

## **The Church of St Francis**



**The Third Sunday of Easter  
18<sup>th</sup> April 2021**



**'Have you anything here to eat?'**

### **WELCOME!**

**It is a joy that we are able to gather together to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus.**

**As restrictions are still in place may we respectfully remind you that if you are able to do so, a face covering must be worn when in the building and we will remain seated throughout the service.**

**Holy Communion will be shared by the receiving of the Bread of Heaven at the chancel step. Please wait in your seat until the welcomer indicates it is your turn to go forward. If you are with a member of your bubble, you may come up together. Once you have received the bread in your hand, please return to your seat to consume.**

**If you require a gluten free wafer please ask your welcomer who will advise the clergy.**

## **READINGS FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

### **ACTS 3:12-19**

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.'

### **PSALM 4**

Answer me when I call,  
O God of my righteousness; ♦  
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

**How long will you nobles  
dishonour my glory; ♦  
how long will you love vain things  
and seek after falsehood?**

But know that the Lord has shown me  
his marvellous kindness; ♦  
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

**Stand in awe, and sin not; ♦  
commune with your own heart upon your  
bed, and be still.**

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness ♦  
and put your trust in the Lord.

**There are many that say, 'Who will show  
us any good?' ♦  
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance  
upon us.**

You have put gladness in my heart, ♦  
more than when their corn and wine  
and oil increase.

**In peace I will lie down and sleep, ♦  
for it is you Lord, only, who make me  
dwell in safety.**

**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**

### **1 JOHN 3:1-7**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

### **LUKE 24: 36b - 48**

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, '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.



## PRAYERS FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### THE COLLECTS

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy  
gladdened the disciples  
with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such knowledge of his presence  
with us, that we may be strengthened  
and sustained by his risen life  
and serve you continually  
in righteousness and truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples  
with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life  
and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

### POST COMMUNION

Living God, your Son made himself known to  
his disciples in the breaking of bread:  
open the eyes of our faith, that we may see  
him in all his redeeming work;  
who is alive and reigns,  
now and for ever. **Amen**

## FOR OUR PRAYERS

We pray for Woodside House Care Home who are finding these times particularly difficult. Please ask that they know that God's love is with them as they continue to adjust to this new way of living.

We pray too for those who are in need of prayer at this time: Carson W; Lorna; Megan; Christine; Stephen C; Margaret T; David & Cynthia; Maegan; Tom; Riley & his mum and family; Jeanette, David & Grace; Paula.

We continue to pray for all those in our Church, friends and family who are managing long term health issues including Pete and Rosie; Doreen; Rosemary; Sheila; John and Jane; Shirley; Fr Brian, Hazel;

We pray too for all NHS and NSFT Staff.

We remember also those who have died in recent days and all who mourn.

## A PRAYER FOR THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES

God of compassion,  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or feeling  
isolated. In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Church of St Francis  
Heartsease**

**Heavenly Father  
We ask your blessing upon us.  
Hold the Heartsease Community,  
and all the world,  
in your arms of love.  
Be with us.  
Give us your strength,  
peace, and healing grace.  
Watch over us,  
protect us from harm;  
and keep in safety  
all those who care for the sick  
and attend to our needs,  
in Jesus name we pray.  
Amen**

## **FORTHCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS**

**Mon: Morning Prayer – 9am**

**Tues: Morning Prayer – 9am  
Evening Prayer – 5pm**

**Weds: Morning Prayer – 9am  
BCP Holy Communion – 11.30am  
Evening Prayer - 5pm**

**Thurs: Morning Prayer – 9am  
Evening Prayer – 5pm**

**Sun: Celebrating Together – 10.30am  
[Holy Communion]**

## **ST FRANCIS APCM**

**[Annual Parochial Church Meeting]**

As directed by the Lord Bishop of Norwich, The Rt Revd Graham Usher, the business that was held over from 2020 regarding the 2020 APCM will take place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. Whilst the meeting will be conducted via the St Francis Zoom Room, it is possible for those unable to access the appropriate technology to meet in the church building. Please note that only those whose names appear on the St Francis Electoral Roll are entitled to take part in any APCM.

Directly following on from that meeting the 2021 'Meeting of the Parishioners' will take place, during which the election of Churchwardens will happen. Once this meeting has concluded the 2021 APCM will be convened.

This meeting sees the proposal and election of members of the Parochial Church Council. Whilst some members still have time to serve [once elected to the PCC the period of service is expected to be three years] there remains the opportunity for anyone who would like to serve on the PCC to put their name forward for election. If you are interested in standing please talk either to the Vicar or to the Vice Chair of the PCC, David Lechmere.

**ST FRANCIS CHURCH  
HEARTSEASE  
96 - 98 RIDER HAGGARD ROAD**

**IF YOU  
OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW  
IS IN NEED OF A HELPING  
HAND...**

**WE WILL DO OUR BEST  
TO HELP**

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ANSWERPHONE  
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