

Time to reflect

"You are evidence that my priesthood is bearing fruit" said one priest. He was looking at the group around him, a group of ordinands, those exploring the call to ministry lay and ordained.

My current reading is "Forming Intentional Disciples", a reflection from across the pond of life in the Church. Flicking through the book before buying (a reason why we should aim to buy books from bookshops where possible is that you can do this which you can't do if, by shopping online, we lose our High St bookshops), I came across this grim and entirely mistaken insight, addressed to a lass who was preparing to be a Sunday School teacher by her instructor, when she asked about how she could cultivate her faith; "*one day you just wake up, and you're different*".

And it made me think. Is that how we think about our relationship with God and is that how we behave, as if God, somehow, magics his way into our lives? And, if we think that, is that how we think Church grows? by divine magic? Or is growth, spiritual growth, numerical growth, missional impact growth, the result of what Jesus calls "abiding" in today's gospel reading? Does God use a magic or does he weave his presence through, committed, "intentional" discipleship?

John's Gospel points us to the intimacy between Jesus and the Father, an intimacy that is the result of investment of time and priority in prayer, silence and worship. Jesus' resulting activity (of which there's lots; prayer leads to action, not avoidance) is fruitful and life transforming. What evidence is there of our lives bearing fruit? What priority do we give to God?

Worship and Activities this week

Today	11.30am Gallipoli Service 3.00pm St. George's Day Service 5.00pm Office Hour 6.30pm Evensong
Mon	9.30am Morning Prayer 1.00pm "In-house" @ House on t' Rock 7.00pm Finance Cttee. @ Ashton Room 7.30pm Youth Group @Blackburne Hall
Tues	7.15pm Holy Communion followed by the MU meeting @ Kay Room
Wed	11.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Study Group @ Ashton Room
Thurs	9.30am Morning Prayer 10.30am Tiddlers @ Church House 12.45pm Holy Communion
Fri	8.00am Bury Grammar Schools' & 11.00am Founders' Day Service with H.C. 12.30pm NO LUNCHTIME CONCERT 4.00pm Choir School 7.00pm Full Choir Practice

Next Week: 6th Sun of Easter 6th May

8.00am Said Holy Communion
10.00am Parish Eucharist & Sunday School
5.00pm Office Hour
6.30pm Evensong

Baptisms, Blessings, Weddings.

Speak to any of the clergy after the service. They will be at the back of church. Spot the dog collar! Our monthly Parish Magazine has a full list of contact details for clergy and organisations on the inside of the back page. For inclusion on the weekly pew sheet, please email:

bpc.office@tiscali.co.uk by Wednesday please.

Bury Parish Church

Fifth Sunday of Easter

29th April 2018

www.buryparishchurch.com

We **welcome you** and hope you enjoy being with us. If you're not familiar with our services, don't worry. We follow a written order of service and at times will tell you which page we're on.

We also **welcome children in church**. If your child gets restive in church, don't be afraid to get up and move around if this helps. There is a toilet at the back of church. There is a children's area at the back of Church.

8.00am Said Holy Communion

President: Julian Heaton, Rector

10.00am Parish Eucharist

President: Ian McVeety, Hon Assist't

Preaching: Julian Heaton, Rector

Hymns: 153; 185; 137 (omit vs. 3); 284 (i); 514 (T. 556)

Motets:

Philip Wilby: If ye love me

Ola Gjeilo: Ubi caritas

6.30pm Evensong

Minister: Julian Heaton, Rector

Hymns: 223; 607; 162

Psalm: 96 (pg. 469-470)

Isaiah 60. 1-14 (pgs. 616-617)

Revelation 3. 1-13 (pg. 1010-1011)

Canticles:

Frederick A.G. Ouseley / George MacFarre

Anthem:

Henry Balfour Gardiner:

Evening Hymn

Cornerstone

Breaking down walls. Building bridges. Creating shelter. Being God's people in Bury

Today's Readings

The 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. **Amen**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

(Acts 8. 26-end)

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward 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 baptised?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptised 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John *(John 15. 1-8)*

Glory to You, O Lord

Jesus said to His disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, O Christ

Dates for Diary

8.40am Sunday 13th May: Breakfast @ Church Hall.
Cost £2 plus donations to Christian Aid

8.40am Sunday 20th May—Adult Sunday School & breakfast @ Church Hall

Food Bank Donations

Make a difference. Bring hope, encouragement and healing.

If you could bring just one item (tinned food/toiletry), weekly, to church for the food bank and put it in the "Bin" in the entrance that would be appreciated. Chesham Fold Tennant and Residents' Associations are grateful for any Food Bank supplies.

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