



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

On Sunday we recall Acts 2 when the Believers come together as a community for the first time.



## Five Foundational Truths

- One** Jesus is the Cornerstone of the Christian faith
- Two** Jesus is the core of the *Essential Gospel* and the core of our Christian faith
- Three** Jesus personally calls us to follow Him
- Four** Jesus gave one all-encompassing command – to love one another as He loved us.
- Five** Jesus gave one primary mission to His followers called the Great Commission\*.

\* to be disciple making disciples. Matthew 28: 16-20



## Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd  
I shall not want; he  
makes me lie down in  
green pastures and  
leads to quiet pools of  
fresh water. He gives  
me new strength. Even  
though I go through  
deep darkness I will not  
be afraid for You are  
with me, your rod and  
staff protect me...

## Dear Friends

In *Thought for the Week* (back page) Liz uses an image of her apricot tree. She reminds us of the fruits of the Spirit.

What Liz is hoping for is the right conditions for her tree so that the fruit is set – she is hoping there'll be no late frost. As I was reflecting on how much blessing we perhaps take for granted and what others endure, I was set thinking that too many in our society suffered 'frosts' in their lives which hinder righteous fruit forming. Our church strap line is 'Lives Transformed by Jesus'. We all need transforming, to some degree or other by the Holy Spirit in order that we may bear the good fruit ...



## Invitation to Pray

June Trippett invites you to join her and others every morning at 10 am to pray.

### A prayer for today

**Our Father in heaven,** I thank you that I am your child and that your eyes watch over me and see all that is in my heart. You hear the cries of my heart. Stretch out your strong hand to me, for I am weak and often heavy-hearted, not always knowing how to pray.

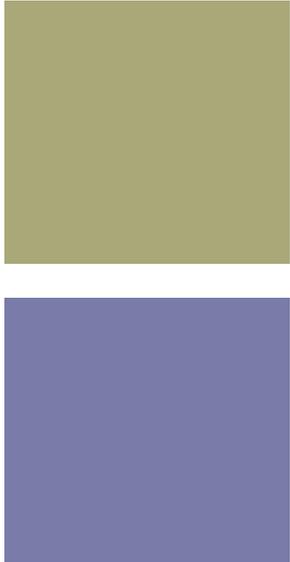
Help me to see and hear you in reading the Bible and in the beauty of creation that surrounds me, to know that you are with me in spite of my weakness and fears. You lead me through every day to find my rest in you, until I can rejoice over all you have done, to the praise of your name, our Father. Amen. 🙏



*contd. from page 1.*

of patience, forbearance, and gentleness. These begin to be a needed more as we are confined to our homes for longer and unable to meet with our family or friends, to have that human touch we all need to thrive. You are missed but not forgotten by the family of the church when we meet together with video links on the Internet and join with your prayers for God's mercy and blessing on us all.

With our love, Peter & Rosie 🙏



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers

Available 24 hours a day, callers will hear a special greeting from the Archbishop of Canterbury before being able to choose from a range of options, including Prayer During the Day, and Night Prayer, updated daily from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England's weekly national online service. A section called *Hymn Line* will also offer callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled *Hymns We Love*, provides a hymn and reflection and is based on an initiative by a group called *Connections*. ✨

## Parish Lunch on Wheels

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 12.30

Call Rachel 07515831161 or leave a message on the Parish Office no. if you have not heard from her and would like a meal delivered to your home.

Menu: Steak pie, new potatoes, peas and carrots. Desert home made cake from the coffee shop. ✨





## Thought for the Week

Checking the apricot trees in my orchard, I look to see if any fruit has set. The warm weather brought early blossom at risk from a late frost, wind, rain, even snow, but this year is hot and dry - a bumper crop, like two summers ago, wouldn't go amiss.

It is not just the weather that is so unusual – we're in 'lockdown'. It occurs to me that we need to be looking for fruit in *us* too.

During his first missionary journey Paul planted churches in Galatia. Hoping that those early Gentile Believers might bear fruit, Paul wrote to them later around 49AD, using fruit as an analogy and spelling out that you reap what you sow in life as well as in the ground.

Paul told them that the Holy Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; a kind of fruit in our lives. Just the types of fruit we need to cope with lockdown today.

If we take God at his word, we must love Him too so as to produce a fruitful harvest. As you receive the gift of His Spirit, let God cultivate these fruit in the fertile soil of your soul, fruit that will make this bitter situation sweeter and reveal God's love to a world in distress.

For further reflection read: Hosea 10:12, Galatians 6:7-8 and 5:22

Orchard Owner 🍏