



*The Feast of St Philip & St James.
Saturday May 1st*

**UNITED BENEFICE OF CORLEY
PARISH CHURCH & ST MARY &
ALL SAINTS CHURCH,
FILLONGLEY WITH FILLONGLEY
METHODIST CHURCH**



Anglicans and Methodists in Unity.

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that it is nearly May. 2021 is speeding along as we start to return to some kind of normality after the long winter of Lockdown 3. We are now able to meet our friends and family outdoors. We can visit our favourite non-essential shops and, if you are so inclined, return to the gym. The privations of the pandemic have been many and various, but slowly and God willing, irrevocably, we are returning to something that is like the freedom we all experienced before any of us knew what Covid-19 was.

It is a cliché to say, but we will all have been changed by the experience of pandemic. There aren't too many people alive who witnessed the last global pandemic, so our response to this has been a really steep learning curve for us all. Whatever you think of our, and other governments', response to the pandemic we are now, hopefully, entering into a recovery phase. What that recovery phase looks like is very much up to how we, as individuals, communities and countries respond to the events of the last 15 months. Will it be back to business as usual or will we use the experience to change the way we operate? It is a decision that we all have a responsibility to think about. As individuals we have all experienced loss and bereavement. As communities we have had to think about how we are connected and what is important to us. As a country we have had to reassess which are the most important professions to us collectively and what value we place on those who serve others?

Next week will see the first elections of this recovery phase. We will be able to vote for our County Council representatives. The County Council is an incredibly important tier of government that makes decisions that affect all our lives. But, interestingly, the turnout for the last local elections was just 36%*. Admittedly this was an improvement on the previous election with a turnout of 32%. Still, only one third of those entitled to vote used that entitlement. I wonder whether this year will be different? I wonder whether the experience of the pandemic will affect how we vote? I wonder if this is the year when we engage with the process rather than not bothering? We are so incredibly fortunate in this country that we are able to our vote without favour or fear. A right denied to so many around the world.

Some may say that it isn't a clergy person's role to be involved in or talk about politics but if we look to the example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, he was a very political person. Jesus challenged the ruling elite. Jesus spoke truth to power. Jesus challenged the status quo that saw the poor, sick and marginalized condemned and pushed to the edge of society. Jesus spoke of a time to come when all would be equally valued, when all would be free to live their lives in peace and harmony. A time when worldly values would become Kingdom values and exploitation, war

Stop press
Services for
Sunday 2nd May 2021
9:00 am Corley
10:30am Fillongley
Please bring and wear a
face covering

An illustration of two people wearing face coverings. On the left, a person with grey hair and glasses wears a pink face mask. On the right, a person with brown hair wears a green face mask. They are set against a blue background with a city skyline and a sun.

and fear would cease. It maybe 'just' the local elections, but it is an opportunity for us to all have a say in how we want recovery from the pandemic to be managed locally.

We, as a church, are also entering into a recovery phase. To say that the last year has been challenging is a little bit of an understatement but, we also have the opportunity to also reassess how we are church together. To learn the lessons of the pandemic and to look to the future and to dream dreams of how we, as the church, can worship God, make disciples and transform our communities. I hope that in the summer, regulations allowing, we will be able to have an 'away-day'. To spend some time together to refocus our vision for mission and ministry in our villages. It will be really important to hear everyone's voice and be guided by the Holy Spirit as to how we respond to the 'new normal'. So, as well as encouraging you to think about voting next week, could I also encourage you to think about how the church could better serve your needs? How the church could encourage your spiritual life and how we could make the church more accessible? I am always glad to hear your opinions, so please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail or with a call. Please be assured that our 'core' work of regular, sacramental worship will always be a priority, but what can we do to encourage your walk with God and to build our community in a way that reflects Kingdom values?

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1: 3 – 5). I look forward to hearing from you and seeing where the Holy Spirit leads us in the future.

With love and prayers for you and yours

Ali

P.S Thy Kingdom Come resources can be found here – Thy Kingdom Come a global wave of prayer from Ascension to Pentecost 13th – 20th May

<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/prayer-resources>

*<https://api.warwickshire.gov.uk/documents/WCCC-1068-1011>

Your invitation to our Service of the Word Sunday at 5pm on ZOOM

Ali Massey is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Service of the Word

Time: Mar 21, 2021 05:00 PM London

Every week on Sun, until Jun 27, 2021,

Join Zoom Meeting



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85475380558?pwd=WUUhUQ1ZyOEhhSzhhUVlWeXAxQU9lUT09>

Meeting ID: 854 7538 0558 Passcode: 572740

Telephone: 0 203 481 5237 United Kingdom 0 203 481 5240 United Kingdom



Readings and Prayers for Sunday 2nd May 2021

The 5th Sunday of Easter

Collects

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

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

Genesis 22: vs 1-18

Acts 8: vs 26-end

Psalm 22 vs 25 – end

1 John 4: vs 7-end

John 15: vs 1-8



Reflection

A Reflection from Revd Ali

for this Sunday is attached to this Bulletin

Lockdown had not been kind to Barry



HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS

Here are the Hymns that we would have been singing in Church this Sunday:-

[Let us build a house where love can dwell \(StF 409\)](#)

[Let love be real, in giving and receiving \(StF 615\)](#)

Do enjoy singing this lovely worship song along with the choir of Frodsham Methodist Church, to the tune Londonderry Air. Here is the link ~

[Let Love Be Real \(Michael Forster\) \(Singing the Faith 615 / StF 615\) - Bing video](#)

[I, the Lord of sea and sky \(StF 663\)](#)

[At the name of Jesus \(StF 317\)](#)

PRAYERS

We continue to pray for all those affected by the global pandemic in any way.

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer, give us patience and courage never to lose hope, but always to bring our prayers before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Common Worship Rites on the way

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work done. Then, Lord, in thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

John Henry Newman

A Prayer originally placed at the door of a Christian Hospital

O God, make the door of this house wide enough to receive all who need human love and friendship,
but narrow enough to shut out all envy, pride and malice.
Make its threshold smooth enough to be no stumbling block to children, nor to straying feet,
but strong enough to turn away the power of evil.
God, make the door of this house a gateway to your eternal kingdom.
Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Thomas Ken (1637-1711) (adapted)



On an accidental visit to Spain, *Malcolm Guite* catches a glimpse of the Holy Grail



I SAW the Holy Grail! It was an accidental adventure, and, in that respect, resembled those of the knights in Malory, who say to each other, “Let us take the adventure God sends us,” then set off, not knowing where they are going, but just letting what happens happen.

I thought I knew where I was going, but I was wrong. It was more than 20 years ago, and Maggie and I set off, as we thought, for Sorrento, in Italy: two exhausted clergy on a quick post-Christmas break. But, when we got to the airport, and the kiosk for the flight, the woman at the desk pointed out that my passport had expired two days earlier.

“They won’t let you into Sorrento,” she said, “but I can put you on a flight to Valencia; they’re not so worried about that sort of thing in Spain, and will be sure to let you through.” (Those were the days!) And so, having told our relatives and friends we’d be in Italy, we found ourselves winging our way to Spain, and soon we were walking in bright January sunshine in Valencia, where all along the boulevards golden oranges glowed among the leaves of their dark green trees.

One day, we went to the cathedral there, and saw a sign to a side chapel where many pilgrims were kneeling: *Santo Cáliz*, it said, the Holy Chalice. And there, in a glass reliquary high on the altar, was a vessel of dark red agate set on a stem of chalcedony.

It bears inscriptions in Arabic, and experts say it was probably produced in a Palestinian or Egyptian workshop between the fourth century BC and the first century AD. So it has some provenance. It is kept with an inventory on vellum, dated from AD 262, which describes it, and which the cathedral says enumerates the church treasures kept by the deacon St Lawrence before his martyrdom. The earliest written claim that this was the grail itself was made by a canon of Zaragoza, in the 12th century.

Well, there it was, or there it was claimed to be.

Although my memory of that dark red cup is yet vivid, somehow it is still the silver chalice, wreathed in light, held up “at the sacring of the mass” in the Chapel Perilous, which Galahad beheld in the hands of Christ, which shines more clearly in my mind and imagination — reaching deeply back, as it does, to childhood days when my mother told me tales of Galahad.

But, in the end, it is neither my accidental Valencian adventure, nor the imagined adventures in Malory, that bring me closer to the true grail; for I have done better than merely see it from afar. I can tell you that this last Easter Day, after a long year’s fast, I held it, alongside every priest in England, in my own hands, and raised it aloft with joy. For, in the presence of the risen Christ, every chalice is the *Santo Cáliz*, and in him all the scattered cups, like all the scattered Christians, are one: one chalice, one flesh, one blood, one new creation.

Malcolm Guite is a poet, priest and singer-songwriter. He is a Chaplain of Girton College and Associate Chaplain of St Edward King and Martyr in Cambridge, and is the author of many anthologies of poetry. He is a weekly columnist in the Church Times where he writes the very popular ‘Poet’s Corner’ which is now included here each week for you to enjoy.

RESOURCES

Attached to this Bulletin are these items ~

- 📄 A Reflection from Revd Ali for the fifth Sunday of Easter
- 📄 Order of Service for Holy Communion at Corley Church
- 📄 Order of Service for Service of the Word at Fillongley Church
- 📄 Order of Service for Evening Prayer on Zoom 5pm Sunday
- 📄 A Letter from the Bishop of Coventry to everyone.



AND FINALLY DON'T FORGET

If there is anything that you need or know of someone who would appreciate being contacted or added to the mailing list for this weekly e-bulletin, please do not hesitate to contact Revd Ali, Revd Jane or any of the Churchwardens and Church Stewards listed below. ⁱ

ⁱ *Contact Details:*

Revd Ali Massey ~ Vicar 07837 124509
Revd Jane Braund ~ Methodist Minister 01676 533737

reverendalimassey@gmail.com
jane.braund@methodist.org.uk

Jim Green 01676 540579
Gwen Harris 07799 685890
Graham Hargreaves 01676 54 0766
Sue Taylor 01676 540880
Suzanne Whiting 01676 542410
Martin Woodley 02476 268055

jim@greensphere.co.uk
gwenharris1996@hotmail.co.uk
graham.obiter@btinternet.com
sue.millcotts@btinternet.com
suzannewhiting@tiscali.co.uk
woodley2@live.co.uk