

Sunday 2nd May (5th Sunday of Easter)

Church Services

It is vital that if you wish to attend a service in the church building that you book using the details below.

- Sunday - Online worship @ 10am
Said Communion @ 2pm in church
Open table (2nd Sunday in the month) @ 6.30pm
- Wednesday - BCP Holy Communion @ 10am in church.

- Please book in ringing 345 3231 by 4pm the night before the service with your name and contact number. You will only be rung back if we are overbooked.
- Please do not attend if you have COVID symptoms
- Please wear a mask and sanitize on the way in
- Please keep social distance and do not mingle inside the building. Kath will be directing the leaving of the building by rows to keep you safe. It is much safer to chat outdoors at 2 metres!

Latest News

Welcome to our Christian Aid appeal for 2021 (10th-16th May). Whether you can walk, knit, give or post leaflets we are so grateful for your help and the way to give is online at www.assfchurchcrosbythornton.org.uk/christian-aid-week – God bless, Kath

- **Quiz on Saturday May 8th @ 7.30pm** – please contact David Winsland
- **Walk for Water with Rose in Kenya** - Calling all walkers, runners and cyclists. Why not donate your daily exercise to Christian Aid during Christian Aid Week? Team ASSF aims to complete at least 300,000 steps or 230 km.

Any donations for the walk and quiz can also be done online using the link above.

If you can help with leaflet dropping or with the sponsored walk please contact Penny on 07736 523951 or Kathleen on 0151 286 2117 / 07910 172430



✚ **Outdoor service and dedication of the Orchard 16th May at 11.30am led by Bishop Bev.** I am delighted that we shall have an outdoor service, weather

permitting, and be able to sing together at this special service. We need a team from ten to set up the gazebo and set out chairs, stewards from eleven to marshal people safely in and out of the grounds, and a small team to get the chairs out of the loft, clean and back in on Saturday morning and Sunday after the service. If you can help please let Kath know. If you intend to attend again please let Kath know.

↪ **Kath's leaving present** – We are starting a collection towards Kath's leaving present. If you would like to give, the most effective way would be via BACS. The Church bank details are Name: ASSF Church; Acc No: 97755125; Sort code: 60 09 13 Please add **Kath's Gift** as the reference so Andrew knows what the money is for!

↪ **Natalie's Ordination** will take place at 10.30am Saturday 26th June at Liverpool Cathedral. Places are limited to twelve so please let her know if you would like to attend.

↪ **The Time Is Now** - This week the UK Government made a big announcement. They are ramping up ambition to reduce the UK's carbon emissions by 78% in the next 15 years - including flights and shipping which hasn't been the case up to now. This is the climate leadership we expect from the UK as hosts of the UN climate talks. Almost 150,000 people have already signed our Declaration to the Prime Minister, to send a message that the time is now to unleash investment and decisive action to create a cleaner, greener future. Will you join them? Click [here](#) to sign the declaration



↪ **South Sefton Foodbank** is especially busy at the moment and are looking for the following; tinned tomatoes, tinned vegetables, tinned potatoes / instant mash, tinned tuna, rice pudding + jam, UHT juice / squash, instant coffee, men's toiletries & deodorants.

Donations can be left at Crosby Sainsbury's, Formby or Litherland Tesco, Formby Waitrose or dropping off at Waterloo Town Hall (Mon, Thurs, Fri 1pm-3pm)

Hymns

- 9 Alleluia, alleluia (HON)
- 857 I the Lord of sea and sky
- 792 You are the vine
- 34 Angel voices ever singing

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.

Reading - Acts 8.26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both 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 suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Reading - John 15.1-8

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into

the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Help for you

- ↳ The Church of England has a **free dial-in worship service** which offers music, prayers and reflections on a free telephone line 0800 804 8044
- ↳ **Advice Centre** all enquiries should be directed to Citizen's Advice Sefton on 0344 493 0012 www.citizensadvice.org.uk. Debt Advice 0151 318 6407 and help to claim Universal Credit 0800 144 8444

We continue to pray for

Dave Rogers	Mark Isherwood	Phyllis Bell
Mark Wilson	Marian Palin	Judith & Frank Kelly
Barbara Maddock	Billy Harding	Dave Bruford
Ted Meighen	Ken Rimmer	Donald Gallagher
Don Wylie	Ken Lawson	

We pray for the family and friends of Kathy McKeown and Iain Elliott (former curate at ASSF whose funeral is this Friday) and Kathy McKeown, Joyce's good friend and attender of the church for individual prayer.

Prayers for Home Mission - Pray for young people and their families. for those who teach and care for them, and for the charities which campaign on their behalf, especially our mission partner The Children's Society. Pray that forthcoming local elections will give power to those candidates who prioritise the needs of children and young people. Pray for Ventures, its staff and children and their families. Amen

World Mission - As preparations are made for Christian Aid Week (May 10 to 16) pray for a generous response to this annual appeal on behalf of the world's poor and pray that willing volunteers can be found in churches across the UK to take the appeal to their neighbourhoods and parishes. Amen

Israel /Palestine - Amnesty International reported in April that Israeli authorities have shown institutionalised discrimination in failure to provide vaccines for 5 million Palestinians. Only 100 000 have been vaccinated in the Occupied West Bank and 30 000 in Gaza. Pray that more vaccine will be made more available by Covax and richer countries to fill the void left by Israel. Amen

Vicar Reverend Canon Kath Rogers
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Parish Administrator Paul Beardwood
Working at home - Tue, Wed, Thurs 9.30-11.30am

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