

The Benefice & Team Ministry of Tettenhall Wood and Perton

The Parish of Tettenhall Wood

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Dear Friends,

I hope you are keeping well and are well-sustained, physically and spiritually.

We are approaching 40 days since Easter, and so the celebration of the Ascension into Heaven of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have two services to send out to you this week, one for Ascension Day on Thursday, and the other for Sunday 24 May, which is the 7th Sunday after Easter.

I have produced a new short order of service to cover both of these, helping us to reflect on the meaning of the Ascension and looking forward to the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost the following Sunday. I am grateful to Richard Shreeve and to Joy Dipple for preparing sermons for Thursday and Sunday respectively. Also to Samantha Haughtey for the prayers she has written – I suggest we use them for both services – and to her daughter Isabelle for a gloriously colourful picture of Jesus ascending to heaven.

Again, both services are being recorded and will be available on the parish website – www.christchurchtettenhallwood.co.uk – YouTube channel and church Facebook pages. My thanks once more to Russell Taylor for dealing with most of the technical side of this. I am on the look out for more people willing to record themselves reading or leading intercessions: please let me know if this is something you could do.

Thy Kingdom Come: The sixth ***Thy Kingdom Come*** prayer season will run from **Ascension Day**, Thursday 21 May, to **Pentecost Sunday**, 31 May. While unplanned, the lockdown context this year echoes the ‘upper room’ context in which Jesus’ followers prayed in the pause between his ascension to heaven and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Now, as then, God’s people are genuinely asking the Lord to reveal his **purpose, presence and power** in the face of **uncertainty of how they would fulfil his command to continue his mission on earth**.

For those with online access, there are lots of resources available for *Thy Kingdom Come*. Look at www.thykingdomcome.global or the Lichfield diocese website. **For those with young children** (or adults who like to make prayer fun!) there’s a Digital Family Prayer Adventure Map which links to your phone or tablet to feature daily games with ‘augmented reality.’ Enjoy!

We pray for God’s kingdom in all sorts of ways, but one vital way is simply for people to come to know the Lord as their King. Many of us have already committed to pray regularly for 5 individuals we know to come to know the love of God personally. In this season, let’s make sure we’re praying for them every day. Here’s a simple prayer you might like to use, from one of the resource booklets:

Loving God, thank you that you gave your Son Jesus for me, and for all people. Help me accept the love that you showed me in sending your Son. I pray for my five friends. Please open their hearts to your love. And teach me to love more truly. Amen.

May God keep you in his love. With every blessing,

Phil

The Parish of Tettenhall Wood
Christ Church, Tettenhall Wood & The Church of the Good Shepherd, Castlecroft
The Parish of Perton

The Church At Perton (A Local Ecumenical Partnership between the Church of England and the United Reformed Church)
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