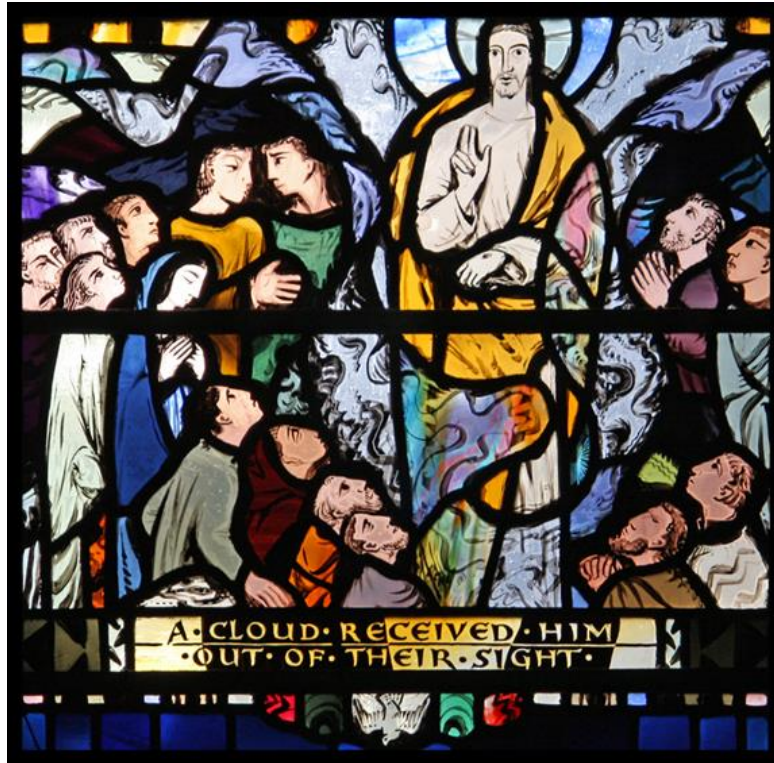
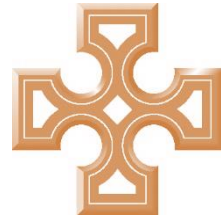




## SAINT JOHN'S MALONE

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Ascension.

Building: Church of St Elthedreda, London

### **Sunday after Ascension. *Seventh Sunday of Easter***

Welcome to Saint John's especially all who are visiting today.

An audio loop system is in operation for those with hearing aids. The order of service is available to download from the website and the 10.30am is livestreamed on St John's Malone YouTube channel. Those baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and are communicant members of their own church are welcome to receive Holy Communion, according to conscience.

**Today: Sunday 12th May 2024**

**9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel**

**10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist**

**The Eucharist ~See service booklet for 10:30am if available or below for page references in the BCP 2004**

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<b>Liturgy of the Word</b>	
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Gospel (stand)	
Sermon	
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Motet	King of all ages,, Throned on High - Isom
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Blessing	
Dismissal	
Organ Voluntary	Ricercare: Llanfair – David Briggs
Office Setting	Davison

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**Collect**

Grant, we pray, Almighty God,  
that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ  
to have ascended into the heavens;  
so we in heart and mind may also ascend  
and with him continually dwell;  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## First Reading **Acts 1: 1-11**

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with <sup>\*</sup>the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' <sup>7</sup>He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Psalm

## Second Reading **Ephesians 1: 15-23**

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason <sup>16</sup>I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. <sup>17</sup>I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, <sup>18</sup>so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, <sup>19</sup>and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. <sup>20</sup>God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup>far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above

every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. <sup>22</sup>And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading *Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Luke chapter twenty four beginning at verse forty four. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

**Luke 24: 44-53**

44 Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup>and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. <sup>51</sup>While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. <sup>52</sup>And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; <sup>53</sup>and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

**Post Communion Prayer**

God our Father,

you have raised our humanity in Christ  
and feed us with the bread of heaven.

Mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings,  
we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;  
where he now lives and reigns for ever. **Amen**

## READINGS

**Acts 1:1-11**: Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Then he is taken up into heaven, with the assurance of the angels that he will return.

**Ephesians 1:15-23**: Paul's prayer for the Ephesians that they may know the power of Christ who is over all and fills all.

**Luke 24:44-53**: Jesus reminds the disciples of how he has fulfilled the Scriptures, then he promises the Holy Spirit, blesses them and is taken up to heaven.

## REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

If the Ascension has led us to faith in a disembodied, removed God who is watching us "from a distance", we have missed its message. Whatever the disciples actually witnessed that day, the facts of the experience are far less important than the meaning. The Ascension certainly does not mean that heaven is "up," hell is "down," and God is looking down on us from some far removed place. Rather, the Ascension offers us a number of crucial truths that, in this world of injustice and inequality, we desperately need to reclaim. First the fact that Jesus did not die, but was seen to "return" to the Godhead physically is a continuation of the story of incarnation. God does not despise the human body – rather God embraces it, inhabits it, and glorifies it, making human flesh part of the Godhead! This means that the needs of the body – for food, clean water, sanitation, shelter, and loving, intimate touch – are all part of the Gospel and are included in God's gift of salvation. Secondly, the Ascension declares as clearly and loudly as it can that Jesus, and not Caesar (nor any other Empire, government, system, or social hierarchy) is Lord over all. This means that our ultimate allegiance must be to Christ first, and that our lives are called to be a reflection of Christ's reign in the midst of the other forces and 'lords' that influence and control our world. Finally, the Ascension always comes with the promise of the Holy Spirit's power which tells us that God is not absent and removed from us, but continues to be completely immersed in the world and in the lives of human beings. The gift of the Spirit also assures us of God's resources and God's inspiration and God's guidance to strengthen and enable us as we seek to live as faithful followers of Christ. It may be tempting to make this celebration about Christian triumphalism, but that would be to deny the meaning of Christ's earthly life. Rather, the Ascension is the necessary next step in that life, ensuring that God remains involved with human beings, that God's presence continues to be available to us, and that we know that everything that makes us human – including our physicality – has been embraced and welcomed into God. It's less about "Christianity" defeating all, and more about Christ drawing all things into the life of God.

## Services this week

### **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Matins said 10am**

Tuesday Matins will be said in the chancel stalls for six weeks until the Feast of Pentecost so if you're free for 20 minutes on a Tuesday morning do come along and participate in this short time of morning prayer. Learning to pray daily office is very simple and includes using the psalms of the day, the collect of the day and the morning canticles along with the two set readings from the old and new testaments. As with all our services, it is part of the common prayer life of our community and it is a big advantage in beginning to pray the Office, to do it in community. All are welcome.

**Wednesday 15<sup>st</sup> Zoom Compline 7:30pm.**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> St Matthias Eucharist 10.30am** with prayer for those in need will take place in the Side Chapel. The prayer list is in the Side Chapel.

*A cup of tea/coffee is now available after this service.*

**Next Sunday: Pentecost | 19.05.24**

**9.00 a.m. Eucharist in the Side Chapel**

**10.30 a.m. Festival Sung Eucharist.** Coffee/tea follows this service and all are welcome.



## **Notices: |**

**Sign up for the regular email Update at [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com)**

**Giving and Stewardship** in St Johns' much of our income received is through the Free Will Offering Scheme using either envelopes or increasingly, by Standing Order. Standing order forms are available by asking the Churchwardens or contacting the Office or [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com). Alternatively if you wish to make a donation then the account details for St John's are also available from the Wardens. Your donations help us maintain our buildings and support ministry and outreach here in St John's and more widely.

**The select vestry has launched a Stewardship Appeal in the parish.** An Appeal leaflet explaining this is being distributed to all homes.

**IF YOU HAVE NOT AS YET RECEIVED THE LEAFLET PLEASE TAKE ONE FROM THE BACK OF THE CHURCH IN THE WHITE ENVELOPE**

**Your consideration will be greatly appreciated as we seek to address the shortfall in meeting our day to day costs and plan for the future.**

### **Organising your wedding in St John's**

Weddings are special occasions in the life of any family and of the Church. We'd be delighted to talk to anyone contemplating their wedding in St John's. When considering getting married please check possible dates with the Rector before confirming any other arrangements. It is expected that couples will make a regular commitment to the life of the Church in preparation for marriage.

### **Hospital Visiting**

The Rector would appreciate knowing if parishioners are going into or are in hospital or discharged and is pleased to offer pastoral support.

### **Safeguarding**

The Rector, select vestry and parish leaders are committed to uphold the good practice to the parish's ministry with children, young people and vulnerable adults. Should you have any concern or suspicion regarding child welfare in the parish please contact a member of the **parish panel.**

#### ***Please note new numbers:-***

Rev Canon Stephen Fielding 9066 6644

Mrs Patricia Armstrong 07854005699

Mr Anthony Stevens 07710647080



The poster features a dark blue background. At the top, there is a string of colorful triangular bunting flags in yellow, pink, green, and orange. Below the flags, the text 'St John's Parish Choir' is written in a small, white, sans-serif font. The main title 'Bake Sale' is in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. Below the title, the date 'Sunday 12th May' and the time 'After the 10:30am Eucharist' are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. A horizontal line separates this text from the next paragraph. The paragraph reads: 'Members of the choir will hold a bake sale to raise funds for our upcoming visit to sing at Southwark Cathedral, London, in July.' Below this text is a row of four small, square photographs showing various baked goods: a cupcake being decorated, a stack of cookies, a chocolate muffin, and a plate of muffins. At the bottom of the poster, the text 'Please support us' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font, with a horizontal line underneath.

St John's Parish Choir

# **Bake Sale**

Sunday 12th May  
After the 10:30am Eucharist

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Members of the choir will hold a bake sale to raise funds for our upcoming visit to sing at Southwark Cathedral, London, in July.



**Please support us**





## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 12-18<sup>TH</sup> MAY

1. Envelopes are available in church this week to support the work of Christian Aid.
2. A link to the online parish envelope will also be available in the latest email Update
3. or donate directly at the link below on CA's website.
4. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

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[www.malone.connor.anglican.org](http://www.malone.connor.anglican.org)



@malonestjohns

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The Parish Office for administrative matters, or for information about organisations connected with St John's (90667861) e-mail: [secstjohns@btconnect.com](mailto:secstjohns@btconnect.com)

The Rector, Rev. Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters (90666644)

e-mail : [malone@connor.anglican.org](mailto:malone@connor.anglican.org)

***Please take this booklet home with you for the readings, notices and reference during the week and recycle.***