



*Julian of Norwich, spiritual writer, c 1417 Feast Day Saturday 8th May 2021*

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

*Anglicans and Methodists in Unity.*



*Dont miss out on the Online Plant Sale ~ details are attached to this eBulletin*

Dear Friends,

May is here, and its arrival has certainly brought some interesting weather! Sunshine and showers – hailstones and thunder, and as I am writing this - brilliant blue sky. It isn't surprising then that we Brits are slightly obsessed with the weather! Can you cast your mind back to pre-2020 when the weather was the 'ice-breaker' for small talk? Those innocent days seem a long time ago. When we knew nothing of Coronavirus, spike proteins and lateral flow tests. I wonder if nowadays most casual conversations now include vaccine status?

The incredible work done by the scientists, NHS and other key workers now means that nearly 35 million adults in this country have had their first Covid vaccination. Over 15.5 million\* have had their second dose. It has been an incredible feat of logistics and healthcare. The willingness of the vast majority of the population to engage with public health advice of 'Hands, Face and Space' and the vaccination programme means that we are now hopeful of a return to some sense of normality in the summer. The next phase of the Government's roadmap begins on 17<sup>th</sup> May. Hopefully that will mean that restrictions on meeting with family and friends indoors will be lifted and we will be slightly less obsessed with the weather, but we must be cautious. The pandemic is still very much 'out there'. The rising numbers of infections in our closest neighbours, the so-called 'third wave' that is affecting much of Europe is just a channel-hop away and of course, we are all still mourning the losses that we have all suffered over the last 15 months and will continue to do so for a long time to come.

Unfortunately, there is also the dreadful news from India that has been filling newspapers and television screens this week. The scale of the devastation wrought by Coronavirus in India is mind-boggling. On one hand we understand that India is a vast country with an enormous population, but each one of the casualties is someone's child, parent, partner or friend. In the light of such horrific news we can often feel helpless. How can we, as individuals, help our sisters and brothers in India? Of course we can pray, and pray often for India, pray that the international community comes together to support India in its struggle to contain the virus. Pray for those bereaved in such circumstances and pray that the devastation in India won't be repeated in other countries.

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

There is another way that we can help. If you are in the fortunate position of having received your Covid vaccination (or are looking forward to receiving your free vaccination soon) and would like to do something to help our sisters and brothers in less fortunate parts of the world, UNICEF has started a campaign to encourage those who can to 'twin' their vaccine. The way it works is that you can make a donation that will help to vaccinate someone in a country that may not otherwise receive the vaccine. This can be done through their website [www.vaccinaid.org](http://www.vaccinaid.org). The appeal currently stands at just over £1 million. UNICEF are aiming to deliver 2 billion vaccines, 5.5 million treatments and 5.6 million test kits to people all over the world. This is a really practical demonstration of loving our neighbours as ourselves.

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May we celebrate the feast of the Ascension. The day when Jesus left behind his earthly friends and returned to his heavenly Father. Jesus had spent time with his followers for 40 days after his resurrection encouraging them to share the Good News of his life, death and resurrection. The disciples were to prayerfully wait for the helper that Jesus had promised would come at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit. The Church of England is encouraging us all to engage with that same period of prayerful watching and waiting with the 'Thy Kingdom Come' campaign. Could we follow those early disciples' example and commit to praying for those 10 days? To make it easy for us the church has provided all sorts of resources on the Thy Kingdom Come website [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global) including a cartoon version of Archbishop Justin and Archbishop John Sentamu! One of my favourite and easiest ways to access resources is the Novena booklet which can be downloaded from the website (and is attached as a PDF file to the e-bulletin). For each day there is an extract from a Psalm, some text and an image to help us pray. In just 10 minutes a day we can join in with millions of Christians around the world using the Psalms to pray together. Our world needs as much prayer as it can get so is this the year we commit to join in a great wave of prayer across the globe.

I do hope that you have been able to enjoy the greater freedom that the first step in the 'roadmap' has brought us all. I have certainly relished the opportunity to meet with my family in the garden and to hold in-person meetings outdoors. There might also have been an opportunity or two to support the local economy – perhaps a visit to the pub garden or an ice cream outside the farm shop. However you are finding this next phase of opening up please be assured of continued love and prayers for you and yours and if you are finding it difficult to enjoy life at the moment then please do not hesitate to contact me, Revd Jane or any of the Church team. We are all here to support you in any way we can.

Love and prayers

Ali

\* [www.ITVnews.com/news/latestvaccineneeds](http://www.ITVnews.com/news/latestvaccineneeds)



## 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

~o~

### Readings and Prayers for Sunday 9th May 2021

#### The 6th Sunday of Easter

##### Collects

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. **Amen**

Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father. **Amen**

##### Readings

Isaiah 55: vs 1-11

Psalms 98

Acts 10: vs 44-end

1 John 5: vs 1-6

John 15: vs 9-14



##### Reflection

A Reflection from Revd Ali for this Sunday is attached to this Bulletin, as is a Reflection from Revd Stephen Willey, who joins us from the Methodist Circuit on Sunday, while Revd Jane takes some well-deserved leave.

## **HYMNS & WORSHIP SONGS**

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

Alleluia, Alleluia (StF 295)

All heaven declares (StF 293)

Psalm 98 O song to the Lord a new song (StF 820)

*Although we shall be saying Psalm 98 together at Fillongley on Sunday, here is a modern vocal version for you to enjoy ~*

[Psalm 98 - Sing Unto the Lord - by Shane & Shane \(Lyric Video\) | Christian Worship Music - YouTube](#)

And can it be (StF 345)

## **PRAYERS**

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

The psalmist writes 'the sound of God's voice has gone out in all the universe' (Psalm 19). In other words, Radio God is always and everywhere on air. Prayer starts by tuning into that sound.

**Lord God**, over this last year you have shown us many things; the fragility of our lives, our dependence on others and how special Christian community is. Help us to work through these lessons with humility and grace, as we rediscover the wonder and the strength of belonging to you and to each other. **Amen**



**O God, protect those whom we love** and who are separated from us. Guide them when they are uncertain, comfort them when they are lonely or afraid, and bless them with the warmth of your presence. Thank you that neither space nor time can cut us off from the love we have in each other and in you. **Amen**

**Dear Father in heaven** let us be peacemakers: more ready to call people friends than enemies, more ready to trust than to mistrust more ready to love than to hate more ready to respect than despise more ready to serve than be served more ready to absorb evil than to pass it on. Dear Father in heaven, let us be more like Christ.

*From the Mothers' Union Anthology of Public Prayers.*

Sailing by St Benet's Abbey, *Malcolm Guite* ponders the past and the future



WE WILL be retiring to Norfolk this summer; so Maggie and I have been making a number of expeditions there to take in the lay of the land — or, in my case, the flow of the water, since I intend to spend a good deal of my time in retirement “simply messing about in boats”.

So it was that I found myself steering a little craft up from Potter Heigham along the turn of the River Thurne, to where it meets the Bure, and gazing at the beautiful and poignant ruins of St Benet's Abbey, one of the iconic landmarks of the Broads. All that remains is a wall of the gatehouse with its beautiful Gothic arch, and, behind it, both visible through the arch and rising stoutly above it, the strong stone tower of an old windmill. There was a moment, as I approached by water, when the tower was perfectly framed within the arch, and it set me thinking.

In one sense, of course, I was looking at the relics of the past, and I had to exercise my imagination to picture the abbey in its glory days, when it was both the spiritual and the commercial powerhouse of the whole region. Indeed, the Broads themselves wouldn't exist without the abbey; for it was the enterprising monks who made the great peat diggings, exporting the peat by wherry to London, and thus first created the wide pits and concavities that later flooded and became the Broads.

It was the monks who organised the wool trade that made Norfolk so bustling and prosperous in the Middle Ages, and the monastery that provided clergy, nurture, guidance, and patronage for so many of the churches, and, indeed, used their wealth from the wool to build and restore them.

All of that is gone, and yet the ruins still point to something, still bear some witness. When the abbey was given to the bishops of Norwich at the Reformation, they used it as a quarry and not just for churches. It was in the 18th century that the great tower of the windmill was built with stones from the abbey walls, first grinding corn and later powering a pump to keep the marshes drained and the waterways cleared; but the stones were also used, I am happy to say, to build the Chequers, a pub for the wherry men, which stood till the late 19th century.

But perhaps it is not just the past that is symbolised by the Gothic arch and the old windmill. I wondered, as I sailed by, whether the arch and the windmill might also be emblems of the future. Windmills are returning, as we all turn to renewable sources of energy, and perhaps the waterways, and sailing wherries, too, will once more become the most efficient — as well as elegant and environmentally friendly — way of moving our goods.








And what of that beautiful Gothic arch, the symbol of so much prayer and contemplation, the emblem of that wise balance of life, work, and prayer embodied in St Benedict's Rule? Perhaps we are on the cusp of a turn and return to that wisdom, too. The lockdown has reminded us of our need for spiritual roots and chastened our over-dependence on consumption.

Many people living through this crisis have rediscovered their local churches, and the faith that they still keep, as spiritual resources and anchorholds. Perhaps the surviving arch of St Benet's points not only upwards, but forwards as well.

*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.*

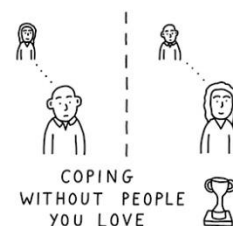
## RESOURCES

Attached to this Bulletin are these items ~

-  A Reflection from Revd Ali for the Sixth Sunday of Easter
-  A Reflection from Revd Stephen Willey.
-  Order of Service for Holy Communion at Corley Church
-  Order of Service for Holy Communion at Fillongley Church
-  Order of Service for Evening Prayer on Zoom 5pm Sunday
-  2021 Corley Annual Plant (Online) Sale
-  *Thy Kingdom Come Novena Booklet*

## MEDALS AND TROPHIES

THAT YOU'VE DESERVED THIS YEAR



*This week's Cartoon from Dave Walker, Church Times*

### 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. <sup>i</sup>

<sup>i</sup> **Contact Details:**

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