

You are very welcome to take your Pew Sheet home.
Please see the back page for a list of upcoming services in the United Benefice

Sunday 14th May 2017 - CW edition



**The United Benefice of Long Crendon (LC),
Cheersley (Ch) & Nether Winchendon (NW)**

WELCOME EVERYONE TODAY AND EVERY DAY

Parish prayer points for May



Prayer is the foundation of all we do in our daily lives as well as in our church life - after all, a relationship thrives on communication. As we pray throughout the month on our own, or in gatherings on Sunday and during the week, can I invite us to pray for these particular people:

In our 3 churches, giving thanks for all those who provide and serve refreshments for us to enjoy together. For the Sunday service teams; for the Café Sunday team; for the Cream Teas team; for the Coffee Thursday team; and for all those one-off events where we eat and drink so well!

In our 3 villages, please pray for everyone who serves us in local government. For our parish councillors, district councillors, those who stood in the county council elections, and for those employed by them.

A message from Richard, our Vicar:

“Thank you for all you give already, and for reflecting on your giving this week. Please use the season of Easter to pray about how you give your time, talents and money, not just to the church but in every part of your life. Make sure you’ve taken the separate booklet helping you do this.”

Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

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, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Readings for Today:



For The Old Testament: Acts 7.55-end

But filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The Epistle: 1 Peter 2.2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation - if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, *"The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,"* and *"A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall."*

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Gospel: St. John 14.1-14

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am

going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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. **Amen**

Notes for your diary:

Sunday 14th May, Church House, St. Mary's Bring & Share Lunch, following the 10:30 am Holy Communion service. Please contact Georgina Freestone (07884 386801) to volunteer food and ask any questions. These events are good fun for all as we share a communal Sunday lunch together.

Cream Teas at St. Nicholas' Nether Winchendon – 28th and 29th May, 2:30-5:00 pm: Delicious cream teas – bring your friends! (Advance notice: there will also be cream teas 27/28th August.)

Saturday 3rd June, Monthly Prayer Gathering at St. Nicholas', Nether Winchendon, 9:30-10:30 am. Our prayer focus will be on the three villages and wider issues. All welcome. Ray Copping and Geoff Hogbin

Friday 30th June to Sunday 2nd July, St. Nicholas' Cheersley: Flower Festival weekend. Joy Payne would be very pleased to receive advance offers of help (not just offers of flowers and greenery, also people to make the teas and welcome visitors and show them round). Previous Festivals have seen the church looking gorgeous, and large numbers of people attending.

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Services in the United Benefice

Sunday 14th May 2017 – The Fifth Sunday of Easter (CW) or the Fourth Sunday after Easter (BCP)

8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	LC	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Morning Celebration	ChLay Led
10:00 am	Matins	NW	Robert Spencer Bernard
10:30 am	Holy Communion	LC	Gordon Kuhrt
6:00 pm	Evensong	Ch	John
Scholefield			

Sunday 21st May 2017 – The Sixth Sunday of Easter (CW) or the Fifth Sunday after Easter (BCP) – Rogation Sunday

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Ch	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Family Service (Rogation)	NW	Richard Phillips
10:30 am	Family Service	LCLay Led

Thursday 25th May 2017 – Ascension Day

7:30 pm	Holy Communion (BCP)	NW	Richard Phillips
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Sunday 28th May 2017 – The Seventh Sunday of Easter (CW) or The Sunday after Ascension Day (BCP)

8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	LC	Derek Witchell
10:00 am	Family Service	Ch	Derek Witchell
10:30 am	Holy Communion with choir	LC	Steve and Rose Williams
6:00 pm	Evensong	NW	Robert Hutton

Sunday 4th June 2017 – The Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday) (CW) or Whit Sunday (BCP)

9:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	NW	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Café Sunday	LC	Lay Led
10:00 am	Family Holy Communion	Ch	Richard Phillips

Sunday 11th June 2017 – Trinity Sunday

8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	LC	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Morning Celebration	ChLay Led
10:00 am	Matins	NW	Robert Spencer Bernard
10:30 am	Holy Communion	LC	Richard Phillips
6:00 pm	Evensong	Ch	Richard Phillips

If you have events coming up in the Benefice and would like them included in future Pew Sheets, please let us have the details on llm.chearsley@btinternet.com Please note that your wording may have to be edited to fit the available space - John and Jenny Scholefield