

**Sunday 9 May 2021**

**Easter 6**

**Rev’d John Reeve Vicar**

**Tel: (023) 80663267**

**JOHNREEVE6@aol.com**

**Churchwardens :**

* **Malcolm Bonning (023 80870648 &** **Malcolm.bonning@btinternet.com****)**
* **Mel Bradshaw (023 80 785785 &** **melbradshaw44@gmail.com****)**

[www.stmatthewsnetleymarsh.co.uk](http://www.stmatthewsnetleymarsh.co.uk)

**Sunday Worship**

**8.00am** Holy Communion (doors open at 7.50am)

**11.30am** Morning Worship *(*doors open at 11.20am)

**Rev’d John video messages**– ‘Discovering Joy ’ is available from John’s youtube channel ‘Rev’d John Rev’d John’ and his full library is located at wwww.stmarycopythorne.net

**Ascension Day** – is this Thursday (13 May). There is an Ascension Day service of Holy Communion in the benefice at St. Mary’s Church, Copythorne at 7.00pm. Everybody is really welcome as we keep this important Feast Day in the church year.

**The Restoration Project :** as we will have heard the tender we are looking to go with comes in at a total cost of approx £360K. Grant applications are being drawn up at this present time... and we have currently £43K raised in the Restoration Fund. We are looking to have £100K in our own fund to contribute to the total costs. This is going to be a major effort over these next weeks and months.

At the Annual Meeting and last Sunday John spoke about the **‘Netley Marsh BIG Challenge’ –** where us (the church community) and the wider community are invited to set ourselves a personal Summer challenge – that can be completed some time between July and September – where we can raise funds for the Restoration Project. It was lovely to hear on Sunday members of our own community talking about the possible challenges they will set themselves.. The Challenge will be launched in a few weeks time – so start thinking about how you can do something – baking, gardening, exercise... be imaginative - to raise funds from your own contacts.

Amazing things can happen when only a few people believe in something and choose to do something (no matter how small) - our church has an enormous resonance with our community... we can do this... and it will be a very special way to start our parish life together.

**Summer Fete :** we have scheduled a Summer Fete for **Saturday 10 July 2.00-4.00pm.** As you know there will be no Carnival this year – so this will be a much simpler event – **we will need plenty of cakes and bottles, but no bric-a-brac (we have plenty!). For more info do contact either Deana or Ros.**

**Donating to St. Matthew’s via on-line or mobile banking** We have been really blessed with the on-going generosity of our people – this really has and continues to be an enormous help in ensuring we can meet our financial obligations. If you would like to set up a regular giving or a one-off donation contact David (stmatthewsnetleymarsh@gmail.com)

or John for the banking details.

**From John – our Vicar**

Jesus doesn’t give many commands, but in John 15 he seems to be tripping over commands. Last week we heard the command ‘Stay in me’, and that command is repeated in this week’s Gospel reading: ‘As God the Father has loved Jesus, so Jesus has loved us, remain in me...’ wow!

Too many times these words of Jesus are read in church or skimmed and barely registered as we turn the pages of our bibles at home. The words are familiar, perhaps too familiar, and we lose the enormity of what is being communicated.

The love of God, the One in whom all things are made in heaven and earth, is something beyond our scope of human metaphor. And yet the power and the tenderness are felt in human hearts in every corner of the world. You don’t need a university degree to catch this, it is given, and the door of the heart just has to be opened. We might call this door the door of permission – we consciously give permission for God’s love to flow into and through our existence – in all the flaws and imperfections. To allow this love to wash clean, make new, and energise the day to day living of our lives.

When love is spoken of it is always in relation to others as well as to ourselves. It is located in ‘family’ where connections are grounded in the blood ties and commitments made in familial care. Parents have responsibility for their children, and children have responsibility for their parents. Grandparents are welcomed into the network of obligations, and sisters and brothers are taught to value each other, befriend one another and let the family name be ingrained in identity and formation.

But all these responsibilities and obligations doesn’t mean ‘family’

inevitably becomes a wearisome duty, but rather Jesus reminds us there is a ‘joy’ running through all our relationships one with each other. In John chapter 15 Jesus tells his disciples his joy is in them and it is ‘complete’. In other words there is a ‘fullness of joy’ which permeates every part of our being – even in times of dislocation as well as celebration.

It is really important to remember this – we carry joy with us. Joy is not located in the object enjoyed – this is a common mistake, in that we identify joy in the success story, achievement, and when life works out just as we wanted! No, joy is not in the event, but in the eye we carry with us. We bring ‘joy’ into every situation we walk into... we feel an ‘enjoyment’ bubbling up inside us – even when walking up the stairs. This simple, much repeated action, can be filled with a lovely ‘enjoyment’ because we allow ‘joy’ to flow... we open the door. We don’t just wait for that amazing sunset or the rainbow in the sky, but we allow the ‘joy’ to flow – like a river flowing with life and vibrancy – into all of life.

So in giving permission for ‘joy’ to frame our days, we discover, very naturally, this thing called ‘love’. We begin to understand people and things, inspiration emerges almost at every turn, and we own a ‘oneness’ with people, creatures and all of nature. This is what we call ‘holy living’!

A joyful person doesn’t always draw attention to themselves, but they carry a confidence and grace uncluttered from their own self absorption. It’s one of the markers of discipleship – joy is always an inside job! Simple, uncomplicated joy is the force which enables love to be a tangible energy and not just a nice idea. Our joy is already ‘complete’ – there’s no need to wait for it – it’s here, in us and with us!

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**Collect for Easter 6**

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Acts 10: 44-48**

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. **45**The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. **46**For they heard them speaking in tongues[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2010%3A44-48&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27306a)] and praising God.

Then Peter said, **47**“Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” **48**So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

**John 15: 9-17**

“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10**If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. **11**I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12**My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13**Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. **14**You are my friends if you do what I command. **15**I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16**You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17**This is my command: Love each other.

**Prayers for Easter 6**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come, the Almighty.

**Confession**

Let us make an act of confession.

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, We come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.

In your mercy, forgive us. **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.

In your mercy, forgive us. **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us. **Lord, hear us and help us.**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon for all our sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

We sing!

1 Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.

2 Of his deliv'rance I will boast,
till all that are distressed
from my example comfort take,
and charm their griefs to rest.

3 Oh, magnify the Lord with me;
with me exalt his name;
when in distress to him I called,
he to my rescue came.

4 The hosts of God encamp around
the dwellings of the just;
deliv'rance he affords to all
who on his succor trust.

5 Oh, make but trial of his love,
experience will decide
how blest are they, and only they,
who in his truth confide.

6 Fear him, ye saints, and you will then
have nothing else to fear;
make you his service your delight,
your wants shall be his care.

**Prayers of intercession  *(prepared by Sue Curtis)***

**Let us pray.**

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks and praise we thank you for all we have in our lives we thank you for your nearness and love, we thank you for your Son Jesus who is our light and way. We pray for our community and for our country as we get to come back to a normal way of life, we pray for when we will be able to sing your praises in our beloved St Matthews, and take communion as we used to.

**Lord in your mercy**

Heavenly Father, we pray for all who are suffering, physically and mentally, help them feel you within and ease their suffering, we pray for all people of the world, their trials we cannot even begin to imagine, we pray that you give them mercy and peace and be within them.

**Lord in your mercy...**

Heavenly Father we pray for John and all our community, that we all feel closer to one another, help us to help each other, we pray for our schools, teachers, and children, give them guidance to follow the right path, to learn the truth. We pray for our Church, and our fund raising to help do the work that needs to be done to preserve your house and serve the community and surrounding areas for

generations to come. Give us the guidance to do your will.

**Lord in your mercy …**

Dear Father, we remember those who have died in recent days : **Jim Beattie, Brian Akehurst, Hazel Ponsford**

And those who’s anniversary occurs this week... **Edith Parrington (10th) ,Margaret Wright (12th)**

REST ETERNAL, GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD **AND LET LIGHT PERPETUAL SHINE UPON THEM.**

We pray Heavenly Father for those who are preparing for their weddings, and thoseParents preparing for baptism, give them your grace and peace and shine your light on them.

Lord God, when you give us work to do, help us to remember that it is not the beginning , but the

Continuing of the same to the end, until it is thoroughly finished, which manifests your glory, through him for the finishing of your worklaid down his life, our redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Help us heavenly Father to feel your light and your love within us every day.

**: Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**We sing!**

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks To The Risen Lord
Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Praise To His Name [2]*

Jesus Is Lord Of All The Earth
He Is The King Of Creation

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks To The Risen Lord
Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Praise To His Name*

Spread The Good News All The Earth
Jesus Has Died And Has Risen

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks To The Risen Lord
Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Praise To His Name*

We Have Been Crucified With Christ
Now We Shall Live Forever

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks To The Risen Lord
Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Praise To His Name*

God Has Proclaimed The Just Reward
Life For All Men, Alleluia!

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks To The Risen Lord
Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Praise To His Name*

Come Let Us Praise The Living God
Joyfully Sing To Our Saviour

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks To The Risen Lord
Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Praise To His Name [2]*

**The Blessing**

**The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you, and remain with you always. Amen.**