

**5th Sunday of Easter**

**THE READING: ACTS 8.26 – End**

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.) 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 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over to this chariot and join it.’ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’ He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 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.  
In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
   Who can describe his generation?  
     For his life is taken away from the earth.’  
The eunuch asked Philip, ‘About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?’ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 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?’ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 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. 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.

**THE GOSPEL: JOHN 15. 1-8**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All: Glory to you, O Lord**

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

**This is the Gospel of the Lord**

**All: Praise to you O Christ**

**FOR YOUR PRAYERS**

**Please pray for those who are ill and those in particular need of prayer:**

Beate, Reza, Mehrzad, Faezeh, Mick & Ann, Nicole, Chris, Omid, Shaida, Laura, Diana, AliMuliang, Dave, Riley, Anita, Emma, and Daphne.

**SERVICES & CHURCH OPENING TIMES**

St John’s will also be offering the following Live & Online services through Facebook.  *If you miss any of these, they are saved on the Facebook page so you can follow them in your own time.*

**Tuesday to Saturday 9am**

Morning Prayer. (Online Only)

**Wednesday 1pm**

Holy Communion in Church and Online

**Wednesday 6pm -7.30pm**

Church Open for private prayer.

**Sunday 9.15am**

Diddy Disciples (0-7 year old’s) in church.

**Sunday 10am**

Parish Communion in Church and Online

**Sunday 11am – 13.00pm**

Church Open for Private Prayer

**Sunday 7pm**

Evening prayer (Online Only)

**NEWS & NOTICES**

**CHANGE TO CHURCH BEING OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER**

Please note the church will **NOT** be open for Private prayer this **Wednesday 5th May**, this is due to the church being set up as a Polling station for the Local Elections on Thursday. We apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

**SINGING AT ST JOHNS**

Over the past few months, we have been very blessed to have been supported by Eleanor and members of the All Saints Choir in the leading of our worship. While restrictions remain in place this is potentially going to continue, however once All Saints are allowed a full choir, we will lose this.

I am unsure when we will be allowed to sing in Church again and was wondering if any of our congregation would initially like to join in the All Saints singers at our morning service and/ or if we could start a choir of our own. I am aware that some of you have sung and still sing in other choirs and have sung in the community choir, maybe this is the time for us to launch our own choral tradition?

If you would like to know more then please speak to Wendy or Mark, or, email Wendy [wmalseed@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wmalseed@hotmail.co.uk)

g those who suffer leprosy! I am humbled by such generosity”

**APCM**

Our annual Church meeting will be held during our morning service on the 16th May at 10am. Please do try and come along as at this meeting we will review church life in 2020 & also elect our new Church Wardens, Deanery Synod members and PCC members. If you would be interested in becoming more involved in church life please talk to Mark about what is involved.

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

In normal times a whole team of volunteers takes to the streets of Kingston during Christian Aid Week in May. We deliver envelopes, shake buckets and raise money to help support the world’s poorest communities.

This year is different again! Please support us as we get creative with our fundraising:

* Mark will be walking with 5 other Kingston and Surbiton clergy: 6 vicars, 4.5 miles, 2 buckets of water each, every day from 10-15 May
* Give thanks for your jab! Donate to Christian Aid as way of giving thanks for the scientists, volunteers and medics who have made the UK vaccination programme possible. People in poor countries deserve a jab too
* Our legendary Christian Aid quiz (by Zoom) is on Saturday 15 May, 7.30pm  if you would like to enter and or would be happy to get a St Johns team together please speak to Isobel Robinson.
* There is some house-to-house collection – please pray for those delivering the envelopes. If you would like to give cash or a cheque and do not received an envelope through your letterbox, there will be spare envelopes in church that you can use to hand in a donation

Whatever your reason for giving please give as generously as you can. You can get all details from your church rep or donate at [www.justgiving.com/kingstonchurche](http://www.justgiving.com/kingstonchurches)s

**GIVING TO ST JOHN’S**

Thank you! We rely on your regular giving to keep St John’s going and to support parishes with less resources via our monthly contribution to the Diocese. We are especially grateful to all who make monthly standing order gifts. As you know, we can’t take a formal collection during services at present so you’ll find the **collection plate** on the welcome table instead. If you don’t give by standing order please help by leaving a donation on the plate. There are Gift Aid envelopes here too.

 For new standing orders or one-off gifts our account is: **Kingston St Johns DCC  Sort code: 60-60-02  Acc No: 11610220**  Please mark your donation as ‘Gift’.

**If you prefer a contactless option**, we have a Card Reader available, or a simple way of giving is to point your camera on your phone to the QR code below and follow the link to [givealittle.co.uk](http://givealittle.co.uk/) – you will need your debit card long number, expiry date and security code to complete the transaction. You will also find this link on our website – click on the DONATE button top right.



**CONTACTS FOR ST JOHN'S**

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

[www.inclusive-church.org.uk](http://www.inclusive-church.org.uk)

**Vicar:****Rev Mark Stafford**

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**Parish Administrator: Emma Lloyd-Williams**

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**Hall bookings:** **Frances Hazelgrove**

[parishhall@stjohnskingston.co.uk](mailto:parishhall@stjohnskingston.co.uk)

**Parish Safeguarding Officer**: **Mimi Fagan**

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