



## Monthly Notices - May 2025

**Our Minister - Rev Bethany Willers**

**To contact us please email: [caldicotmc@gmail.com](mailto:caldicotmc@gmail.com) and your query will be directed to the relevant person. Or if you need to contact our minister, Rev. Bethany Willers, email [revbwillers@gmail.com](mailto:revbwillers@gmail.com) (preferred) or call 01291 625015.**

### **Pastoral Letter**

Happy Easter!

Even though we are past Easter Sunday, we are still in the midst of the Easter season, which goes until Pentecost each year. This year, Pentecost will fall on Sunday the 8th of June. As we move through this season, we will have two more opportunities to share together in "Cafe Church" on the first Sunday of each month.

I realized this month that we just kind of jumped into doing this without telling you more about it, so here is how it came about. We first explored the idea of cafe church on a Sunday morning last autumn, when the local scouting group joined us for the Harvest celebration. We did it again with a Christingle service in December. Then, it was requested that we offer this style of worship more often so that children and families could participate more in worship - although really, this style of church is for absolutely everyone!

The goal of this type of service is to be more interactive so that younger folks are engaged, while still sharing stories and information that will engage older adults as well. It really is meant to be for "all ages" though we wanted to shy away from using that specific language. I think everyone can enjoy the elements of this type of service - singing, a craft, a snack, stories - what's not to love?

I think the Holy Spirit is truly present and God delights in our worship when we can gather together a variety of people and find ways to engage with each other and in worship together. I hope you will all keep coming and being open to whatever new things we might try as we explore this season of worship together.

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The Easter Offering circuit service this year will be held on Sunday 18 May at Crosskeys at 6:00. Everyone is welcome to attend. Envelopes for donations are available.

**Blessings, Bethany**

## **Ascension Day- why is it important?**

Ascension Day is like a door we walk through. It leads us from the season of Easter, which the feast closes, towards Pentecost, which it anticipates.

The story records the moment Jesus returns to heaven following his resurrection and his several post-resurrection encounters with his disciples. It is a transition moment, a turning point, when Jesus promises his disciples they will be gifted with God's Spirit, to be their comfort and strength for the work of mission that lies before them. Jesus' ascension is alluded to in the Gospel of Luke and also in the longer ending of the Gospel of Mark (Mark 16: 9ff.). Here, Mark rapidly recounts Jesus' appearances to Mary Magdalene and to two disciples (suggesting the two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus, Luke 24: 13-35), followed by Jesus' commissioning of his disciples. Then, Mark writes:

"So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it." (Mark 16: 19-20)

Acts 1: 1-11 (one of the lectionary's set readings for the day) describes Jesus' ascension in much greater detail, and marks the only time Jesus appears other than in the four Gospels.

All this makes Ascension Day an important feast of the Church, as well as one of its most ancient. In the early 5th century, Augustine of Hippo describes its Apostolic origin, and indicates that the celebration was well-established before his time. It became one of the ecumenical feasts across all Christian traditions, alongside the Passion, Easter, and Pentecost.

In the Eastern Church, where the feast is observed with an all-night vigil, it is known in Greek as *Analepsis*, the "taking up", and also as the *Episozomene*, the "salvation from on high" (emphasising that, by ascending into his glory, Christ completed the work of our redemption).

Ascension is not widely celebrated in western Churches, however. (Although Methodists get a chance to mark it when Wesley Day also falls on 24 May.) It falls exactly 40 days after Easter Sunday, which is why it is always on a Thursday – for some, "Holy Thursday". The ten-day period between Ascension and Pentecost is known as Ascensiontide.

## **Prayer for Ascension Day**

Dear God, our loving, sending and almighty Father,  
Thank you that because Jesus died, rose and ascended into heaven,  
You were able to send your Holy Spirit to empower Your disciples then and today.  
That, equipped by that same Spirit, we can confidently work for Your kingdom to come on earth, as in heaven.

Lord, in these strange, topsy-turvy days, where earthly rulers terrify and destroy and disappoint, we rejoice that You are the Sovereign Lord of all things, and all times, and all places.

*You, our God and Father, truly reign. We are Your people. We are secure within Your love and protection. Thank you that at the name of Jesus every knee shall ultimately bow – and we pray, thankfully in His name, Amen.*

*By Daphne Kitching*

# **We welcome all who worship with us**

## **MORNING WORSHIP IN OUR CHURCH BUILDING**

**Every Sunday at 10.00am**

### **Preachers for May**

4th Rev B. Willers CAFÉ church 11th Rev L. Healey  
18th Rev B. Willers – Holy Communion, 25th P. Burke

**Zoom Service - Every Sunday at 10.00am**

**United with the service in the church**

To join the service or for further details or to request the Zoom link be emailed to you please contact Jack Healey or Gareth Edwards (caldicotmc@gmail.com)

#### **Diary Dates**

ReCharge– café Church at Portskewett Church Hall .  
7pm– 8.30 pm Thursday **8th May** and Thursday **19th June**

Circuit Easter Offering Service **18th May** 6pm at Crosskeys

Our Annual Church Meeting will be on Monday **16th June** at 7.30 in the Church– All welcome.

The Strawberry Fayre on Saturday **21st June** 9.30 –until noon.  
We are asking for donations for the following stalls only: Gifts ,Toiletries, Jewellery, Books & Plants. For further information please speak to Maureen.

Further ahead

Farewell service for Rev Les Jones **27th July** 6pm

Welcome service for Rev Cath Lewis **31st August** 6pm

Both these service will be held at St Julians



### **COFFEE MORNINGS**

**Every Tuesday & Friday 9.30am**



If you need to contact the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport the phone number is - 01633 234234

## Happy 1700<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Nicene Creed!

This month, 1700 years ago, one of the most important meetings in the history of the Christian Church began in the Bithynian city of Nicaea. It began in May 325 and went on until the end of July 325.

The Council of Nicaea was convened by the Roman Emperor Constantine, and he had an urgent job for the Christian bishops to do. He wanted them to spell out as exactly as they could the core beliefs of the Christian Church, especially with regard to the person of Christ.

Constantine had good reason to do this: a man called Arius of Alexandria was spreading the idea that Jesus Christ was not divine, but instead was a created being. Such a belief, if accepted, would have changed the very heart of Christianity.

After three months of hard work, the bishops at Nicaea had prayerfully and carefully written down as exactly as they could the core beliefs of Christianity. It became known as the Nicene Creed, and it has been the bedrock of orthodox Christianity ever since.

The Nicene Creed is unique in that it is the only Christian statement of faith that is accepted as authoritative by the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, and major Protestant Churches.

### Thy Kingdom Come

This month millions of Christians worldwide, of every denomination, will once again join in with *Thy Kingdom Come*, a prayer initiative between Ascension and Pentecost (29<sup>th</sup> May to 8<sup>th</sup> June), to pray for the nation to know Jesus Christ. It is a time to seek the empowering of the Holy Spirit, that we may be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ.

Praying for others to know Jesus is one of the most powerful things we can do. Persistent prayer for others brings transformation to their lives. As Paul writes: *'Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.'* (Colossians 4: 2-4).

As Paul says, consistent praying for others involves discipline (*'be devoted'*) and responding to what God is already doing in people's lives (*'being watchful and thankful'*). We can pray for *'open doors'* to point people to Jesus and what He can mean in their lives. We all have opportunities to do this, as even Paul prayed as a prisoner in chains!!

Thy Kingdom Come encourages us to choose five people who we can pray for regularly. Why not ask God to guide you, as you settle on five names and commit to praying for them daily, perhaps by using the following prayer:

*'Loving Father, in the face of Jesus Christ your light and glory have blazed forth.*

*Send your Holy Spirit that I may share with my friends the life of your Son and your love for all.*

*Strengthen me as a witness to that love as I pledge to pray for them, for your name's sake. Amen.'*