

# THE WINDRUSH BENEFICE

ALDSWORTH ❖ THE BARRINGTONS ❖ SHERBORNE ❖ WINDRUSH

*Church of England – Diocese of Gloucester*

This is the

**MAY**

edition of *pEw News*.

Usually published monthly,  
on the *last Friday of each month*.

The Vicar is usually available  
**THURSDAY to SUNDAY**  
of each week

SEVEN SERMONS ON

## ACTS

REASSURANCE  
*for* CHRISTIANS



WHO  
WHAT  
WHEN  
WHERE  
WHY



PRACTICAL  
**FAITH**

FOR ORDINARY PEOPLE

## SERVICES THIS MONTH

**1 May 2022** *Easter 3*

11 a.m. SHERBORNE  
Morning Prayer CW

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**8 May 2022** *Easter 4*

11 a.m. LITTLE BARRINGTON  
Morning Prayer BCP

5 p.m. via Zoom  
Evening Prayer

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**15 May 2022** *Easter 5*

11 a.m. ALDSWORTH  
Morning Prayer CW

11.45 am ALDSWORTH  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

3 p.m. Memorial Service  
*for Julian Ward*

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**22 May 2022** *Easter 6*

11 a.m. WINDRUSH  
Holy Communion CW

11.45 am WINDRUSH  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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**29 May 2022**

*Sunday after Ascension*

11 a.m. GREAT BARRINGTON  
Morning Prayer CW

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## LOOKING UP

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Some will see it as soon as they walk in. Others are taken by surprise, or perhaps have to have it pointed out to them by a steward. However you come upon it, there is no way you can look at the painting by John Constable of *The Ascension* without looking up at it.

Set more than three metres above an archway to the South porch of Dedham church, in north Essex, it is at a height that few paintings are displayed. It was not just security that suggested that location was a good idea, for there was simply nowhere else to put it within the church as the rest of the wall space is taken up with the many great windows and by umpteen memorials. As one wit put it, when you see the painting for the first time it is as if you've arrived at the scene of the Ascension — but a few moments late!

Along with the churchwardens, I was involved in making a case to *The Constable Trust*, who own the painting, to have it displayed in that church, so that another genuine Constable painting could be seen in 'Constable Country'. The Stour Valley on the Essex-Suffolk border has been called that since the painter's own lifetime, in the early 19th century.

Art historians had called the painting *The Risen Christ*, which was a rather ambiguous title for it could imply that it was about the Resurrection. When the painting was returned from the conservators a rather murky area in the bottom right of the painting had become clearer. It revealed a man's face, with his hands clasping the sides of his face in an expression of awe, being a witness to a remarkable moment.

It was pointed out to the Trustees that, according to the Gospels, there was no human witness to the moment of the Resurrection, so this must be a painting of the Ascension, at which we are told the Apostles Peter, James and John were present (Luke 24, Acts 1).

Ascension Day is celebrated this year on 26 May, coming as it always does forty days after Easter Day. Following his death and resurrection, the risen Christ appeared again and again to his disciples. We know only a little of what he did during that time but we do know that he was seen by many people, including by some on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, and elsewhere.

He strengthened and encouraged these people, opening their eyes to all that had been promised about the Messiah. He told them that, as the Father had sent him, he was now going to send them, to all corners of the earth, as his witnesses. It is partly the reason that Christianity eventually spread to become the largest and most widespread faith there has ever been.

**Ascensiontide is therefore a time of encouragement, of 'looking up' to Christ, and through Him giving us renewed hope, of not allowing discouragement from any source to 'get us down' spiritually.**

Those who remember the comedy monologues of Stanley Holloway, of *My Fair Lady* fame, and Mariott Edgar, who wrote *The Lion and Albert* series, may recognise the source of these lines (to be read in a Lancashire accent):

*It rained and it rained for a fortni't,  
And flooded the 'ole countryside.  
It rained and it kept' on raining,  
'Til the Irwell were fifty mile wide.*

*The 'ouses were soon under water,  
And folks to the roof 'ad to climb.  
They said 'twas the rottenest summer  
That Bury 'ad 'ad for some time.*

*Noah cruised around, flying 'is pigeons,  
'Til fortieth day of 'The Wet'... he said  
'The sky's took a turn since this morning;  
I think it'll brighten up yet.' ❖*

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## LOOKING AROUND

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### WANTED

#### SOME HELP WITH BENEFICE ADMINISTRATION

**W**e are immensely grateful to **Carolyn Lee** who has been helping this benefice as its first part-time Administrator. As the life of the five churches begins to expand, following the lifting of the Covid restrictions,



there is a vacancy for a volunteer to work alongside Carolyn in helping the Churchwardens and Minister of this benefice be more responsive to their communities, particularly in *a better management of emails and phone calls.*

Could this be you or someone you know?



### CHOIR CONCERT

#### SHERBORNE CHURCH

7.30 p.m. FRIDAY 27 MAY 2022

**T**he Gloucester Police Male Voice Choir will be giving a concert in Sherborne church. Tickets £10. In aid of the Church Fabric Fund. Tickets at the door.



### PEONY PARTY

SUNDAY 12 JUNE 2022



**A**t the Malt House, Windrush, by kind invitation of **Liza Sears**. Champagne & canapés, 5.30 – 7 p.m. Tickets £10 pp. In aid of *The Friends of Windrush Church + Church Fabric Fund*. Limit to 50 people, so please book early. Please contact Dallas Ariotti for payment details:

[dallas.ariotti@gmail.com](mailto:dallas.ariotti@gmail.com)



### JUBILEE

#### CELEBRATIONS

THURSDAY 2 JUNE

**WINDRUSH** Lighting of a Jubilee Beacon and Drinks outside the Village Hall.

**GREAT BARRINGTON** Lighting of a Jubilee Beacon. Beacons will be lit nationwide at 9.45 p.m.

FRIDAY 2 JUNE

**THE BARRINGTONS** Thanksgiving Jubilee Service in the parish church at 2.30 p.m. followed by Afternoon Tea on Barrington Green.

**ALDSWORTH** Village Tea Party venue and timing will be published in the next *pEw News*.

SATURDAY 4 JUNE : 'Derby Day'

**WINDRUSH** Village Photograph by *Lea Mary* at 11 a.m. Photos will be available to buy from **Tony Mortlock**. Please do take part in this historic village record – but if you really can't be there on the day, then Tony will arrange to take an individual photo of residents. This will be followed by refreshments in the Hall after the photograph—sandwiches and nibbles – or bring your own picnic food, if you prefer.

4.30 p.m. The Big Race

SUNDAY 5 JUNE

**SHERBORNE** Jubilee Service in the parish church at 11 a.m.

**THE BARRINGTONS** Jubilee Picnic for residents at Back Lane, Great Barrington. Bring your own picnic lunch.

**SHERBORNE** Jubilee Picnic at *Stones Farm* from 1 p.m. By kind permission of **Peter and Johnny Summers**.

Bring your own picnic lunch. Plentiful parking and shelter if wet. There will be a Dog Show with 'small, medium and large' classes. Top-up bar available.



Published for the Windrush Benefice by the Revd Dr Gerard Moate

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# FOR YOUR PRAYERS

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## *Easter*

LORD of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection  
of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory. Amen.

## *Ascension*

RISEN CHRIST,  
you have raised our human nature to the throne  
of heaven:  
help us to seek and serve you,  
that we may join you at the Father's side,  
where you reign with the Spirit in glory,  
now and for ever. Amen

## *For Peace*

O GOD, from whom all holy desires,  
all good counsels, and all just works do proceed;  
Give unto thy servants that peace  
which the world cannot give;  
that our hearts may be set  
to obey thy commandments,  
and also that by thee, we,  
being defended from the fear of our enemies,  
may pass our time in rest and quietness;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

ALMIGHTY GOD,  
kindle, we pray, in the hearts of all,  
a true love of peace  
and guide with your wisdom those  
who take counsel for the nations of the earth;  
that in justice your kingdom may go forward,  
till the earth is filled  
with the knowledge of your love;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

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## FOOTNOTE

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From *Patheos*, James F. McGrath, 2014

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