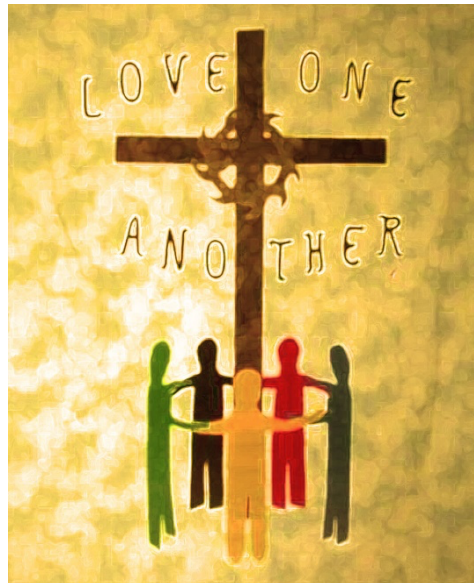


**Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, 15th May 2022**



Dear Friends,

‘A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.’

(John 13: 34)

On Thursday of this week, I had a glorious post-Covid reconciliation with many dear friends at The Boaz Project at Hill Farm on Chilbolton Down. Welcoming adults with learning and physical disabilities, Boaz was set up in 2007 by James and Carol Mitchell-Innes to support their son, who continues to value participating in the collegiate working environment of farm life. Boaz is a place I never tire of visiting. Though my remit as unofficial Chaplain is to deliver prayers and pastoral support, I always leave feeling deeply blessed by the Christian values of unconditional love, care and faithful living which so naturally exude from each member of the project. Boaz is very definitely a sanctuary where I see and feel Christ’s commandment lived out: ‘A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.’

Boaz is about to advertise for a new Deputy Manager as the current deputy, Sally, is retiring after many years of gifted work for the Project. She will leave huge shoes to fill, but if you feel a calling to this sort of work (or know someone else who might), please do call Manager, Stuart Palmer, on (01962) 761749 or email him at: admin@boazproject.co.uk

Meantime do keep a note in your diaries to come along to the **Boaz Project Open Day on Saturday, May 28th, 1-4pm.** Members are already busy nurturing award-winning plants for sale, growing an impressive amount of fruit and veg, making countless items of beautiful craft work such as lavender hearts, and planning lots of fun activities for us all to join in with on the day.

One of the messages we must take from Jesus' command for us to love one another is that He does not wait for us to be perfect before asking us to show His love to others through the way we live our lives. Though we get things wrong, we can still use the gifts and skills we do have, and we can also thank God for what He has already done for us and in us.

Through Christ, He can make something beautiful happen even through our very real faults and failings, and we can trust Him to guide us through the Holy Spirit to work towards His kingdom values and the work He has begun in us. If we live our lives trying to follow Christ's commandments, we will surely be made anew, in His love for us and in our love for others.

This beautiful medieval poem speaks powerfully into this action of Christ's heart:

Christ Who Creates Us Anew

Christ our God has washed us with water from His side
And has redeemed us by pouring out His blood;
May He strengthen within us the grace of redemption which we have received.

Through Him, we have been born again,
By water and the Holy Spirit;
May He grant us a share in His heavenly kingdom.

He has enabled us to begin our journey of faith;
May He also complete His work in us,
And bring us to the full perfection of love.

May the Lord our God,
Who has rescued us from the lake of misery,
Bring us to the tree of life.
May He who has destroyed the gates of hell,
Open to us the gates of paradise.

If all this theology is a little heavy for some, I hope you will appreciate the following photo which proves, if it is ever needed, that we are each of us capable of making mistakes in everyday life. The irony of this spelling error on this bus stop was not lost on Lancashire County Council! Praise God that we can all share these moments of humour and learn from our mistakes enough to truly love each other and encourage actions of love to make our hurting world a better place in Christ's grace.



Image - Metro

NB: Please don't forget Peace and Wholeness service at 6pm at St Catherine's Church, Littleton this coming Sunday evening. It is an opportunity for us to come and pray together, seeking Christ's healing love for ourselves and those we love.

Yours in the abiding love of Christ,

Jax

Revd Jax Machin, Rector, The Downs Benefice

Collect for The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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.



I Am the Resurrection' by Mike Moyers

John 13: 31-35 - Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. 32 If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.’

Schedule of Services

Now that all national Coronavirus restrictions have been lifted, it is no longer necessary to book seats in our parishes for services. Neither is it mandatory for you to wear masks in church. However, Coronavirus is still very much with us. There are a number of people in our villages with it at present, so we are encouraging people to observe social distancing measures.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Ch</i>	<i>Cr</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>Sp</i>	<i>Wh</i>
<i>15th May</i>	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	6pm – Peace & Wholeness	8am – Holy Communion (BCP)	
<i>22nd May</i>			Christian Aid Morning Prayer Service	Morning Worship	8am – Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>26th May Ascension Day</i>			7.30am – Holy Communion followed by Breakfast in the Church Room		
<i>29th May</i>		5 th Sunday Benefice Holy Communion			
<i>5th June Pentecost / Whit Sunday / Platinum Jubilee</i>	Morning Prayer - for Her Majesty The Queen	Holy Communion	9.15am - Prayers for Her Majesty The Queen		
<i>12th June Trinity Sunday</i>	11am - Trinity Sunday Open-Air Benefice Service followed by BYO Benefice Picnic (Northwood Park)				
<i>19th June</i>	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	6pm - Peace & Wholeness	8am - Holy Communion (BCP)	
<i>22nd June</i>			Mid-week Holy Communion		
<i>26th June</i>	Thanksgiving Service for the Fete (<i>in the Fete Marquee</i>)		Morning Prayer	Morning Worship	8am – Holy Communion (BCP) <i>PLUS</i> 6pm – Spring Meditations