

St Andrew's Church Woodside
Sunday 3rd May
Today's service is Informal Communion

Collect for Fifth Sunday of Easter

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. Amen

Message from Lindsey

Our reading today is Acts 7 55-60 & John 14 vv 1-14

'I am the Way'

Many of us have worries, these could be about family, money, health, or work. When life is difficult, it is easy to feel unsettled. This week we are invited to bring our concerns to Jesus and to let his steady love lead us one day at a time.

In Acts we remember Stephen, one of Jesus' early followers, facing extreme danger. While people attacked him, he refused to answer hate with hate. He lifted his eyes to God, trusted that heaven was real, and asked Jesus to receive him. Even then, he prayed for those harming him. Stephen's witness reminds us that, whatever we face, Jesus is near, and we can trust him.

In the Gospel Jesus speaks to his anxious disciples, but he is also talking to us today too. He tells us not to let our hearts be troubled. He describes God's care as a true home, with a place prepared for his people, a home which is safe, welcoming, and lasting. He also teaches that if we want to know what God is like, we look at him, Jesus, seeking his compassion, truth, and faithful love. Jesus says he is the way; he is the one who brings us to the Father and guides our steps when we do not know what to do next. We are invited to ask for help, seeking strength to do good, and courage to keep going.

When we say that Jesus is the way, we mean he is not only someone to admire, but someone to follow. He leads us to the Father, he shows us what God is like and he walks with us in everyday life. When we are unsure, we can choose his way, which is truth with grace, courage with kindness, and love that keeps going. If you are struggling with something, I would like to encourage you to speak honestly to God and ask for a calmer heart, a clearer path, and the ability to forgive where you can. Following Jesus is not always easy, but it is real. As we gather in worship, may we encourage one another, share burdens and listen for Jesus' voice. Amen

*We are here as God's family to draw closer to God,
to live out our faith and welcome all into the love of God.*

May

Today	10:30	Informal Communion - 'I am the Way'
Wed 6th	10:30 7:00	Little Stars, doors open at 10 Evening Prayers in the Family Room
Thu 7th	9:30	Bible Study on Zoom
Sun 10th	10:30	Morning Praise
Wed 13th	10:30	Little Stars, doors open at 10
Thu 14th	9:30	Bible Study on Zoom

NO MOW MAY



SHOWING OUR LOCAL WILDLIFE SOME LOVE
No Mow May is an annual conservation campaign led by Plant Life encouraging gardeners to lock up lawnmowers for the month, allowing wildflowers to bloom and support pollinators. Please join in!

 <p style="color: red; text-align: center;">We are joining the global wave of prayer between Ascension & Pentecost!</p>	Thu 14th	Ascension Day evening service 7:30
	Sat 16th	Mary & Martha Morning from 9:30
	Sun 17th	Holy Communion 10:30
	Mon 18th	Visit by SE Lower School year 4 to learn about Pentecost
	Tue 19th	Church open to access prayer stations 10-12 and 2-4
	Wed 20th	Little Stars as normal Evening Prayer 7:30
	Thu 21st	Prayer stations open 7pm-9pm
	Sun 24th	Pentecost Praise 10:30

Access St Andrew's Sunday Services on Zoom!

Enter the number 878 5926 2657 passcode 664663 or by linking to
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87859262657?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87859262657?pwd=dTdada291VDk2anA5aGtmZmFCN3kzQT09)
 pwd=dTdada291VDk2anA5aGtmZmFCN3kzQT09

The link will remain open after Sunday services so those on Zoom can chat!

Thursday Bible Studies may be accessed on Zoom too!

Enter the number 589 233 412 passcode 090636 or link to
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/589233412?pwd=d1LL0E2Y0w4dDdpUXlTR0pHcGdSQTO9>

Practical help for the Community

Azalea thanks us for food, toiletries, cash, gift aided donations, etc.
They regularly collect our items, gratefully received, particularly the warm gloves and mittens we have given them in the chilly times!

We drop off food to the Foodbank monthly.

Before you leave home for church, 'Grab a Tin & bring i'tin!'
They express gratitude for our deliveries and our financial & Gift Aided donations - next drop off: May 27th. **Needs are greater than ever!**
Pick up a Food Bank 'Advent Calendar' from the back of church.
This lists seasonal items to donate throughout the year.



Recycle it!

Please drop your Medication Blister Packs at the back of church for Sue Lyons to take for recycling.

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