



21st April 2024
 We extend a warm welcome to
 Rupert Kaye and to all our
 members, friends and
 visitors



For meditation: *Be to us, O God, our love and our hope: our thoughts flowing from you, our life being in you and our breathing taken with you; for Jesus Christ's sake.*
John Cassain (c360 – 435)

NEWS AND VIEWS

This week brings St George's Day on Tuesday. He was a Roman soldier who traditionally is said to have died a martyr in Lydda, Palestine during the Diocletianic Persecution of Christians in 303AD. He has been the Patron saint of England since the 8th Century but was officially recognised by King Edward II (1327 – 1377). He never actually visited England- and he is shared as a Patron Saint by many other countries, including Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Georgia, Portugal, Lebanon and Syria.

POINTS FOR PRAYER

We give thanks, O God, that on your firm foundation we can build our lives, live our lives, find purpose and meaning, stability and peace. We give thanks that with you as our rock, our cornerstone, we can navigate the tussles and troubles of the world, not avoiding them, but making sense of them and doing all we can to make lives better. We give thanks that our faith in you steadies us when we are surrounded by false truths, greedy ways, or power-grabbing leaders who have no thought for anyone but themselves. For your promises and firm foundation, we give thanks. Amen.
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 We pray for Sebert as he recovers after suffering a stroke – and for Doreen as she supports him.
 In the circuit we pray today for the congregation at Midsomer Norton and the students at Chapel House, Walcot.

LECTIONARY READINGS – 28th April

Acts 8: 26-40
 Psalm 22: 24-30
 John 15: 1-8
 1 John 4: 7- 21

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

I am the good shepherd. As the Father knows me and I know the Father, in the same way I know my sheep and they know me. And I am willing to die for them. There are other sheep which belong to me that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them, too. They will listen to my voice, and they will become one flock with one shepherd. John 10: 14-16

DIARY

Thursday 25th April
Café 9.30 – 12 noon
 All welcome
Sunday 28th April
Morning worship 11.00am
 A lay led service with Helen leading the reflection on her hero – Mary Magdalene

Psalm 23 – paraphrased by Leslie Brandt

The Lord is my constant companion.
 There is no need that He cannot fulfil.
 Whether His course for me points
 to the mountaintops of glorious ecstasy
 or to the valleys of human suffering.
 He is by my side.
 He is ever present with me.
 He is close beside me
 when I tread the dark streets of danger.
 And even when I flirt with death itself,
 He will not leave me.
 When the pain is severe,
 He is near to comfort.
 When the burden is heavy,
 He is there to lean upon.
 When depression darkens my soul,
 He touches me with eternal joy.
 When I feel empty and alone,
 He fills the aching vacuum with His power.
 My security is in His promise
 to be near me always,
 and in the knowledge
 that He will never let me go.

And finally:-
Happy Birthday!
 In his absence we wish our dear friend, Tony special greetings as he celebrates his birthday in France on Friday.
 Absent but not forgotten!!

It was Rev Elizabeth's birthday this last week and I've had the following message in response to the birthday greetings I sent on behalf of us all:-

Dear Bron

Thank you for the birthday card and lovely blessing. It's wonderful to hear the news from Box and really encouraging to hear God is moving through the life of the church.

Things here in the North are very challenging, we've arrived at a place where there is great potential yet within that there is fear and the need to make big changes including a number of closures.

The children are well. We have another gymnastics competition this weekend and Stephanie passed a GCSE ballet exam with distinction.

I hope you are well.

Continuing to hold everyone in my prayers.

God Bless
Elizabeth