

PRAYER BOX

Please pray for:

Those who live and work in Ironsbottom.

The staff and students of Sidlow Bridge School

The sick, isolated and troubled, especially Maureen Pacey, Sheila W, David Jeffries, Andrew Hubbard and those who care for them.

Those we have loved but see no more, those who have recently died, especially William Constable and those who mourn for them.

SUNDAY READINGS ETC.

COLLECT FOR 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

FIRST READING — *Acts 10.44-end*

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ 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, ⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptising these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

PSALM 98

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
- 2 His own right hand and his holy arm
have won for him the victory.
- 3 The Lord has made known his salvation;
his deliverance has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 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.

- 5 Sound praises to the Lord, all the earth;
break into singing and make music.
- 6 Make music to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the voice of melody.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sound praises before the Lord, the King.
- 8 Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,
the world and all that dwell upon it.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands
and let the hills ring out together before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.

GOSPEL READING – *John 15.9-17*

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I 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. ¹⁶You 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. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our Father, whose 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**

WEEKDAY READINGS

- Monday** - Psalm 65, Deuteronomy 26, 1 Peter 4.1-11
Tuesday - Psalm 124, Deuteronomy 28.1-15, 1 Peter 4.12-end
Wednesday - Psalm 132, Deuteronomy 28.58-end, 1 Peter 5
Thursday - Psalm 47, Acts 1.1-11, Luke 24.44-end. Ascension Day
Friday - Psalm 138, Deuteronomy 21.22-22.8, 1 Peter 3.1-12
Saturday - Psalm 146, Deuteronomy 24.5-end, 1 Peter 3.13-end

ASCENSION DAY PSALM 47

- 1 Clap your hands together, all you peoples;
O sing to God with shouts of joy.
- 2 For the Lord Most High is to be feared;
he is the great King over all the earth.
- 3 He subdued the peoples under us
and the nations under our feet.
- 4 He has chosen our heritage for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom he loves.
- 5 God has gone up with a merry noise,
the Lord with the sound of the trumpet.
- 6 O sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.
- 7 For God is the King of all the earth;
sing praises with all your skill.
- 8 God reigns over the nations;
God has taken his seat upon his holy throne.
- 9 The nobles of the peoples are gathered together
with the people of the God of Abraham.
- 10 For the powers of the earth belong to God
and he is very highly exalted.

AND FINALLY ...

It doesn't seem possible that we are now into May, and next week we have Ascension Day, the day when Jesus finally left the earth and returned to his Father. To mark that, we will have an Ascension Day service on Thursday 13th at 7pm via zoom instead of the usual Wednesday evening Night Prayer. I have included the Psalm for that service in this News Sheet so that you can join in. You can connect to the zoom meeting by using the link below (and codes as required):

Topic: Ascension Day Service

Time: May 13, 2021 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83834079761?pwd=RWFwd0xIVTBOV0JwUGhIVUE5V3ZHZz09>

Meeting ID: 838 3407 9761

Passcode: 092498

or by phoning:

0203 481 5237 or

0203 481 5240

Meeting ID: 838 3407 9761

Passcode: 092498

I will put the service sheet on the screen. If you are intending to phone in and would like a paper copy of the service sheet, please let me know.

On each of the next two Sundays I hope as many as possible will be able to stay for the Annual Parochial Church Meetings after the services (this week Emmanuel and next St Nicholas') so we can have an opportunity to review what has happened over the last couple of years and give a bit of thought to the future. Only those on the Electoral Roll of the particular church are able to vote, but anyone else is welcome to remain after the service for the meeting if they wish to.

Take care everyone.

God bless you.

Sue

God of Clouds

God makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth. He sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from His storehouses. Psalm 135:7

By day the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way. Exodus 13:21

God covers the sky with clouds. He supplies the earth with rain and makes the grass grow. Psalm 147:8

"Can you count the clouds or pour out their rain?" Job 38:37

A bright cloud covered them and a voice from the cloud said, "This is My Son and I love him. Listen to him!" Mark 9:7

And while they were watching, Jesus was taken up into a cloud, and was hidden from view. Acts 1:9

Editor and Poet: Nigel Beeton writes: "A few weeks ago, the UK paused to remember the devastation that Covid-19 has caused. Who could imagine that in just a year such a thing could happen. What a tribute to those who laboured long and hard to achieve that.

I realise that some of us still await the first dose of the vaccine, and I hope that they will soon get it. I also realise that some vaccinators are men; it was just that, for me, on both occasions I met A Lady with the Shot.

So, begging pardon for the awful pun, and to Alfred, Lord Tennyson for crimes against his masterpiece, *The Lady of Shalott*, here is my poem:"

A Lady with the Shot

On either side the dangers lie
We may sicken, we may die;
We cannot drive, we cannot fly,
We must wear masks, but some ask, "why?"
"It's just a massive plot!"

Though some may protest loud and shrilly
We have to tell them, "don't be silly,"
There's just one route from fear so chilly:
The covid vaccine shot!

Through long and anxious toilsome days
They sought for virus-killing ways,
It's hard to find the words of praise –
Their skill and knowledge just amaze!
They loosed a Gordian Knot!

For months the news had gone so badly
How nice to turn from thinking sadly
And go and meet so very gladly
A lady with the shot

And now must all folk gladly share
The vaccine which, with equal care
Protects all people, everywhere
If it's use is wise and fair.
We must share what we've got.

And then at last this virus stealthy
Will threaten no-one – poor or wealthy
No more masks to keep us healthy
This clever vaccine shot!

And another of his ditties

My Garden?

I thought I owned a garden
A lovely place to be
A bird said, "Beg your pardon,
"This land belongs to me!"

A squirrel dropped a nut on me
Which wasn't what I'd planned
"Get lost!", said he, "for can't you see
"You trespass on my land?"

A pheasant flapped and squawked so loud
I scarce could hear me think!
"Get off my ground, for two's a crowd!"
He kicked up such a stink!

The wild-life around me
So loudly do protest!
They growl and screech till I can see
That I am just a guest!

