

Bourne Abbey and Parish Church

www.bourneabbey.uk

 Bourne Abbey Church Group

Sunday 28 April 2024

Fourth after Easter

A warm welcome to all! Please take this pew sheet home and include those listed on the reverse in your prayers.

Are you visiting the Abbey today?

If you are a communicant member of your own church, you are invited to take communion here. If you would prefer to receive a blessing instead, please come forward holding the service booklet as an indication.

Gluten-free wafers are available – please ask a greeter / the churchwarden.

Services this week:

Thursday 2 May: 10.00 am – Holy Communion (BCP).

Sunday 5 May: 11.00 am Sung Eucharist.

Tea and coffee continue to be served after the service; do stay and enjoy Christian fellowship.

Dates for Your Diary

Gardening. The next weeding session will take place on Tuesday 30 April from 1400-1500 with our friends from the U3A. Refreshments are provided afterwards. Please bring your own containers and tools, e.g. hoe, fork, secateurs, weed remover. Some jobs do not require kneeling or bending. All welcome.

PCC Meeting, Thursday 2 May, 1900 in church.

Nibble & Natter coffee morning, Saturday 4 May, 1000-1200, Church Hall. Book stall, raffle & refreshments. Proceeds to Church Funds.

Foodbank. The 8 most-needed items for the Bourne foodbank are: custard (tinned or carton); shaving gel & razors; squash & fruit juice; tinned fruit; tinned rice pudding; UHT milk; washing powder/liquid; and washing up liquid. Please leave donations in the plastic box at the back of the church. Many thanks.

Wanted! Flower arrangers; if interested please contact Ann Northen on 01778 423353.

Please pray for:

The parish and deanery: for Fr. Stephen Buckman, Fr. Peter Lister, Rev. Sylvia Rice-Oxley, Rev. Canon David Staples, Bishop Hall and our Ministry Team.

Peace and goodwill within and between nations: especially for peace and justice in Ukraine, Yemen, Afghanistan, North and South Sudan, the Holy Land and for those countries where democracy is being eroded. We also pray for those in refugee camps for the displaced, wherever they may be.

Those suffering hunger, disease and oppression: especially those people whose homes have been lost through war, and natural disaster; those suffering from the shortage of food, water and medicines, particularly in Syria, Central Africa, North & South Sudan, Yemen, Afghanistan & Somalia. We pray for those in our own country who are homeless, hungry and in need of support.

Those in present need.

Those whose illness or recovery is longer-term.

The souls of the recently departed: Michael Childe-Freeman, Maureen Gatenby, Gwen Leverton, Beryl Oxley & Judy Brackenbury.

Those whose year's mind falls this week: Bernard Stublely, Francis Hewitt, Kathleen Lingard, John Hubbard, Vera Bristow, Damien Gaunt, Mary Wells, Laurence Cope, Elizabeth Mary Pignatiello.

We welcome the names of those who are ill or awaiting an operation, so that prayers may be offered for them, and/or a visit arranged.

Prayers and Readings for the Fourth Sunday after Easter

Collect

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.

Reading

Acts 8.26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So 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 ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now 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.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
 Who can describe his generation?
 For his life is taken away from the earth.'

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As 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?' ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When 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. ⁴⁰But 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.

Gospel Reading

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.

John 15.1-8

Jesus said to his disciples: ¹'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide 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. ⁵I 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. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

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.