

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY 21st APRIL 2024

Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Acts 4:5-12

The next day the rulers, the elders and the teachers of the law met in Jerusalem. ⁶ Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: 'By what power or what name did you do this?'

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: 'Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: it is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ Jesus is "the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone."

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.'

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

1 John 3:16-24

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?

¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence:

²⁰ if our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who

keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: we know it by the Spirit he gave us.

John 10:11-18

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ 'I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me – ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father – and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.'

Post Communion

Merciful Father, you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd, and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again: keep us always under his protection, and give us grace to follow in his steps; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER
ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH, STONEBRIDGE

This Week's Service Schedule

- **Sunday 21st April:** Parish Eucharist at 10am; Church on the Phone at 1:30pm;
- **Morning Prayer:** Monday and Tuesday this week at 9:15am on Zoom
- **Saturday 27th April:** Praise and Worship with Holy Communion at 5pm.
- **Sunday 28^h April:** Parish Eucharist at 10am with the Bible readings as below; Church on the Phone at 1:30pm;

Hymns for 10:00am service

Introit hymn:

No 16: All my hope on God is founded

Gradual hymn:

No 1008: The Lord's my shepherd

Offertory hymn:

No 894: My Jesus, I love Thee

Hymn during communion:

No 525: O Thou who camest from above

Recessional hymn:

No 486: Now thank we all our God

Bible Readings: 5th Sunday of Easter 28th April

| Readings | Sunday |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 st : Hebrew Scripture | Acts 8.26-40 |
| 2 nd : Psalm | Psalm 22.25-31 |
| 3 rd : Epistle | 1 John 4.7-21 |
| Gospel | John 15.1-8 |

How to connect:

Telephone service Sundays at 1:30pm: call the conference line 0333 0164 757. When it answers, key in the conference number 68971667# and then the PIN 9651#.

Zoom services: all prayer services on Zoom use the same meeting code as follows: either enter the Meeting ID manually - 881 6923 2299 or use the quick link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88169232299> For audio only from any phone, please dial 0203 481 5237 and enter the Meeting ID.

Contacts and information:

Vicar: Revd Sarah Liebert

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Website:

<http://www.stmichaelsstonebridge.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Michael-and-All-Angels-Church-Stonebridge-296910461762296>

Hall hire: 07704 694432

Diary Dates

- *Early May Bank Holiday: Monday 6th*
- *Thursday 9th May: Ascension Day*
- *Sunday 19th May: Pentecost Sunday*
- *Sunday 26th May: Trinity Sunday*
- *Spring Bank Holiday: Monday 27th May, also Brent half term week*

Summer events:

Some upcoming highlights with dates to be confirmed:

- 1) Our next **fundraiser sale:** we are now in preparation for this, with the sale itself running for several Sundays in June. If you have unwanted items in good condition please consider donating them to us. If you are a crafter, or plant grower, or know someone, we would be very grateful for any donations to sell. It all helps towards the repairs, and you may find some new outfits/books to read/bric-a-brac for yourself. There will also be cakes and biscuits on sale.
- 2) The **Scouting Association** plan to return to St Michael and All Angels' Church and Stonebridge. Beginning soon: a Challenge for children (girls or boys) aged 8 or 9. Come along on Thursday evenings for 6 weeks for a range of activities including sports and adventures offsite for some sessions.