

St Neots Parish Church (St Mary) & Eynesbury St Mary

Welcome to Worship!

Alleluia: Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed – Alleluia!

Sunday 28th April 2024 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Services today

8 a.m. Eucharist (BCP)

St Neots Parish Church

9.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

St Neots Parish Church

Hymns: 556; 320 (1stt); 289 (t.143i); 284 (1stt); 323 Thorne

10.30 a.m. Annual Parish Meetings in the St Neots Church Room (followed by PCC)

No 11 a.m. Eucharist at Eynesbury

6.00 p.m. Choral Evensong

St Neots Parish Church

142; Ps 96; 482

Services & Events this week

Wednesday 09.30 Eucharist SNPC

11.00 Eucharist at Poppyfields

Thursday 09.30 Eucharist Eynesbury

Friday 09.30 Eucharist SNPC

14.30 Communion at Old Vicarage Care Home

Services for next Sunday, 5th May (6th of Easter):

8 a.m. Eucharist (BCP) St Neots Parish Church

9.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist St Neots Parish Church

No 11 a.m. Eucharist at Eynesbury

3.30 p.m. 'All Aboard' – "Something's burning!" St Neots Parish Church

Thursday 9th May is Ascension Day:

9.30 a.m. Eucharist Eynesbury

11.00 a.m. Funeral with Eucharist for Mary Richardson St Neots Parish Church

19.30 p.m. Sung Eucharist St Neots Parish Church

Giving for the work of the Church

We do not pass a collection plate around the congregation during the service, but we always welcome donations from those who attend worship, either in cash or by using the card reader near the door at SNPC before or after the service.

Please Gift Aid that donation if you can do so (envelopes are available).

We also encourage regular givers to become members of the Parish Giving Scheme (which is how many Church members make their donations).

Please ask at the door, or via the Office, if you want more information about this.

The Parish of St Neots with Eynesbury, Reg Charity No 1195248, in the Church of England Diocese of Ely.

Rector: The Revd Paul Hutchinson, The Rectory, Church Street, 01480 471297

Parish Office: Church Street, 01480 370312; office@stneots.org - www.stneots.org . Weekly Sheet 20240428



Collect for Easter 5

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.

Alternative Collect

Risen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father.

New Testament Reading (used in the service): Acts 8.26-end

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Gospel Reading: John 20.19-end

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Epistle Reading (not used in the service): I John 4.7-end

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Post-Communion Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

The Annual Meetings

This morning (Sunday 28th), the meetings will be back-to-back in the St Neots Church Room at 10.30am (or as soon as possible after the end of the 9.30 service – refreshments follow the meetings). Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts and the Agenda/Minutes, which have been available in church and on the Parish Website for several weeks, will be in the Church Room.

Approaching and following Pentecost

The days between Ascension (9th May this year) and Pentecost (19th May) are days of prayer for the coming of the Holy Spirit. A national initiative to promote daily prayer in those days, called 'Thy Kingdom Come', has been running for nearly a decade – we are not investing in the full process this year, but we encourage parishioners to make good use of the worship opportunities that are available. This includes a Diocesan Choirs Festival in Ely Cathedral on Saturday 11th May, and a Healing Eucharist at Eynesbury on Wednesday 15th May.

In the week that follows Pentecost, in addition to the usual weekday services, there will be eucharists for both our church schools, celebrating the Feast:

- St Mary's is in school on Monday 20th at 11 a.m.
- Eynesbury's is in church on Wednesday 22nd at 9.15 a.m.

The Sunday after Pentecost is – as always – Trinity Sunday: in addition to morning services, there will be Choral Evensong at SNPC at 6pm.

The Choir will also be singing Choral Evensong at St Edmundsbury Cathedral on Saturday 1st June.

St Neots Foodbank is looking for a new Project Manager!

For the last 10 years St Neots Foodbank has been very fortunate in having two excellent Project Managers. Our current manager, Adrienne Dunn, now feels it is time to hand over to someone new although she is happy to remain involved for a handover period.

Up to now, all of the running of the Foodbank, including the Project Manager, has been undertaken by volunteers, but in order to find the right person / people the Trustees would be open to considering a paid role.

Ideally, we would like to recruit from our local churches, or at least to have someone in sympathy with Christian values.

The role would be for 12 - 15 hours, spread flexibly across the week, and could potentially be shared.

If you or someone you know might be interested to have more information, or to have an informal chat then please ring the Foodbank on 01480 475426 or email info@stneots.foodbank.org.uk to speak with Adrienne or myself.

Thank you

Carol Way, Chair of Trustees