

Your Word of the Week

10th May 2020



Christ Church
Wheelock

St Michaels
Crewe Green



St Matthews
Haslington



Gospel Reading

John 14: 1-14 Jesus the Way to the Father *(Good News Bible)*

¹“Do not be worried and upset,” Jesus told them. “Believe in God and believe also in me. ²There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. ³And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am. ⁴You know the way that leads to the place where I am going.”

⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going; so how can we know the way to get there?”

⁶Jesus answered him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me. ⁷Now that you have known me,” he said to them, “you will know my Father also, and from now on you do know him and you have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father; that is all we need.”

⁹Jesus answered, “For a long time I have been with you all; yet you do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. Why, then, do you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe, Philip, that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I have spoken to you,” Jesus said to his disciples, “do not come from me. The Father, who remains in me, does his own work. ¹¹Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If not, believe because of the things I do. ¹²I am telling you the truth: those who believe in me will do what I do — yes, they will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father. ¹³And I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it.”

Reflection from Vicar Jane Lloyd

Do not let your hearts be troubled, believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many dwelling-places”

I often read these words from Jesus when my heart is troubled, generally, it is at funerals. And this morning too, as I write, my heart is troubled. My heart is troubled to hear about the continuing death and suffering from Corona virus. My heart is troubled that on Monday morning I will gather at the crematorium, with a handful of loved ones, to commend into God's tender care one of God's faithful children. My heart is troubled that some people aren't taking this virus seriously and are putting others at risk. My heart is troubled by some of the things this pandemic has uncovered in our society. Indeed, my heart is troubled that many people are losing jobs and income. And yes, my heart is troubled as I think about what gathering in worship may look like when and if it becomes possible. My heart is troubled!

Jesus steps into my troubles, and into all our troubles, in the same way that he stepped into that room, long ago, where his deeply troubled disciples had gathered. Jesus calls his followers to trust God and he affirms God's promise to God's people. Ultimately, God's promise, to those who live with God, that they will abide with God, forever and they will be at home. We too, in these troubled times, are to hear Jesus words, “Do not let your hearts be troubled, believe in God, believe also in me”. We are to hold fast to the sure and certain hope that we have in Jesus. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. And ultimately, the way leads us home, eternally, with God.

The solution to our troubled hearts then is to trust. We trust in Jesus' presence with us, he will never leave us and is always beside us. We trust in Jesus' promises to lead us and guide us and bring us home. When everything seems dark & gloomy, when everything seems to be falling apart, we trust Jesus and know we won't get lost because he is the way, the truth and the life, and will bring us home. Keep these verses by your bedside, turn to them and be encouraged and upheld by Jesus.

We come together in Prayer

Collect Fifth Sunday of Easter

Almighty God,
who through thine only-begotten Son
Jesus Christ hast overcome death and
opened unto us the gate of everlasting
life:

we humbly beseech thee that,
as by thy grace preceding us
thou dost put into our minds good
desire,
so by thy continual help
we may bring the same to good effect:
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

Lord Jesus,
we thank you for the vision of
heaven as rooms in your
Father's house. When our
hearts are troubled, we pray
that you bless us with faith and
help us to trust you. Give us
your strength and let us know
your assurance and the hope
you have given us. We give
thanks for those who have
helped us in our Christian
journey and pray for all those in
our various communities who,
through their lives and
teaching, help to bring others to
know you as Saviour and Lord.
Amen.



A free phoneline of hymns,
reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

Are you in need of some daily
hope during this lockdown?
We have a new FREE telephone
line for you to ring to hear
comforting hymns, daily prayers
and reflections.

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND  Faith in Later Life **CONNECTIONS**

Please remember the sick in your prayers:

Harry Smith, Georgia Garner, Nathan Garner, Albert Hill, Andrew Heard, Eva Hitchen, Jerome Bains, Dennis and Margaret Cooper, June Ollier, Colin Evans, Margaret Jones, Janette Blood, Josie Whittaker, Dave Kerr, Janet Harding, Rita Harrison, Hazel Looker, Silvia Good, Melodi Kahya, John Lewis, Betty Ledward and the residents and staff at Clarendon Court care home, Stephen Jones, Frank Woodward.

We thank God for the lives of those who have died:

Graham Harvey (from St Matthews), Emrys Thomas, Lilian Clarke, Pamela Fry (*from St Matthews*), Brenda Shone (*from Christ Church*), Bill Hughes, George Tomlinson, Geoffrey Condliffe, Doris Mottram and Marjorie Walton. - remembering too family and friends who miss them.

Notices & Services

Sunday
9.30am Morning Worship - Live stream for St Matthew's and St Michael's
10.45am Morning Worship - Live stream for Christ Church
7.00pm Churches Together #PrayersOfHope. Sharing a prayer each week on our Facebook pages.

Tuesday
10.00am 'Your Song of the Week.' Facebook post with your favourite hymns / worship music and a short note from our congregation and a link to YouTube.

Wednesday
9.00am Morning Prayer on Zoom. For joining instructions please do get in touch.
10.00am Easter Reflections Weekly reflection based on the Stations of the Resurrection
7.00pm Evening Prayer Telephone Service For joining instructions please private message us on or email contact.christchurchwheelock@gmail.com

PLEASE DO CHECK with your phone provider that 03 numbers are included in your tariff to avoid extra charges.

Thursday
7.20pm Pilgrim Course / Bible Study on Zoom. For joining instructions please private message us on Facebook or email contact.christchurchwheelock@gmail.com

Advance Notices

17 May 4.30pm Rogation Sunday Video Service
Daily 21-31 May 'Thy Kingdom Come' Benefice parishioners lead a short bible reading and prayers each day on Facebook. Full details to follow.

Weekly email with **Your Word of the Week** and **Junior Word**

Don't forget, all this and more is available on the united benefice website <https://www.hcganglican.org>