***St. Michael & All Angels – Church of England***

**28 April, 2024 – 5th Sunday of Easter**

**Said Eucharists – Sunday, 8.30a.m and Tuesday, 10.30a.m.**

**APCM followed by a short Eucharist – 10a.m.**

**Morning Prayer in the Lady Chapel, - Tuesday, 9a.m.**

**Collect Alternative Collect**

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| Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.** | Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.**Amen.** |

**Acts 8.26-end**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: ‘Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.’ The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

For the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 22.25-end Response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall live for ever.

**Response**

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,

and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's and he rules over the nations.

**Response**

How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship,

or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?

He has saved my life for himself; my descendants shall serve him;

this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.

They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people yet unborn,

declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

**Response**

**John 15.1-8**

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.’ This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Post Communion Prayer**

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

***Forthcoming Activities and Events at St. Michael’s***

**CRAFTY CUPPA – Friday, 26 April & 10 May – 10.30a.m.-12noon.**

A drop-in session for everyone who wants a cuppa and some company. try your hand at dried flower arrangements on 26 April. Bring your own silk flowers, a few leaves and a picture frame if you wish to; glue will be provided. All welcome.

**“POP IN AND PAINT” – Friday, 3** **May**

Join Jenny Thompson and Liz Grammenos from Simpatico. No experience needed – only enthusiasm and interest. All materials supplied, but you are welcome to bring your own paints. If you prefer just to come along for a chat and to watch the proceedings, that’s fine too!

**REPAIR CAFÉ – Saturday, 4 May – 10.a.m.-1p.m.**

Come along to SustainableAmersham.org’s pop-up Repair Café, where volunteer repairers will help you fix your stuff for free. No appointment required. Free refreshments are available.

**FAIR TRADE STALL – Sunday, 12 May – After the 10a.m. Eucharist**

The stall regularly offers a range of groceries, and seasonal items, with other lines on request. Please come to the stall and support Fair Trade.

**MESSY CHURCH – Saturday, 18 May – 11.30a.m.-1p.m.**

The third Saturday each month. This is a fun, informal activity for all the family, combining creative activities and biblical teaching, followed by lunch. All welcome. No need to book. Just turn up.

***Activities and Events beyond St. Michael’s***

**LUNCHBREAK – Amersham Free Church** **– Tuesday, 30 April – 12noon-2p.m.** - Tea, coffee and soup are available. The church is open for quiet reflection, and from 1.10p.m-1.30p.m.Ian Green will give a talk on *The Royal Coat of Arms.*

**AMERSHAM FESTIVAL OF MUSIC – FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FESTIVAL – APRIL**

Programme details can be found on **amershamfestival.org** or by calling **0333 666 3366.**

**ST. ANDREW’S LITERATURE FESTIVAL – 21-22 JUNE**

"Join us in Great Missenden for the St. Andrew’s Literature Festival! Listen to captivating stories and wisdom from some of the UK's best loved Christian authors, right on your doorstep. Don't miss this opportunity to engage with great Christian literature and find out how God is changing lives through the written word. Find out more - <https://stalitfest.co.uk/>"