

4th Sunday after Easter Holy Communion

We welcome
Rev'd Steve Barnes

Hymns

77. Christ triumphant
901 Now is Christ risen from the dead
806 Beauty for brokenness
187 God is love, let heaven adore him

Collect

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

New Testament Reading Acts 8. 26-40

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) **27** So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship **28** and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. **29** Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' **30** So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you

understand what you are reading?' **31** He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. **32** Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

34 The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?'

35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. **36** As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' **38** He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. **39** When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. **40** But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

(Verse 37: some ancient manuscripts add an extra verse)

Gospel John 15:1-8

The Gospel of Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus the True Vine

15.1 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. **2** He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. **3** You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot

bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. **6** Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Post Communion

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen

Chatterbox

Every Wednesday 10:30 am to 12:30pm.
All Welcome - tea - coffee - cakes - meet & chat.

Zoom Prayers & Bible Study
Friday 2pm Zoom Prayers.

Community Larder
Every Tuesday from 11 to 12:30!

Stantonbury Churches Newsletter
Available by email or ask for a hard copy.
Copy on inside Notice Board.

EACH SUNDAY

Junior Church Restarting
for 2- 10 year olds

Clergy in our Team

Paul Smith retires September.

A replacement Team Rector is to be sought.

This vacancy for the Team Rector post has now gone live and we provided you with the links below.

Church Times - [Team Rector vacancy in London and Home Counties \(churchtimes.co.uk\)](#)

Pathways - [Team Rector in the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership in Milton Keynes | Church of England](#)

Diocese of Oxford - [Team Rector in the Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership Milton Keynes - Diocese of Oxford \(anglican.org\)](#)

Chuks leaving St Andrews

It was announced a couple of weeks ago that Chuks' is leaving St Andrews after 7 years ministry. His last service with us will be on Trinity Sunday, 26th May.

Sunday 28th April 2024

THE

4th Sunday after Easter

CROSS AND STABLE

The True Vine

How might it feel to be part of the vine?
 Not just to see the vineyard from afar
 Or even pluck the clusters, press the wine,
 But to be grafted in, to feel the stir
 Of inward sap that rises from our root,
 Himself deep planted in the ground of Love,
 To feel a leaf unfold a tender shoot,
 As tendrils curled unfurl, as branches give
 A little to the swelling of the grape,
 In gradual perfection, round and full,
 To bear within oneself the joy and hope
 Of God's good vintage, till it's ripe and whole.
 What might it mean to bide and to abide
 In such rich love as makes the poor heart glad?

A Sonnet by Malcolm Guite



Contacts

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Nick Johnson Treasurer nickjohnson38@outlook.com

Zoom Link to 11 am Sunday 28th April

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85922248518?
 pwd=Tm4vd00wancwVk52cCtqNm5tMWRZdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85922248518?pwd=Tm4vd00wancwVk52cCtqNm5tMWRZdz09)

Meeting ID: 859 2224 8518. Passcode: 830413

TODAY	THIS SUNDAY	NEXT SUNDAY:	NEXT SUNDAY
Easter Four Holy Communion Led by Steve Barnes	Acts 8; 28-end John 15; 1-8	Psalm 98; 1 John 5: 1 to 6; John 15: 9 to 17	Baptism (Singed) Led by Sam

Cross and Stable is part of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
 Church of England • Baptist Union • Methodist Church • United Reformed Church