

Welcome to St Andrew's Church

28th April 2024
The Fifth Sunday of Easter



Welcome

It's lovely to have you worshipping with us today, if you are new, we would love to welcome you, please do introduce yourself to one of our welcomers on the door. If you need any help or information, they will be happy to assist.

We welcome all comers whether this is your first time or thousandth time in church. You are welcome whatever your age, gender, marital status, disability, race or sexuality. You are welcome whether you have a deep and mature faith in Christ; are uncertain and still seeking; or have no faith.

To find out more about what's on at St Andrew's please see our website and Facebook pages;

<https://standrewseg.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/StAndrewsChurchEasternGreen/>

Collect

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.

First Reading: 1 John 4:7-end

God Is Love

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

NRSVA (New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)

Second Reading: Acts 8:26-end

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

²⁶ Then an 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.) ²⁷ 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 ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' ³¹ He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² 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.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

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

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

Jesus the True Vine

'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.

NRSVA (New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised)

Post Communion

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.

Notices

Monday Zoom Prayers

There will be no Monday zoom prayer this week. On Monday 29th April zoom prayer will be at 9am.

APCM

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, this will take place on 29th April 2024 at 7.30pm in church. At this meeting representatives for the PCC, and Deanery Synod will be elected, along with Churchwardens. Nomination forms are at the back of church, if you are interested in finding out more please do speak to Jo. Please do come along to the meeting to find out more about the life and work of the church.

Copies of the APCM Report are now available at the back of church or can be found on our website:

<https://standrewseg.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/APCM-Report-2024.pdf>

Tots Time

Tots time is our new Tots group for babies toddlers and their carers. Running twice a month on Thursdays. Pop in any time from 8.45am, finishing around 10.15am. The next few dates are: 9th and 23rd May.

Teas

We really need some more helpers to join our tea rota. It's a great way to get to know people and you only need to stay for half an hour after the service. The dates we currently have on the rota available are 28th April, 5th May, 2nd and 9th June. If you can help with any of these or to find out more, please email Julie or chat to Jo. If you don't currently do much in church life it's a great way to get involved and is easy to do. Thanks Jo

Children Society Boxes

If you have a box would you please bring it to church so I can empty it for you. Thank you for your ongoing support. If you would like to support the work of the Children Society please have chat with me, there are many different ways you can donate. Nick.

Confirmations at the Cathedral

On Sunday 19th May at 4pm in the Cathedral the Bishop will be holding a service of confirmation. All baptised members of the Church of England who receive communion are encouraged to get confirmed. It's a lovely, encouraging service and a real blessing to be prayed for by the Bishop. If you would like to get confirmed, or be baptised and confirmed at this service please speak to Jo. Please do put the date in the diary, we have two candidates going and it would be lovely to have a group from church to support and pray for them.

After Alpha

We will be holding a couple of sessions exploring communion, confirmation and the creed, on Sunday evenings in May. This is open to anyone who has done the Alpha course and any church members who would like a refresher and a chance to think about these things. Dates are 5th and 12th May at 5pm. Please let Jo know if you would like to come.

Open Doors Coffee Time



We are planning to open the church once a month for people to come and have a coffee/tea/cake. This is open to all and will run from 10.30am to 12 noon on the first Tuesday of the month, starting on 7th May. Feel free to drop in, have refreshments and a chat with others there. All are welcome. Any questions please speak with Sue Masters/Lynnette Clarke.

Funeral Verger

We are looking to recruit a stand-in funeral verger to cover funerals when our usual funeral verger isn't available. This is a paid role of £40 per funeral. If anyone is interested, please speak to Jo.

Prayer Book

There is a book placed at the back of the church in memory of Lesley Lee, in which you are invited to enter the name of someone for whom you would like to be held in prayer. Please feel free to make an entry in the book knowing those named will be held in prayer by the Prayer Group.

Craft and Hobby Fair

Our next Craft and Hobby Fair will be on Saturday 1st June from 1.30pm - 4.30pm at Eastern Green Village Hall. We are looking for:

- donations of books and jigsaws, including children's.
- anything suitable to be used as raffle prizes
- donations of sweets and chocolates for the tombola
- donations of cakes
- help on the day with serving the refreshments.
- Please do not send any bric-a-brac.

If you can help, please speak to Rebecca Martin in church or contact Julie on 07756 918847 or administrator@standrews-eg.org.uk. Thank you.

Volunteering and Safeguarding

All church volunteers, whether paid or unpaid, will need to be safely recruited and possibly also require a basic/enhanced DBS check. If you have any questions about safeguarding and volunteering, please speak to Julia McNaney on 07872 614688 or Rev Jo.

Donations

Should you wish to give online to support the work of the church, the link below or the QR code will take you directly to the page. It is a secure way of supporting the churches ministry. Thank you for your ongoing support. Nick Tooby.

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/eef64318-0a22-4db7-8d81-0ab3ccddf15d>



Diary Dates	Time	Event
Sun 28 th April	10.00am	Parish Communion
Mon 29 th April	7.30pm	APCM
Weds 1 st May	10.00am	Midweek Communion
Sat 4 th May	9.30am	Time to Pray
Sun 5 th May	8.00am	Said Communion
	10.00am	Worship 4 Everyone
	5.00pm	After Alpha
Tues 7 th May	10.30am	Open Doors
	6.00pm	Baptism Preparation
Weds 8 th May	10.00am	Midweek Communion
Thurs 9 th May	8.45am	Tots Time

*Please send notices for next week to Julie by 9am on Thursday,
email administrator@standrews-eg.org.uk or call 07756 918847*