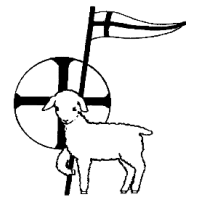


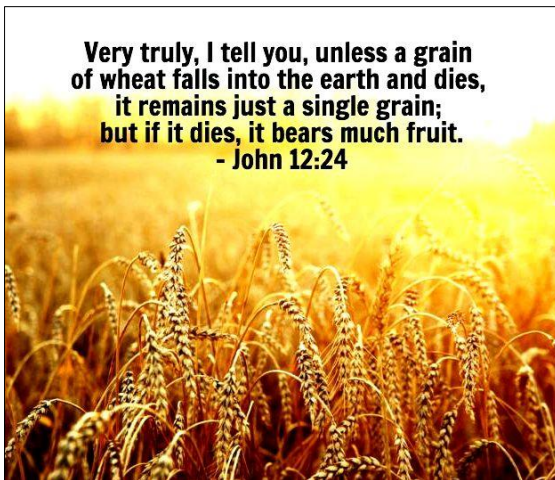
St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



Sunday 21st March

The Fifth Sunday of Lent



Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.
- John 12:24

This year more than any year in recent history we have been aware of death. The death of millions through Covid-19, the death of migrants making desperate journeys, the death of civilians in war-torn countries, the death of the natural world through human intervention, and, for some of us, the death of loved ones. Through all these losses we can experience emotions of despair, guilt, anger, frustration, regret and grief. It can seem as if we are in the darkness of the depths of the earth. But within the pits of blackness and despair that we can look and pray and find Jesus there with us.

What can give us hope from our Gospel reading today is that Jesus explains that the grain of wheat has to die in order to bear fruit. If it does not die it remains one single grain only. By falling deep into the earth, it multiplies and produces manifold ears of wheat, which when ground become flour, which can then be baked to bread. In

our lives we face little deaths each day, the loss of abilities as we grow older, the weakening health of our loved ones, or the loss of work or of schooling due to the pandemic. Yet the promise from Jesus is that through the letting go and dying new life can be born.

Rowan Williams reminds us, 'God always has the capacity to do something fresh and different, to bring something new out of a situation.'¹

Revd Juliette Hulme

¹ Rowan Williams, (2007), *Tokens of Trust* (Norwich: Canterbury Press), p. 16.

Today's Service

9.30am Parish Communion Online via Zoom

President: The Revd Juliette Hulme

Preacher: Canon Judy Anderson

Music: Sally Hayter

Hymns: We sing the praise of him who died; It is a thing most wonderful; Lift high the cross

Tuesday 23rd March

National Day of Reflection

On the first anniversary of Lockdown, we are invited to reflect on the past year, to think of all that has changed, and especially of those who have died and those who are on the journey of bereavement. The church will be open as usual between 9am and 4pm; between 10.00am and 12 noon, a member of the ministry team will be available to pray with you should you wish and there will be the opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one.

Next Sunday, 28th March

Palm Sunday

President: Revd Tina Fox

The sermon is replaced by the dramatised reading of the Passion Narrative

In Memoriam

We give thanks for the life of Annabelle Dominy, who died earlier this month. We pray for her family and her friends as they mourn.

For your prayers

We give thanks for the reduction in the number of cases of Covid-19 due to the vaccination programme and the lockdown 3 restrictions, and we pray for those countries where the virus continues to spread unchecked. In our linked diocese of Cueibet, South Sudan, we are asked to pray for the work of the Mothers' Union, that despite the difficulties they may continue to support their members and their communities.



Thank You

Juliette would like to thank all those who kindly sent cards, letters and emails of condolence at the death of her much-loved father, Digby Hulme. They have been greatly appreciated at this time of mourning.

The Collect for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31.31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Gospel: John 12.20-33

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say - ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Public Worship and Private Prayer

The church will re-open for public worship on Easter Day, 4th April, with a service of Parish Communion at 9.30am.

Advance booking is essential, via the Parish Administrator (see below for contact details).

Services continue on Zoom and the church remains open for private prayer daily between c. 9.00am and 4.00pm.

Farewell and Thank You

Two long-standing and well-loved members of our church leave us this spring. Ruth Padwick and Rosemary Savage have both contributed to the church (and the wider community) in many ways. Ruth served refreshments on Sundays, and helped keep the churchyard tidy and the church clean; she regularly turned the pages of the Book of Remembrance to show the correct week. Rosemary has been a sidesman and a Eucharistic assistant, arranged flowers, and, rumour has it, has even been known to wield a paint brush in the church!

Both Ruth and Rosemary will be very much missed, and they go with our thanks, prayers and best wishes as they each embark on a new phase in their lives.

If you need support

As always, the Revd Juliette Hulme (Parish Priest) is available to give pastoral and spiritual support.

Members of our team of Lay Pastoral Assistants are happy to chat on the phone if you are feeling lonely – contact the co-ordinator, Revd Mark Hayter, on 01722 785176.

A list of additional sources of support is published with the newsletter on the first Sunday of each month.

Giving to the church



Thank you very much to those who continue to give regularly to the church. If you haven't committed to regular giving, why not consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme or setting up a standing order? Details from Paul Naish, email sjtgiftaid@gmail.com tel 01747 870731 mob 07587 072900. Cheques payable to Tisbury PCC.

A Family Celebration of Easter!

**Celebrating the Resurrection
with the Nadder Valley team
Dinton Churchyard (and Church)**

Thursday 15th April 10.30 am to 11.45 am

**We're making musical instruments, Story, Worship,
a fantastic Easter hunt in the churchyard, a special
edible construction kit and masses of fun.**

BOOKING ESSENTIAL!

**email - revdjoannanaish@gmail.com or contact Revd Jo Naish on
01747 871820**

Can you help by donating materials?

So that we can make sure we have enough materials, we'd like to gather these - ideally by Easter.

If people contact Revd Jo Naish or Revd Elaine Brightwell we can arrange safe drop off and storage, so that we can put packs together before the session which will be safe for each family to handle.

We are seeking:

- Jars.
- Strong cardboard boxes i.e. not cereal boxes, but delivery boxes/shoeboxes etc
- Elastic bands – large/medium
- Pulses – dried (any). We are making rainsticks/shakers/percussion.
- Insides of kitchen roll/foil/wrapping paper but NOT loo rolls – we need the longer ones.

revdjoannanaish@gmail.com tel 01747 871820
elainebri57@gmail.com tel 01722 717883