



**Parish of Paignton**  
St John the Baptist, Paignton  
St Boniface, Paignton



**SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**5th Sunday of Easter**

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**Mid-week Eucharists:** Monday and Friday mid-week Eucharists will recommence from Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

**Messy Church:** We are collaborating with Gerston Chapel to run Messy Church at the Coverdale Centre from 10am until 11.30pm next Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> May. Please take this opportunity to invite any families to what we hope will be a regular event on the first Sunday of the month.

**APM and APCM:** The meetings will occur today immediately following the 10am service at St John's. Please come along to the meeting to hear more about what has been happening in the past year and upcoming activities.

**Mission Action Plan (MAP):** Last week we began our first steps in exploring what God is doing in our parish and where we feel might be calling us into His mission field, both personally and as a church, for the People of Paignton. We want to be a church rooted in prayer, worship, service and dependence on the Holy Spirit. Part of this exploration was through a questionnaire for each of you to fill in and post into the box in church when convenient; please find time to do so. This is the start of us individually and as a church exploring what God is calling us to 'lay down' so that we can 'take new things up' in response to Jesus' invitation. We want and need you to participate and contribute to our end-to-end parish review, so your input shapes a MAP that ensures this parish is alive, thriving and flourishing for another 900 years.

**Gardening tools:** We will shortly be starting a gardening project with local churches based in the Foxhole estate and surrounding area. If anyone has any spare gardening equipment which you can donate to this work or wish to be involved, please contact a churchwarden, the Parish Office or Ken Nichols who is leading this project for us.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:**

- All who seek to abide in God's presence and his love, that it may cast out the fear which destroys fullness of life;
- All who seek to be branches of the true vine and bring forth good fruit;
- All who need God's love and protection including ourselves and those in need or suffering including those who have asked for our prayers:

*Margaret, Nicholas, Carol, Audrey, Suzanne, Marilyn, Sheila, Jill, Kath*

- The souls of those who have died recently  
their families and friends and any whose anniversary of death falls at this time

*Brian Farrington*

## **Collect:**

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

**Acts 8.26-40** *Page 917 of the ESV Bible*

## **Psalm 22. 25-end**

<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great | congregations

I will perform my vows in the presence of | those that fear you.

<sup>26</sup> The poor shall eat | and be satisfied;

those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall | live for ever.

<sup>27</sup> All the end of the earth shall remember and turn | to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations shall | bow before him.

<sup>28</sup> For the kingdom | is the Lord's and he rules o| ver the nations.

<sup>29</sup> How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship,  
or those who go down to the dusk | kneel before him?

<sup>30</sup> He has saved my life for himself; my descen | dants shall serve him;  
this shall be told of the Lord for genera | tions to come.

<sup>31</sup> They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people yet unborn,  
declaring that he, the | Lord, has done it.

**1 John 4. 7-21** *Page 1023 of the ESV Bible*

## **John 15. 1 - 8**

<sup>1</sup>"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

## Study Notes for John 15. 1 - 8

Verses 1-27: In presenting the pattern of the Christian believer's life, Jesus defines three dimensions:

- Vv. 1-11: the believer's relationship to Christ: "abide" (v. 4)
- Vv. 12-17: the relationship of believers to one another: "love" (v. 12)
- Vv. 18-27: the believer's relationship to the world.

Vv.1-8 Jesus' (and John's) audience knew much more about viticulture than most of us do today. Viticulture was very labour-intensive, requiring constant care. Growers even moved to the vineyards before and during the harvest. Pruning is important in increasing yield. Drastic pruning is performed on vines which do not produce grapes. The wood of a vine is useless: it can only be burnt. Wine and grapes were an important export. Israel recognized the vine as a gift from God.

V.1: "the vinegrower": Jesus used the imagery of the present allegory, for a different purpose, in Mark 12:1-12. V.2: "bears fruit": This is a familiar image for living the Christian life: in Romans 7:4-6, Paul writes: "... you have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit for God. While we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. V.3: "cleansed by the word": Recall Jesus' words in 14:23: "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them". V.5: "bear much fruit": In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul tells us that "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control". The fruit-bearing of the new Israel, i.e. the Church, springs from union (actual incorporation) with Christ V.6: "thrown into the fire": In Matthew 3:10, John the Baptist warns some of those who come for baptism: "Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire". See also 13:30. The idea that the ungodly would burn after judgement is found in other contemporary literature, e.g. 2 Esdras. Verse 7: "my words abide in you": This is another way of saying "keep my commandments" (14:15, 21),"keep my word" ( 14:23, 24). V.10: For Christ keeping his Father's commandments, see also 8:28-30 and 14:31. In 14:31, "I love the Father" corresponds to "abide in his love" here.

### Questions for reflection:

1. Have there been times in your life when you have been aware of new spiritual growth after a time of feeling pruned/cut back?
2. What dead and fruitless bits of ourselves might we be asking God to cut away?
  - a. How might we be pruned to make new wood and space for growth in Christ in our own lives?
3. What would the two "cutting" words, cutting away and cutting back, mean for the flourishing of the church in our own worshipping community.
4. What do you think the "fruit" are for us as individual Christians and for us as a church?

# This Weeks Diary

## Sunday 28th April: Fifth Sunday of Easter

*Acts 8. 26-end, Psalm 22 25-end, 1 John 4. 7-end, John 15. 1-8*

8:00 St John's: BCP

10:00 St John's: Eucharist (**Hymns: 82, 131, 266, 246, 235**)

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## Monday 29th April– Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May- Morning Prayer

8:30am & 5pm: St John's: Common Worship

### Monday 29th April:

*Acts 14. 5–8. Psalm 118 1-3, 14-15. John 14. 21 - 26*

~~09.30 St John's: Holy Communion~~ **NO SERVICE**

### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April:

*Acts 14 19-end. Psalm 145. 10-end. John 14. 27-end*

09.30 St Boniface: Holy Communion

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May: Philip and James Apostles

*Isiah 30. 15-21. Psalm 119 1-8. Ephesians 1. 3-10. John 14. 1-14*

11:00 St John's: Holy Communion

### Thursday 2nd May:

*Acts 15. 7-21. Psalm 96. 1-3, 7-10. John 15. 9-11*

6.30pm St John's: Holy Communion

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May:

*Acts 15. 22-31. Psalm 57. 8-end. John 15. 12-17*

09.30 St John's: Holy Communion

### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May:

*Acts 16. 1-10. Psalm 100. John 15. 18-21*

0900 St John's: Holy Communion

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May: Sixth Sunday of Easter

*Acts 10. 44-end. Psalm 98. 1 John 5. 1-6. John 15. 9-17*

8:00 St John's: BCP

10:00 St John's: Parish Eucharist (**Hymns: 473, 249, NH&W 236, 465, NH&W 33, 91**)

10:00 St Boniface: No Service (Messy church at Coverdale Centre)

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thu 9<sup>th</sup> May St Johns: 6.30pm Ascension Day Service

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## USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Parish Office & Administrator:** 07915 736169 (9am -12 noon Mon-Fri)

**Email:** office@paigntonchurch.co.uk **Website:** www.paigntonparishchurch.com

**Incumbent:** Fr Neil Knox 01803 551866. **Email:** [frneilknox@gmail.com](mailto:frneilknox@gmail.com)

*(Please note that Fr Neil's rest day is Monday)*