

Thought for the Week

Jesus says something which is both astonishing and moving in today's reading from John: "I do not call you servants any longer... but I have called you friends." But something else he says might take us aback: "You are my friends if you do what I command you." Now we don't tend to think of friends as issuing rules, and we don't think of friendship as dependent upon keeping them. So let's think about the Red Arrows again for a moment. To get to that level of precision and skill takes years of training – and of course training requires obedience. So with such high stakes you can bet that fighter and aerobatic pilots take obedience extremely seriously – because they know their lives depend upon it. Of course we're fine, down here on terra firma. Since we don't have earth spinning towards us at hundreds of miles an hour, we don't have to obey commands in order to save our lives. Or do we?

Throughout the Gospels Jesus spells it out with stark warnings and parables – the slave who fails to use his talents, the wicked vineyard tenants, the unproductive fig tree – they all end up cast out of heaven because they disobeyed God's commandments. So in fact our eternal lives also depend upon obedience – the stakes could hardly be higher. And it would be a poor friend who didn't do anything in his power to save our lives – even if that meant laying down the law.

Intercessions

In the name of Jesus we pray for healing for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, and for those who care for them

Stuart Forman, Ray, Kevin, Mason,
Archie Webster, Elaine Harrod, Jennifer Lane, Liz Galton, Berna, Daphne Cart̄y, Snowy,
Joy from Hillrise,
Joan Pritchard, Beth Hirst, Lionel Hall, Mark,
Lorna Sturney, Becky, Joyce Upward,
Strat Liddiard, Karen, Lucy, Jenny,
Betty Tripp, Derek White, Tracy Nicholls,
Alice Pink, Barbara Shearman, Loretta,
Paul Hanscombe, Stanley and Gill Gibbons,
Ivy Webb, Crawford, Ralph and Zara Toop, Zac,
The Lenaerts family, Jasmine, Michael, Alison,
Carol and Don Knott.

We remember those who have died recently, and pray for their families and friends

especially

Maureen Oldham.

Praying as a Benefice

Please use the following text and prayer in quiet time; the text is from this Sunday's readings and the prayer is from Bishop Jonathan. Please pray either at noon or 5.55 pm (or both) every day.

This week's Bible Text

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. (*John 15:10-11*)

The Prayer

Glorious God,
You have taken hold of us and made us Your own. In the power of Your Spirit give us grace to press on in Your purposes, loving one another, learning together and living the mission of Him who calls us onwards, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Week Ahead

Tues 8	7.15 pm	Homegroup David and Peggy 8028 3154
	7.30 pm	Rock Choir St M
Weds 9	10.30 am	Holy Communion and coffee in Nondescripts
	11.00 am	Bellringing AS
	1.00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal CC
Thurs 10	7.00 pm	Benefice Holy Communion for Ascension Day AS
	7.30 pm	Bellringing St M and AS
Fri 11	3.00 pm	Kneeler Group AS
	6.00 pm	Wedding rehearsal St M
Sat 12	12.30 pm	Wedding St M
	1.00 pm	Wedding CC

Next Sunday 13th May 2018

Easter 7

10.30 am	Holy Communion CC
10.30 am	Coffee then Morning Worship St M
4.15 pm	Discussion Group and tea AS
6.00 pm	Evensong AS

Acts 1: 15-17 21-end	GNB NT 143
1 John 5: 9-13	GNB NT 293
John 17: 6-19	GNB NT 135

Notices

Garden Party for Christian Aid

The Bee Garden Bank on Saturday 2nd June at 2.30 pm No tickets. Donations on the day please. Prizes for Raffle and Cakes for Stall would be most welcome. Look forward to seeing you. Telephone 8028 2378.

The Lyndhurst Catholic Church is once again holding a **plant sale at Dunelm in Silver Street**. Nuala and Henry Rosenvinge look forward to seeing as many people as possible from **10.00 am to 12.00 pm on Saturday 12th May**. All proceeds are going towards CAFODs work in Ethiopia. As usual there will be lots of flowering and vegetable plants; a large garden bric-à-brac stall; tombola and one of the best cake stalls you'll ever see. £2 entry to include tea/coffee and cakes. If anyone has any items of garden bric-à-brac that are spare, in particular clay pots and garden tools, please could they contact Henry on 02380 282485 and he will come and collect.

Jumble Sale

Saturday 26th May 10.30 am St Michael's

Pentecost Sunday 20th May

Churches Together Unity Service at 3 p.m. at St.Michael's led by Revd Paul Burnish from the Baptist Church. Incorporating a "Bring your own" Picnic in the church or in the grounds depending on weather.

May/June

20th May

9.30 am Holy Communion AS
10.30 am Holy Communion CC
11.00 am Holy Communion and coffee St M
3.00 pm Churches Together Unity Service St M

27th May

10.30 am Holy Communion CC
10.30 am Coffee then Altogether Worship St M
10.30 am Service of the Word AS

3rd June

9.30 am Holy Communion AS
10.30 am You Church CC
11.00 am Holy Communion and coffee St M

10th June

10.30 am Holy Communion CC
10.30 am Coffee then Morning Worship St M
4.15 pm Discussion Group and tea AS
6.00 pm Evensong AS

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND in
LYNDHURST & EMERY DOWN & MINSTEAD
Trusting Christ Transforming Church
Transforming Community

6th May 2018

Easter 6

Welcome to our gathering today!
If you wish to know more about the activities of our churches, please talk to one of the welcomers, call the Benefice Office (8028 3175) email us benefice@newforestparishes.com or look us up on Facebook, or the website (www.newforestparishes.com).

Today's Services

9.30 am Holy Communion AS
10.30 am You Church CC
11.00 am Holy Communion and coffee St M

Collect

God our redeemer, ☐
you have delivered us from
the power of darkness ☐
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: ☐
grant, that as by his death
he has recalled us to life, ☐
so by his continual presence in us
he may raise us to eternal joy; ☐
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, ☐
who is alive and reigns with you, ☐
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ☐
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Today's Readings

Acts 10: 44-end **GNB NT 156**

The Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit while Peter is speaking to them. Peter challenges anyone to deny them baptism, and they are baptised.

1 John 5: 1-6 **GNB NT 293**

The writer reminds his readers that to love Jesus is to love God, and to love God is to obey his commandments. But, he writes, it is not burdensome, because faith conquers the world.

John 15: 9-17 **GNB NT 133**

Referring to them as his friends, servants no longer, Jesus tells the disciples to keep the Father's commandments and abide in his love.