



# St Aidan's Church

in the Parish of St Aidan Sudden Rochdale  
and All Souls Heywood

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

**Sunday 17th May 2020 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Readings:

[Acts 17.22-31](#); [John 14.15-21](#)

## Collect

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;  
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.

## Hymns

*Alleluia sing to Jesus*

*Christ the Lord is risen again*

*Great is thy faithfulness*

*Alleluia alleluia give thanks to the risen Lord .*

## From the Vicarage: a reflection on the Gospel reading.

It is believed by quite a few people that Elvis is still alive: he will be cracking on a bit now, but many people have made a lot of money claiming he never died in 1977. 'The king is still alive' the king was seen in Macdonald's or he works in a chip shop in south London, how you get from Memphis to south London, and why you would want to, is another story!

Of course it's all nonsense. Elvis as they say has "left the building".

But there is something about never wanting your heroes to die.

Something about never wanting that special hero ever to die.

Some people regard Jesus like some sort of rock star. Walking around the Holy Land like some Madonna, or Elton John. Receiving praise and everyone worshipping him. People even when hearing the reading from the gospel hear it like that in their minds. Yes - he was a charismatic man, but to do this about Jesus is a grave mistake. He is not "Jesus Christ Superstar"

Firstly, because in the Book of Acts we hear that Paul tells the people of Athens off for worshipping the God like an image of gold or silver or like some Olympian man - a Greek statue that we see in many museums in our own country today. They are making God like a special shrine in one place and God is bigger than one building, one church, one temple, one culture and nation. Jesus did not seek stardom or praise: his praise he wished to direct to his Father in heaven. And if we lock Jesus up as a hero rock star, then we lock him up in a human invention, a celebrity culture, which Christ has never been and ever will be. For a hero can fall, a celebrity can fail, but Christ the everlasting never fails and never sins or falls short. Christ was human but he is and always is fully divine.

Secondly, if we see Jesus as the live act we never caught, the concert we missed then we treat him as some historical figure and not God, we also then treat the Holy Spirit as the support act who came after. We then miss out on the full potential of the Christian life. A life filled by the Holy Spirit and guided by the strength of God. For as Jesus said, "in him we live and move and have our being". This is what we have now and always. No second act, no support act or 'stand in', because the lead is sick? No, we have Jesus the chief cornerstone.

So, our challenge is not to see anyone as a hero, but to see the whole, Father Son and Holy Spirit, to hold our heads high and see our faith as meaningful, vibrant and valid. This we do by asking the Holy Spirit through praise and worship to work in and through everything we do. The Holy Spirit in us, the Hope of Glory.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit enlighten your hearts and minds this day and the blessing of God Almighty+ Father Son and Holy Spirit be upon you this day and always.

Your Friend and Vicar  
Revd Michael

# Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020 Ascension Day

## Readings

[Acts 1. 1-11](#); [Luke 24.44-end](#)

### Collect

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord  
Jesus Christ  
to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart  
and mind may also ascend  
and with him continually dwell;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### Hymns

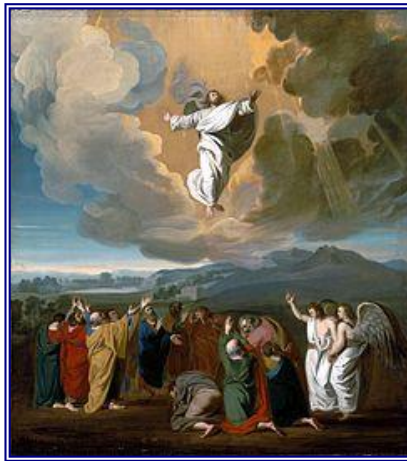
*Hail the day that sees him rise*

*Crown him with many crowns*

*Jesus is Lord creation's voice proclaims it*

*The head that once was crowned with  
thorns*

*Ascension Day: a reflection by Revd Ian*



When I was a pupil at St Luke's Primary School, Heywood over half a century ago now, as a church school we had two extra days holiday a year – the Feast of St Luke, October 18<sup>th</sup> and Ascension Day, on whatever Thursday that fell. At the beginning of the school day we marched up to church and following the service we had the rest of the day off! Happy days!!! No doubt at that age the prospect of a day off eclipsed the religious significance of the day in our minds. Gone have those days although the school does still mark St Luke's Day and Harvest seems to have over taken Ascension Day but no day off!!

We might note that these days Ascension Day along with other weekday feast days – Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday – seem to pass largely unnoticed and unmarked. Our Deanery still tries to mark Ascension Day (but not this year) with a Deanery Eucharist on the Thursday evening in one or other of our churches which, unfortunately are not usually well attended.

Ascension Day is an important festival in our calendar as it marks the end of Christ's incarnation which began on that first celebration of the Nativity. It takes place on the fortieth day after Easter Day and nine days before Pentecost and it always falls on a Thursday. Although Matthew doesn't actually mention the event he closes his gospel (Chapter 28) with his disciples gathered on a mountain in Galilee where he presents them with his commission:

*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'*



Revd Michael and Revd Ian are saying prayers for the Parish and our Congregation at 9am daily and hope that you may be able to join them at this time in your own homes.

### **Worship Resources**

**Live streamed church services can be found at** [https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live\\_stream](https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live_stream)

**Audio prayer resources can be found at** <https://soundcloud.com/the-church-of-england/>

**Follow the Church of England on Facebook for national prayers and services.**

Do you know someone without access to the Internet? Let them know about Daily Hope.

More than 750,000 minutes of calls have been made to the free phone line since it launched just over two weeks ago. It offers a selection of hymns, reflections and prayers, as well as an introduction from the Archbishop of Canterbury.



A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers



**NEW!**

**Faith at home materials in connection with the Church of England and Oak National Academy**



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension Day (21 May) and Pentecost (31 May) for more people to come to know Jesus.

Praying for people to come to know the love, hope and peace found in Christ is at the heart of Thy Kingdom Come. Daily Prayer for Thy Kingdom Come is a great way to set up regular, daily patterns of prayer to hold these people in prayer – whether you are doing so on your own, as a household, or joining with a small group or as a church virtually. For more information see the [website](#) or download the free daily prayer app [here](#)

You can also use these prayer journeys from ROOTS (click on the thumbnail images below)

#### **For adults**



#### **For young people**

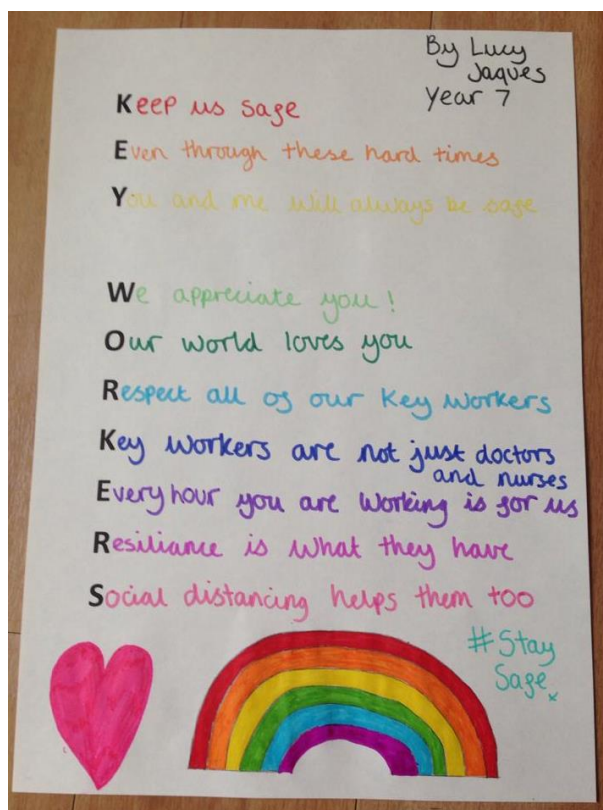


#### **For children**





## St Aidan's @ Home



### Poem by Ivan

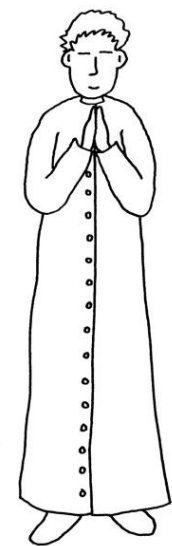
Children all over unite  
Support your parents in their fight  
Show them your all in all you do  
Be patient and helpful and true  
They want you to be happy and have a good life  
Regardless of all trouble and strife  
Show to Grandma or Grandad on the phone  
How much you care while they are alone.  
You will return to school one day  
See all your friends at work and play  
Study hard to make family proud  
So all of them can cheer aloud  
Children all over, look ahead  
When all the sickness will be shed  
You will be the future so do your best  
So things will be better for the rest  
Good luck to all children with lots of love

Thanks to all this week's contributors!

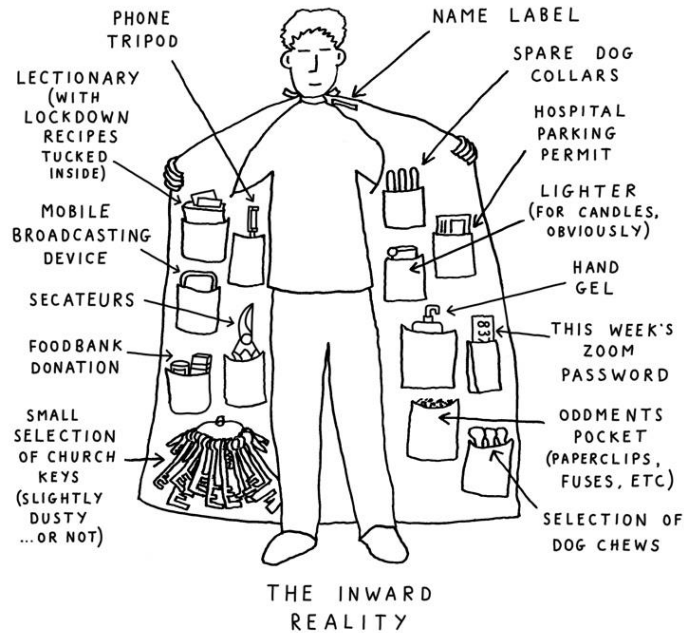
happy  
birthday

Happy Birthday Wishes to Lucy (12) and Dylan (7)  
from all at St Aidan's

# THE CASSOCK



THE OUTWARD  
APPEARANCE



THE INWARD  
REALITY

CartoonChurch.com

## Church Refurbishment: a message from the Churchwardens

Scaffolders resumed work this week. It is hoped that the Plasterers can start work soon (supplies permitting) and the Painters are going to start next Monday. Installation of the windows has commenced now that glass supplies are available again.

If anyone has the time and inclination, the flower beds along Manchester Rd need some TLC.

**Malcolm & Alan**



### Giving to St Aidan's Church

"all things come from you, O Lord,  
... and of your own do  
we give you"

### From the PCC:

Your financial support is crucial to the upkeep of St Aidan's Church – now more than ever.

If you are able to do so, please carry on with your regular giving and contact the Vicar, Treasurer or any church officer if you would like to drop off your weekly envelopes or to set up a standing order.



Please continue to support Rochdale Foodbank

<https://rochdale.foodbank.org.uk/>

You can read the latest newsletter from the Foodbank on our website.



Thank you



Thank you for your donations  
during Christian Aid Week.

Check the website at <http://www.christianaid.org.uk> to see how  
you can continue to help.

**All church buildings are closed for public worship, private prayer and all other meetings and activities except for vital community services until further notice from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.**

Manchester Diocese has a webpage containing the latest information, support, resources and guidance for churches concerning the Coronavirus at [www.manchester.anglican.org/coronavirus](http://www.manchester.anglican.org/coronavirus)  
**New: Advice from Bishop David on a phased approach to revising access to church buildings**

## Can we help?

Please contact the Vicar, Churchwardens or a PCC Member if we can help you. Please keep in touch with other church members, friends, family and neighbours in any way you can. Letters or copies of this newsletter are being sent to as many members of the congregation as we have details for who we think do not have internet access. Please contact us if you know anyone who is not receiving any communication from church. Past newsletters and notices are available on the [website](#) and at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

**Newsletter:** please send items to [newsletter@staidan.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@staidan.org.uk) and contact us with any more email addresses to add to the mailing list.

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***Our Mission is to be a strong church family, promoting and maintaining the Good News about Jesus to the Parish and the wider community.***



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



St Aidan's  
Church  
Rochdale

a church  
NEAR YOU

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If you would like to change your details or to be removed from this list, please let us know.***