a chore. By joining in, the whole Christian community could be transformed. You will be living out your faith in a very loving and gentle way. You might like to keep a diary of the act of kindness you do each day and reflect on how it makes you feel and how it makes the person you help feel.

Join in churchyard nature count

Churches are being invited to a week-long 'nature count' between 5-13 June 2021 this summer to assess biodiversity within the 'national park' of churchyards.

The Bishop of St Davids, Dr Joanna Penberthy, who chairs the Church in Wales' environment group, CHASE, says, "Churches Count on Nature is an important and imaginative project open to all denominations.

"Church communities with churchyards, open spaces, burial grounds or land are being encouraged to take notice of them and document the plants and wildlife within them. Look at the website: it is simple to log in and has plenty of advice to help you.

"At the end of Genesis chapter one we are told, 'God saw everything that he had made and behold, it was very good.' Churches Count on Nature gives us a chance to see a little of what lives in our part of God's acre and I do encourage you to get involved."

[To register your interest click here](#)

Faith in your inbox

Each week our Diocesan Communications Officer publishes an email newsletter.

[To receive your own copy by email each week click here](#)

Christian Aid Week: 10-16 May

Florence's Story

A woman sings a deep, joyful tune. Her song lifts the spirits of the other women on the farm. This is Florence.

She is full of life, love and laughter. The women in her farming group look up to her. She's courageous, kind and a survivor. A few years ago, her husband died, leaving her a widow. At that time, she had no water to grow crops. Her children were hungry. She had to walk for hours on a dangerous journey to collect water. 'Life was miserable,' she told us.

Florence could easily have been defeated. But Florence is a fighter, and she shows the women in her farming group that they can be fighters too. Next to her farm, Florence is proud to show us something remarkable – a dam, full of fresh water. It's thanks to Christian Aid Week donations like yours that Florence and her community have built this water dam, with the help of our partner ADSE, just a short walk away from her village.

"I have been sustained by the earth dam. My life has changed. I am very happy. You can see it in my face: my face is shining. I have strength and power."

- Florence Muthiani.

1 - Florence after she has sorted the onions that members of her community have harvested. - Tom Pilston/ Christian Aid

With this dam, Florence can grow tomatoes, onions, papayas and chillies on her farm. Her children can eat healthy, nutritious vegetables. It's her source of life and joy.

Florence also uses the water from the dam to keep honey bees. She sells the rich, golden honey for cash at the market. Now, Florence is reaping a good life for herself and her family.

The dam gives Florence strength to withstand even the most unpredictable weather. It's a reliable water source, whether she faces long drought or relentless rainstorms.

2 - Florence Muthiani says a prayer inside her church. - Tom Pilston/ Christian Aid

"I am thankful to people who have donated to build this earth dam. I am praying God will increase their giving."

- Florence Muthiani.

Florence is generous, and she knows other people are struggling to cope without a reliable water source. 'There is a village nearby – they don't have an earth dam. They travel for a long way to come to this water point. They are suffering.'

Give today and help more people like Florence stop this climate crisis.

Your generosity this Christian Aid Week could help another community build a dam. Many more people will have the water they need to sustain their families.

By supporting Christian Aid Week, you can help millions of people around the world lift themselves out of poverty. £6 can buy a bag of cement, so necessary to build a dam. £27 can buy a wheelbarrow – a crucial piece of kit for the work. £335 can be used to train a dam committee, giving them the skills

needed to maintain the dam for years to come.

More information about this year's Christian Aid Week is available on the website, or you can phone the team in the national office in Cardiff on 029 2084 4646 or email wales@christian-aid.org [Click here to read more](#)

Smile Lines ...

Sportsmanlike

During a game, the coach asked one of his young players: "Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?" The little boy nodded yes. "Do you understand that what matters is winning together as a team?" The little boy nodded yes. "So," the coach continued, "when a strike is called, or you are out at first, you don't argue or curse or attack the umpire. Do you understand all that?" Again, the boy nodded yes.

"Good," said the coach. "Now go over there and explain it to your mother."

What did I do with the car?

As I left a meeting at our church, I could not find my car keys. They were not in my pockets. They were not in the church. Then I thought – I've left them in the car! As I burst through the doors of the church, my heart sank: the church car park was empty.

With a heavy heart I called the police, confessed that I had left my keys in the car, and that it had been stolen. Then I made the really difficult call: "Darling," I began (I always call her 'darling' at moments like this).

"Darling, I have left my keys in the car, and it has been stolen."

There was a little gasp. "You did not *have the car*. I dropped you off. Remember?"

My heart sang as relief flooded through me. "Of course! Thank God! Well, come get me quick – I am already running late... what is keeping you?"

My wife replied with ominous calm: "What's keeping me? I'll tell you what's keeping me. The police are here. They think I've stolen our car..."

Sunday Club for Families - On-line

Sunday club is meeting again this week at 9.30 am for worship and activities. You can join them at this link: [Link to Sunday Club](#): Meeting ID: 842 7508 5595 Passcode: *Please email rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or text 07506 689450*

ROOTS at home resources for families

As a parish, we subscribe to the ROOTS Christian resources for children and families. **You can find this week's new *ROOTS at Home* sheet at this link: [ROOTS at home](#)**

Cartoon by Dave Walker

Daily Prayer

During the week we are saying morning prayer together at 9.15 (Monday- Friday) using the same link as for Sunday services. All are welcome to join us for 30 minutes of spiritual refreshment. [Click here to attend](#) ; Passcode *Please email*

*rector@cowbridgeparish.com or phone or
text 07506 689450*

Welsh Services

For Welsh speakers, Eglwys Dewi Sant in Cardiff have been putting their services online, and you can find them at this link:

[Link to Eglwys Dewi Sant](#)

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