



**TWS**

This Week Sheet  
**Welcome**

## Fifth Sunday of Easter Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

### 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.**

**Readings:** Acts 8:26-40  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-8

### Post Communion Prayer:

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:

grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### For your prayers:

**Those who are unwell:** Chris Jukes, Vicky Todd, Judith Von Sicard, Diana Smith, Pat Westwood

**Those who have died:** Sigvard Von Sicard

If you would like to be added to our prayer list, or know someone else who would like our prayers, please email [sarahjherbert@aol.com](mailto:sarahjherbert@aol.com) or speak to one of the clergy.

Church of England Birmingham Praying Together is available online:

<https://www.cofebirmingham.com/everyday-faith/being-a-christian/cofeb-praying-together/church-of-england-birmingham-praying-together--april-2021.php>

[this is the April link; presumably that for May will appear soon]

### SERVICES THIS WEEK

#### Wednesday:

**10.00am** Holy Communion (followed by private prayer **until 11.00**)

#### Next Sunday: Easter 6

**10.00am** Holy Communion

**Readings:** Acts 10:44-48  
1 John 5:1-6  
John 15:9-17

**5pm** **Evening Prayer on Zoom**  
Meeting ID: 318 010 6329  
Passcode available from Hazel

***St Mary's is here to proclaim and celebrate  
the love of God for all.***

If you wish to support the work of the church financially, you can be part of the Parish Giving Scheme. You can also fill out a Gift Aid Declaration to increase the value of the gift. See wardens for information. Here are our account details:

**PCC St Mary's Church Selly Oak**  
**HSBC Account number: 41565818**  
**Sort code: 40-11-20**

#### Parish ministry team

##### Clergy

Revd Hazel White – 0121 4713517

Revd Jayne Adams 07894 167552

Revd David Parker 0121 445 1901/07532 338961

##### Licensed Reader

Mary Cutler 0121 472 3343

##### Church Wardens

George Harrison: 07831 573169     Martin Sorby 07982 850 444

Please note: Hazel usually observes Friday as her day off.

If you have any notices to add to the TWS, please email [sarahjherbert@aol.com](mailto:sarahjherbert@aol.com) by the end of Tuesday for inclusion in the following Sunday's edition.

[www.stmaryselloak.org.uk](http://www.stmaryselloak.org.uk)

<https://www.facebook.com/stmaryselloak/>

### **Keeping safe**

Although restrictions are beginning to ease, it is important that we continue to follow Government guidance to ensure that church remains as safe as possible. If attending worship:

- Please attend alone or as part of a household
- Please follow the direction of the stewards including on entry and exit to ensure 2m social distancing is maintained at all times.
- Please complete the simple form provided in your seat to assist with NHS Test and Trace.
- It is mandatory to wear a face mask unless you have a legitimate exemption.

If you or anyone in your household has symptoms of Coronavirus, in line with Government advice you are asked to stay at home. If you have tested positive for Covid-19, you must self-isolate for at least 10 days.

### **Sigvard von Sicard**

Sigvard's funeral will be on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May (2.30pm in church) but because of the current limit on numbers allowed at funerals, attendance is "by invitation" only. There is an online noticeboard for those who wish to send their condolences, share comments and light a candle. There is also a facility for charitable donations. The link is below.

<https://sigvardvonsicard.muchloved.com/>

### **Daily Hope**

Daily Hope telephone line with Hymns, Reflections and Prayers available 24 hours a day on 0800 804 8044, set up particularly for those unable to join church services during the period of restrictions.

### **Vestry hour**

We hope to re-introduce 'vestry hour' at step 3 of the Government roadmap in lifting Coronavirus restrictions, which is due to be on or after May 17<sup>th</sup>. Vestry hour takes place on Wednesday evenings between 6.15-7.15pm and gives people the opportunity to come and book baptisms and weddings, or just to come and sit quietly in church. If you would like to join the rota of volunteers for this, please contact Hazel. There are always two volunteers for each session.

### **Foodbank**

The foodbank remain very pleased to receive our donations, which can be brought to church on Wednesday and Sunday mornings when the church is open for Services. They are currently in particular need of tinned puddings and fruit, sauces, toilet rolls and men's roll-on deodorant. If you have any spare carrier bags, you can also leave these with the donations, as they do sometimes run out.

### **St Mary's Annual Meeting**

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 16 May 2021. It is planned to hold this meeting in person following the 10am service. The meeting is open to all members of the church and will include the annual election of churchwardens, and elections to the PCC and Deanery Synod. Nomination forms will be available from 2nd May 2021.

### **Job opportunity**

Christian Music Ministries are looking for someone with special gifts in administration and media. We seek a music loving, Spirit-filled person to join our small team in maintaining and developing the mission of Christian Music Ministries (CMM). You would be at the heart of all we do and should gain much satisfaction and inspiration in experiencing God at work amongst us. CMM has a special ministry in bringing musical productions, events and resources to churches, schools and organisations, in UK and abroad.

- 3 days per week, including Monday & Thursday (0930-1630).
- Based at Roger & Mary Jones' home in Lickey End, Worcs.
- Some remote work may be possible.
- Salary: £875.00 per month GROSS

Email [roger@cmm.org.uk](mailto:roger@cmm.org.uk) for further information.

Closing date 31st May.

### **The readings**

In today's gospel God is likened to a gardener (specifically a vine grower). This seems a helpful (though limited) metaphor for the way God cares for us but does not control us – by feeding and protecting and by judicious pruning a gardener tends the plants but they can still develop in different and unexpected ways.

Jesus described his disciples as the branches of a vine, which together make up that true vine which is Himself. It's a wonderfully dynamic image, especially when one remembers how vigorously vines grow, with branches entwining around each other. The message can be read either way – we can only flourish if we are truly drawing life and power from Jesus, but also through our life together we represent Jesus.

In our second reading John says a similar thing using the more abstract language of love: "let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God" – words which are both beautifully simple yet infinitely profound. We exist because of God's love, we exist to reflect and embody God's love. Of course it's a one-sided relationship: "this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us". God's love is primary, is the source of everything, yet we are privileged to share in spreading that love, as we ourselves show love for our neighbours and for God.

*David*