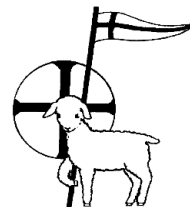


St John the Baptist Church, Tisbury

reflecting Jesus Christ



Thursday 14th May 2026

Ascension Day

Ascension Day Service

6.30pm Parish Communion

President: The Revd Canon Tony Monds

Preacher: Canon Judy Anderson

Communion setting: *Grayston Ives*

Introit: The eternal gates lift up their heads *Christopher Tye*

Processional Hymn: 130 Hail the day that sees him rise Gradual Psalm 93 (*words overleaf*)

Gospel Acclamation for Ascension *plainsong* Offertory hymn: 271 Alleluia, sing to Jesus

During Communion: Above all praise and majesty *Felix Mendelssohn*

Final hymn: Christ triumphant ever reigning (*words overleaf*)

Organ voluntary: Apparition de l'Église Éternelle *Olivier Messiaen*

Next Sunday, 17th May

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

6.00pm Choral Evensong

Led by Canon Judy Anderson

Please note that, in accordance with the new services rota which is currently being trialled, there is no service in St John's at 9.30am today. Why not come at 6.00pm and experience Choral Evensong, if this is not a service you normally attend? Alternatively, you would be very welcome at Chilmark's All-Age Communion service at 11.15am.

For your prayers

In our linked diocese of Cueibet, South Sudan, we are asked to pray this month that the ongoing discussions to discern a new Bishop may be fruitful and that those who are currently leading our partners in Cueibet may be filled with the Holy Spirit and be supported by all.

A prayer for the world:

Heavenly Father, we lift the world before you today. Let your peace reach every nation, your healing touch every broken life, and your truth shine in places of darkness. Strengthen leaders with wisdom, comfort those who are suffering, and provide for those in need. In Jesus' name, Amen.

In our own country, please pray for our Government, our Members of Parliament and all in local government, for stability following the local elections last week.



Old Fonthill Abbey Grounds

Open 17th May 10.30-4.30

The extensive grounds are open in aid of Cure Parkinson's and local charities this Sunday and again in two weeks' time. Why not spend the afternoon there – or go for a barbecue lunch? Bluebell woods and rhododendrons; lakeside walks and Abbey views; barbecue and home-made refreshments. Suggested entry donation £10, and 'polite dogs' are welcome. The entrance is on the Hindon-Newtown lane, SP3 6SP.

A date for your diary: Two events on Saturday 13th June

Village Fete

The annual Village Fete will take place on Saturday 13th June, starting at noon. St John's will again have stalls at the fete – watch out for requests for items to sell! In the meantime, do please put the fete in your diary and plan to come.

Concert in aid of Ukraine

On Saturday 13th June at 7.30pm in the church, Norton Camerata (a group of professionally trained and experienced amateur musicians) will be playing an exciting programme of lively and tuneful wind music - Beethoven's Octet and Dvorak's Serenade. Entry is free but there will be a collection for Christian Aid's humanitarian work in Ukraine.

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The Collect for Ascension Day

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The First Reading: Acts 1.1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

Gradual Psalm 93

- 1 The Lord is king and has put on glorious apparel : the Lord has put on his glory and girded himself with strength.
- 2 He has made the whole world so sure : that it cannot be moved.
- 3 Your throne has been established from of old : you are from everlasting.
- 4 The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice : the floods lift up their pounding waves.
- 5 Mightier than the thunder of many waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea : the Lord on high is mightier.
- 6 Your testimonies are very sure : holiness adorns your house, O Lord, for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

The Gospel: Luke 24.44-end

Jesus said to the disciples, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Final Hymn: Christ Triumphant

1 Christ triumphant, ever reigning,
Saviour, Master, King!
Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,
hear us as we sing:
*Yours the glory and the crown,
the high renown, the eternal name.*

2 Word incarnate, truth revealing,
Son of Man on earth!
power and majesty concealing
by your humble birth:

3 Suffering servant, scorned, ill-treated,
victim crucified!
death is through the cross defeated,
sinners justified:

4 Priestly king, enthroned for ever
high in heaven above!
sin and death and hell shall never
stifle hymns of love:

5 So, our hearts and voices raising
through the ages long,
ceaselessly upon you gazing,
this shall be our song:

Michael Saward (born 1932)

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