A close up of a logo

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**Parish Priest:** The Rt. Rev. John Hine, (Emeritus Bishop)

**Address:** The Presbytery, 47 Ashford Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6LL.

**Telephone:** 01580 762785. **Mobile: 07802 510847**

**Parish E-mail** [tenterden@rcaos.org.uk](about:blank) **Parish Website:** www.standrewstenterden.org

**Deacon:** Rev. Jolyon Vickers **Telephone:** 01580 766449 **Email:** j.vickers1@btinternet.com **Hire of Parish Hall:** Lesley McCarthy 07791 949652 **E-mail:** [bookings.standrews@talktalk.net](about:blank)

**Newsletter Editor:** Patricia Sargent 01233 850963 **E-mail:** sargentpat51@gmail.com

**Newsletter for the week commencing16th/17th May 2020**

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)**

**First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 8: 5-8; 14-17**

**Psalm 65 Response: Cry out with joy to God all the earth**

**Second Reading: 1 Peter 3: 15-18**

**Gospel: John 14: 15-21**

**Father John writes:**

I watch the UK news everyday hoping that the numbers of those afflicted by the pandemic is shrinking away.   Quite often the figures are disappointing.     Then I heard one of the experts declare that Cavod19 is not going to disappear - it will be with us for evermore, rather like the flu.  Every year flu is the cause of death nationally for large numbers despite their vaccinations.  This news did not cheer me up - just the opposite!   I had the vision of life-long "lockdown" for the elderly!  
  
As I read the first Scripture passage for this Sunday from the Acts of Apostles, it tells us Philip worked miracles while he preached, and "as a result there was great rejoicing in that town" (Acts. Chapter 8).   I thought: we could do with a bit of 'rejoicing’!   Then I realised:  miraculous healings are not the true cause of Christian hope. The Apostles preached the Gospel with great success and worked miracles of healing.  But they also remembered that Jesus had told them their preaching of the Good News would be at the cost of their own lives - they would suffer martyrdom.  
  
This Sunday's second reading is from St Peter's first letter, and Peter encourages his listeners  "always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have" .          Peter was martyred, like the rest of the apostles, and he points out the reason for his hope in these words: "Why, Christ Himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God.   In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life. (1 Peter 3. verse 18).  
  
That is "the reason for the hope we all have"   -after his burial in the tomb Christ rose from the dead and won this new life of the Resurrection for all who believed in Him.  Alleluia!

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:**

**Those ill or infirm:** Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Eric Booth, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton, Josie Payne, Joe Venables and all those self-isolating or suffering from COVID-19

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time**: Eleanore Lynes, Jane Goodman, Sophie Larson, Adrian Wyles, Doris Woodman, Henry Dowding, Percival Goulding, Anne Wardlaw, Teresa Hall, Harold Farris, John Nesbitt, Kathleen Hyland and Elvira Lydon.

Thursday 21st May is THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD and is a Holyday of Obligation. Try to find time to sit quietly in prayer at some time during the day, reading the scriptures of the day or live stream a service from one of the many churches offering that facility **(see Masson-line)**

**Next Sunday (24th May) is World Communications Day** when we pray that the Church will use the modern media productively in promoting the Gospel and developing the public profile of the Church and its teaching.

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week.** "Original goodness is our first nature, it is the first gift of life to all. Original sin is our second nature, not original at all!  Read the birth poem in the first chapter of the Bible. It’s all about the divine goodness in which the world is set. Each day of creation in the poem is good. Light is good. Dark is good. Sea is good. Wild things are good. Every living thing that moves on the face of the earth is very good." These words are from an uplifting, engaging and deeply human talk by the late David Wood, Anglican priest from the North West of England and ambassador for the ecumenical Christian meditation movement. Listen to his series of inspiring short talks at [www.NewPilgrimPath.ie](about:blank)

**A prayer for our parish**

O God, protector of all who hope in you, bless your people, keep them safe, defend them, prepare them, that, free from sin and safe from the enemy, they may persevere always in your love.

Through Christ Our Lord.

Amen

A plate of food

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We were due to be joined by the ladies for our next Churches Together Breakfast this coming Saturday at St Andrew's. On this occasion we shall have to have breakfast at home - will it be a full English!!  We shall miss the excellent fellowship, the good food and for this breakfast a brief service and presentation about the extraordinary work of Christian Aid.

Christian Aid Week is still going ahead this week but as there can be no envelope collections or donations from our breakfast those who wish can donate directly to Christian Aid. This is the link for those who would like to learn more about Christian Aid and/or donate:

[**https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week**](about:blank)**OR by**

**Phone: 020 7523 2269 Donations can be Gift Aided**

Christian Aid Week donations will help families around the world to overcome poverty and injustice, wherever the need is greatest.