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Weekly Newsheet

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

### 'Ronarag 57'

Dear Church family,

#### **Thy Kingdom Come 2021**

After the very first Ascension Day the disciples gathered with Mary, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and like them, we rely totally on the gift of the Holy Spirit – on our own we can do nothing!

Through the centuries Christians have continued gathering together during this time in the church's calendar to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit and Thy Kingdom Come 2021 picks up this tradition. Over the years more and more worshipping communities have dedicated the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come Holy Spirit', with churches from over 80 different denominations and traditions in 172 countries around the world.

This year the North Wingfield team are joining together with Thy Kingdom Come 2021 and its global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus.

As part of TKC 2021, the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, has produced a prayer journal and over the next

few days we will be distributing them throughout the team, so that we all have a copy and during the eleven days following Ascension we can use the journal to focus our thoughts and prayers on our love for Jesus and to consider who else we could pray for; especially those who have yet to experience the joy of knowing Jesus and those who have once had faith, but have fallen away; with the hope you would consider committing to pray for them for the rest of the year. I certainly feel we could all think of five friends, family members, neighbours or work colleagues who are, as yet, unaware of the love of God!

TKC 2021 have lots of other ways to join in as well including: For families we have the Family Prayer Adventure Map Guide and online there are The Cheeky Pandas Resources. The Novena 2021, is a prayer journal using the Psalms for the eleven days. If you would like a copy please let us know.

We also have opened up a 24/7 Prayer Room in which you can choose dedicated one hour slots over the whole eleven days and nights ... yes, nights!! You then commit to pray for that hour in which ever way you feel comfortable. You can choose as many slots as you like and you do not need to stick to the same daily time; you can vary them as much as you like. <https://www.24-7prayer.com/signup/9c4b24>

We want everybody to feel included and so if you need help downloading information or you want us to book you into a time on the 24/7 Prayer Room, please get in touch: with Katherine Ratcliffe on 01246 8539

With my prayers for you all, Lynn

## **Sunday Services**

To book for our services please contact:

**St Mary's Church. 9.30am**

Katherine or Mark Ratcliffe: [Kratcliffe52@icloud.com](mailto:Kratcliffe52@icloud.com) or  
01246 853901

**St Bart's Church 10am.** Please book with Amanda  
Marshall at 01246 769374 or

[revamandamarshall@gmail.com](mailto:revamandamarshall@gmail.com)

## **Readings for week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

Mon: Psalm 145; Deut 16.1-20; 1 Peter 1.1-12

Tues: Psalm 19; Deut. 17.8-end; 1 Peter 1.13-end

Wed: Psalm 30; Deut. 18.9-end; 1 Peter 2.1-10

Thurs: Psalm 57; Deut. 19; 1 Peter 2.11-end

Fri: Psalm 138; Deut. 21.22-22.8; 1 Peter 3.1-12

## **Prayers of intercession**

God of comfort, as India faces the ravages of corona virus we pray for some relief for their suffering. As we are mindful of their needs so we remember many families across this country coming to terms with the death of a loved one. We pray for everyone struggling with the pain of loss. Bring solace to them, bring people who can offer words and actions that sooth, and help all those who grieve to find small shoots of hope for the future. God of comfort, hear our prayer.

God of justice, it is with dismay that we read that Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe faces a further year in imprisonment. We pray also for her husband Richard and daughter Gabriella. It's very difficult to imagine what they are experiencing but

we ask for your mercy, peace and love to surround and support them. God of justice, hear our prayer.

God of community, we acknowledge the wide variety of feelings within our local communities prompted by the change to the lock down. From those who are exhilarated by trips to the hairdressers or the pub, to some who remain anxious about the possibility of a new surge, may we find understanding and empathy for one another. Give us all the ability to think in terms of the whole community not just about ourselves and help us to keep our eyes wide open to truly see how those around us are coping as things change. God of community, hear our prayer.

God of compassion, with the summer term in motion and children enjoying being back in school we are particularly mindful of those in year 11 and year 13. Many are facing multiple tests and assessments unsure about what results will form their final grades. As they struggle to revise, fill the gaps they have missed, and reconcile their damaged school experience may they be confident they will get the grades they deserve. Bring calmness to this final part of the school year and some sense of closure as many of them transition to new stages of life and learning.

God of compassion, hear our prayer.

God of love, thank you that we are all connected to you our true vine. When we feel disconnected from our communities, families or even ourselves help us to picture this image of the vine and feel rooted in you and your comfort, justice, truth, community, hope and compassion.

God of love, hear our prayer. Amen.