



**17th May 2026.**  
 We extend a warm welcome to  
 Rev Simon Topping and to all our  
 members, friends and visitors.



**For meditation:** *Grant us, O Lord, your rock for our shelter, your wounds for our sanctuary, your pathway for our safety, your lowliness for our soul and your cleansing for our heart. Susannah Design, Bristol Methodist Band Leader (c 1740)*

**NEWS AND VIEWS**

Thursday just gone (14<sup>th</sup>) was the feast of the Ascension, marking the end of Jesus’ life on earth and his return to heaven. In many parts of Europe it was a national holiday but not much noticed in the UK. It comes at the end of ‘the Forty Glorious Days’ and was the day that Jesus led his closest friends to the top a small hill just outside Jerusalem. He promised his friends that he would not leave them ‘comfortless’ but would send them the Holy Spirit to be with them always. The feast is one of great antiquity – dating back to at least the 4<sup>th</sup> Century if not before.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** – We remember our friend Sebert Lane who celebrates his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on Friday. He and Doreen send their love and assure us they are settled and very comfortable now in Cricklade.

**AFTERNOON TEA** – Michael invites us all to his home and garden for tea on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May** at 3pm. Donations will go to our Church charity – Home Start.

**A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK**

Most holy and powerful God, we marvel how you called us to your eternal glory in your Son, Jesus Christ. We are reminded of all he went through for us. We await your glory being revealed in fullness. We praise you for the glimpses we already see. We adore you. Amen.

*We are praying this week for the staff and residents of MHA Church Court in Radstock.*

**LECTIONARY READINGS** – 24th May

- Acts 2: 1 -21
- Psalm 104: 25 -35, 37
- 1 Corinthians 12: 3b -13
- John 20: 19 -23

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK**

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers (and sisters) throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.  
 1 Peter 5: 6 -9

**DIARY**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

Café + Soup 9.30 –1.30pm  
 The meal will be served around 12 noon  
 All welcome.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May**

Morning Worship 11.00am  
 led by Kathy Dymond

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May**

**Box Revels**

We are supporting our friends at St Thomas’s serving teas (and cake) in the Pavilion. The monies raised will go to their HOPE project. If you are at the Rec do drop by for a cuppa.

We thank thee, Lord, for this fair earth,  
 The glittering sky, the silver sea;  
 For all their beauty, all their worth,  
 Their light and glory, come from thee.

Thanks for the flowers that clothe the  
 ground,  
 The trees that wave their arms above,  
 The hills that gird our dwellings round,  
 As thou dost gird thine own with love.

Yet teach us still how far more fair,  
 More glorious, Father, in thy sight,  
 Is one pure deed, one holy prayer,  
 One heart that owns thy Spirit’s might.

So, while we gaze with thoughtful eye  
 On all the gifts thy love has given,  
 Help us in thee to live and die,  
 By thee to rise from earth to heaven.

George Cotton

*For worship is a thirsty land crying for rain;  
 It is a candle in the act of being kindled.  
 It is a voice in the night calling for help.  
 It is a soul standing in awe before the  
 mystery of the universe,  
 It is time flowing into eternity.....  
 ...a person climbing the altar stairs to God.  
 Author unknown*

