

# 18 May 2025—Fifth Sunday of Easter

## Welcome to our services today

### Annual Meetings

The Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held **today** in Trinity Hall.

The documents for the meetings can be viewed and downloaded by visiting this website address: **[allenbrown.uk/apcm2025](http://allenbrown.uk/apcm2025)**

Anyone wishing to send apologies for absence for this meeting can send them directly to the PCC Secretary, Susan Brown, at [susan@allenbrown.co.uk](mailto:susan@allenbrown.co.uk) or by text message to 07731 652055.

### Mothers' Union

The MU's next meeting is tomorrow (Monday 19th) at 7pm in Trinity Hall. Our guest speaker is Jenny Banks who will be giving us her talk "From Angel to Trustee".

### Trinity Fair and Open Day: Saturday 14th June

Please make sure this date is in your diaries!

There are boxes at the back of both churches for any donations for this day.

Volunteers to help on the day would be welcomed.

### *Please remember in your prayers this week:*

#### **The sick and infirm:**

June Anderton, Margaret Coles, Janet Dadson,  
Ian Hasbey, Leah James, Jerold Lee,  
Janet Murton, Dave Powers, Pat Rorison,  
Christina & Geoff, Graham, Jack & Rosemary,  
Kate, Kirk & Karen, Mac, Mike, Sue, Tony

**and the needs of** His Holiness Pope Leo XIV

#### **Anniversary of death:**

Dorothy Bond, David Dennis, Arthur Heffer,  
Ronald Sexton, Baby Catherine Whiteley

### THIS WEEK

• All events at Holy Trinity—*unless shown otherwise* •  
*Weekday Readings: Week 5 of Easter*

#### **Monday**

7.00 pm: MU meeting—*Trinity Hall*

#### **Wednesday**

6.30 pm: Mass (6.00: Exposition of Bl. Sacrament)  
Psalm R. *Alleluia*.

#### **Thursday**

11.00 am: Bible Study Group

#### **Friday**

11.00 am: Mass (10.30: Exposition of Bl. Sacrament)  
Psalm R. *Alleluia*.

2 – 4 pm: Tea at Two—*All Saints Hall*

#### **Next Sunday—Sixth Sunday of Easter**

9.15 am: Mass with hymns—*All Saints*

11.00 am: Sung Mass

### COMING UP

#### **Thursday 29th May—ASCENSION DAY**

6.30 pm: Sung Mass

### **'Tea at Two'**

We meet every Friday from 2 – 4 pm in All Saints Hall. Come and join us for great cake, tea/coffee and conversation. We look forward to seeing you!

### **Weekly news sheet**

Please send any items for inclusion on the sheet to Fr William by the end of Wednesday each week.

## Living the Word

*Acts 11: 1-18*

This is not the narration in Acts of the conversion of Cornelius, but Peter's rendering of it to the community when justifying his actions. Like the story of Paul's conversion, this story occurs three times in Acts, showing the importance of this moment when the first gentile is received into the Church.

Nevertheless, Peter is humble and witty enough to include his little tiff with the voice from heaven, whose liberalism so scandalised him, and which ended up by roundly ticking him off for his criticism of God's creation.

Jesus left the first generation of Christians unclear about whether observation of the kosher-rules of Judaism should continue.

Mark 7.19 has 'Thus he made all foods clean,' but the corresponding passage in Matthew deliberately leaves it out.

Matthew wrote his Gospel for Christians sprung from Judaism. As they considered Christianity to be the continuation and fulfilment of Judaism, they needed to think out the extent to which the rules and customs of Judaism still applied.

This gives us the valuable lesson that the Bible is not to be handled as a religious Google which supplies all the answers at the tap of a few keys.

Peter stresses that the Holy Spirit – and not himself – was responsible for the acceptance of the first gentile: in the original account the Spirit merely interrupted Peter, whereas now Peter says he hardly had time to begin speaking when the Spirit poured down.

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Gospel: John 13: 31 – 35



Jesus, on the night of his betrayal, tells the disciples 'where I am going you cannot come'. At first hearing, this is a strange thing for Jesus to say. He had taught 'I am the way' and to 'follow me'. However, Jesus is referring to where he will go at the moment of his physical death. As we say in the Apostles creed, 'he descended into hell.' St Peter tells us in one of his letters ( 1 Peter 3) 'being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison because they formerly did not obey'. Jesus goes where we cannot follow because he plummets the furthest point of darkness and death. He brings light and hope to even those who have rejected God. Only Jesus, the Son of God, who is Light and Life could do that. As St Paul says 'by his death he has destroyed death'. Jesus in descending into hell has also destroyed the power of him who had death at his command; the devil. Jesus experienced the absolute darkness and oblivion of death and opened up the gate of everlasting life. He went where we cannot go to prevent us going there.