

# The Lighthouse



 THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
Diocese of Norwich

Sunday, 16 May 2021  
Issue 58

## Sunday after Ascension Day

Scripture Reading: Luke chapter 24 verses 44–53

## Singin' in the Rain

Dear Friends,

Here we go again after a mini break! I trust that you are keeping well and enjoying this wonderful weather! As I write, the rain pours down. Knit and Natter cannot meet this afternoon in a garden as planned, so there is a hastily arranged Zoom session. All change. It's a brave clergyman who writes about change, and the very brave Rev Dave gives us all a challenge with his letter in the church magazine for May. He talks about changeable weather, and then continues in his letter to challenge us about handling change. Well worth a read, and a re-read!

Elijah faced change. One week he's God's champion on Mount Carmel, defeating 450 prophets of Baal, standing up for God against a hostile crowd. Not long afterwards he is alone on a mountain asking God for water to drink.

Elijah prays twice – firstly in front of a crowd on Mt Carmel asking God for fire, secondly privately asking God for rain. There had been no rain for three and a half years – imagine that! Elijah goes before the Lord and asks Him to send rain. Elijah sends his servant to look for rain seven times. Each time there was nothing to report, except on the seventh occasion there was a cloud 'the size of a man's hand'. Then 'the sky grew black with clouds, the winds rose, and heavy rain fell' – like most afternoons these last few days.

In the hymn 'Great is thy faithfulness', we read that 'that there is no shadow of turning with thee', and we are reminded in the hymn that God does not change. Yet, his mercies are new every morning, his hand provides what we need; we have pardon for sin, and enduring peace. In short, God is always the same, dependable and trustworthy, and at the same time he is up to speed with our daily needs and blessings offering new mercies every day of the week.

Rejoice at the things which remain the same in our worship and church life. Dependability tested by time. Rejoice even more at what new things the Lord is doing. New and challenging. God is very good at sound systems and live worship. He is up to date with our weakness and failings. He has plans which we can only see clearly with eyes of faith. He is a faithful God, who sorted Elijah out, and can sort us out. So look again and again. As our hymn says, 'Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand besides', even when it is raining.

All joy in Christ, Derek the Cleric.



Poster for the American theatrical run of the 1952 musical film *Singin' in the Rain*

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## Ideas for prayer

- + all those affected by coronavirus, and especially countries where the virus is out of control
- + our NHS workers, care workers and care home residents
- + key workers and those who provide essential services
- + our GPs, surgeries and staff tasked with caring for us and rolling out the vaccines
- + people waiting to be called for a job and those going for their jobs
- + for co-operation among nations in dealing with the pandemic
- + our teachers and school staff
- + our collective health and welfare
- + our nation and community life; our Government and its advisors
- + for wisdom and patience as we deal with changes to our ways of life
- + our children and young people, their parents and caregivers
- + our young adults; our elderly neighbours and family members
- + our Armed Forces serving here and abroad
- + all who are worried about, or who have lost, jobs, livelihoods and businesses
- + all who are homeless
- + all who are suffering any injustice – racial, social, economic
- + anyone facing illness, hospitalisation or medical treatment
- + all who feel isolated and those who cannot be with their families
- + those who have died
- + all who make our worship services possible and all who attend online and in person
- + all who are visiting the church via our Facebook pages
- + families bereaved at this time and those not able to use the church as they would wish to
- + for wisdom and safety in easing restrictions in the months ahead
- + hope, encouragement and peace in all circumstances

## Services

### 16th May

- 9:30 Holy Communion at The Gathering Contemporary Worship – Dersingham Village Centre
- 11:00 Traditional Worship – Morning Prayer at St Nicholas Dersingham

### 23rd May

- 9:30 The Gathering Contemporary Worship at Dersingham Village Centre
- 11:00 At St Michael and All Angels Ingoldisthorpe – Traditional Worship – Holy Communion

### 30th May

- 9:30 The Gathering Contemporary Worship at Dersingham Village Centre
- 11:00 Traditional Worship – Holy Communion at St Nicholas Dersingham

## Mothers' Union

We are restarting our meetings on Wednesday 23rd June at 2.00pm in the Upper Room of the Village Centre (there is a lift!).

We would like to welcome back all our members and anyone else who would like to join us at our first meeting, where we will be having a cup of tea/coffee and a chat about how we have coped during the Lockdown.

Thereafter, each month we will meet in the Upper Room of the Village Centre at 2pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

28th July, 25th August, 22nd September, 27th October, 24th November and 22nd December.

Pauline Martin – Dersingham Branch Leader

## Bible Readings for Sunday, 23rd May

### Day of Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

First reading – Acts 2:1–21

Second reading – John 15:26–27, 16:4b–15



We pray for all Christians in countries where they are persecuted for their faith.

#### **TURKEY**

**Population 83.8 million. 171,000 Christians (0.2%)**

In Turkey, religious nationalism is very strong and growing, putting enormous pressure on Christians. The atmosphere of increasing nationalism leaves precious little room for anyone to proclaim a different message, and Christians must take great care in sharing their faith with others, as it can arouse suspicion. Christians have limited access to state employment and they experience discrimination in the private sector, especially where employers have ties to the government. Since religious affiliation is still recorded on old identity cards and the electronic chip of new identity cards, it is easy to discriminate against Christian applicants.

#### **Prayer points**

- Pray that the prevailing attitude of suspicion towards Christianity will change.
- Pray that foreign Christians will be shown favour in their residency applications and appeals against residency bans.
- Pray that those under pressure for their faith in Jesus will stand firm and grow in their love for Him.

If you'd like to know more about the situation for Christians in Turkey, do take a look at Open Doors' website and watch list: [Serving Persecuted Christians Worldwide - Turkey - Open Doors UK & Ireland](#)

#### **A prayer for Turkey from Open Doors**

Dear God, help Your children as they seek to proclaim the gospel in a stifling and suspicious atmosphere. Grant them wisdom, discernment and boldness. Give foreign Christians favour in residency applications, and may those forced to leave know the assurance of Your love and provision. Strengthen and sustain all converts under pressure for following You. Change the atmosphere in Turkey. Amen.

*Thanks to Rev Adrian for providing these prayers for the persecuted church.*

#### **Bible Reading Rota**



Now that we are having regular services again in Church, there is an opportunity for you to volunteer to read at the 11.00 am Service.

If you would like to be part of this important Ministry, could you please contact me on 01485 542244 so that I can include you on the list of readers in Church.

Thank you.  
Rev Adrian

# Wordsearch – The Ascension

Thanks to Carol for this week's puzzle. All the words can be found in Luke chapter 24 verses 44 to 53.

R	F	C	S	I	P	E	I	E	T	Y	O	A	S
M	U	W	R	E	O	F	N	S	S	H	H	T	T
S	L	U	F	R	W	E	S	S	A	E	D	S	E
T	F	A	P	O	E	B	E	T	H	A	N	Y	H
B	I	T	E	M	R	P	H	W	L	V	M	Y	P
L	L	P	O	I	Y	G	E	D	E	E	N	D	O
E	L	S	O	N	O	P	I	N	G	N	R	Y	R
S	E	A	E	L	J	R	C	V	T	N	G	E	P
S	D	L	L	E	S	A	E	E	E	A	E	T	S
I	O	M	P	W	S	I	P	T	H	N	N	N	E
N	L	S	M	O	O	S	A	C	E	Y	E	C	L
G	L	P	E	O	L	I	R	E	F	F	U	S	E
N	L	E	T	N	S	N	T	U	O	S	P	E	S
S	E	E	N	A	C	G	E	E	O	E	S	I	R

BLESSING  
POWER  
RISE  
PROPHETS  
REPENTANCE  
HEAVEN  
JOY  
BETHANY  
MOSES  
PRAISING  
TEMPLE  
FORGIVENESS  
PSALMS  
SUFFER  
FULFILLED

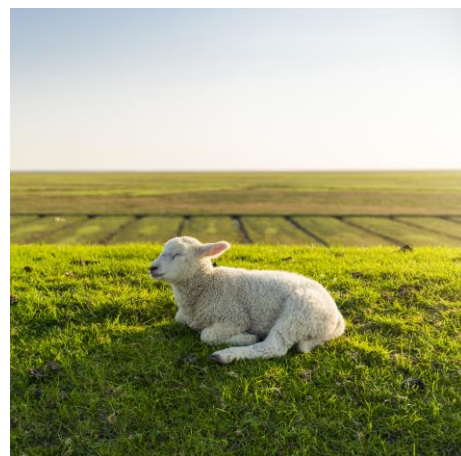
Stopwatch: how quickly can you solve these anagrams?

**HEEL CLANG**  
**AMOUNT IN**  
**IMAGE IN**  
**A DEEP BLEND**  
**IS PROVED**

(All are words found in Derek's letter. Answers, last page.)

## Poem: 'Young Lambs' by John Clare (1793 – 1864)

The spring is coming by a many signs;  
The trays are up, the hedges broken down,  
That fenced the haystack, and the remnant shines  
Like some old antique fragment weathered brown.  
And where suns peep, in every sheltered place,  
The little early buttercups unfold  
A glittering star or two – till many trace  
The edges of the blackthorn clumps in gold.  
And then a little lamb bolts up behind  
The hill and wags his tail to meet the yoe,  
And then another, sheltered from the wind,  
Lies all his length as dead – and lets me go  
Close by and never stirs but baking lies,  
With legs stretched out as though he could not rise.



## Online Giving

The online giving links are a convenient way to make an offering for the church's ministry and mission. Online giving is managed by the Diocese of Norwich and all gifts will be attributed to the respective local church. Here are the links for our benefice:

St Nicholas, Dersingham –  
<https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/donate/?id=1888>

St Mary the Virgin, Anmer –  
<https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/donate/?id=1621>

St Michael and All Angels, Ingoldisthorpe –  
<https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/donate/?id=2154>

St Peter and St Paul's, Shernborne –  
<https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/donate/?id=2462>

If you prefer to give via standing order or direct debit, please contact benefice church secretary Pauline Martin, at 01485 544561 or [secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk](mailto:secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk), who will be able to direct you to the corresponding church treasurer. Please don't forget Gift Aid, as this means we can claim the tax back from HMRC where appropriate.

Hopefully, these options for giving will make it easier and more convenient for us to support the work of God's church.

Thank you for your support.

With my prayers,  
Rev Mark

## We give thanks for:

- + the beauty of springtime and God's creation
- + God's grace, love and forgiveness and his help for our lives
- + our church community, our families and friendships
- + the opportunity for livestreamed worship and in-person worship
- + progress being made in understanding and treating the coronavirus
- + the successful uptake of vaccines across our nation
- + our scientists, medics and care workers
- + our teachers, key workers and all people providing essential services
- + the arts, music and creativity
- + acts of kindness, courage and selflessness
- + the comfort and reassurance of the Holy Spirit
- + prayer and that Jesus invites us to pray

Do all the good you can  
By all the means you can  
In all the ways you can  
In all the places you can  
At all the times you can  
To all the people you can  
As long as ever you can.

– John Wesley,  
founder of Methodism

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*He told them, "This is what is written:  
The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on  
the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness  
of sins will be preached in his name to all nations,  
beginning at Jerusalem.*

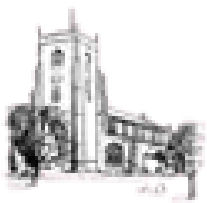
*You are witnesses of these things."*

– Luke 24: 46–48

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*Anagrams: challenge, mountain, imagine, dependable, provides*

*With help from: [wordman.com/anagram-maker](http://wordman.com/anagram-maker)*



[www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk](http://www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk)  
[dersinghamonlineworship.com](http://dersinghamonlineworship.com)

