

UNITED BENEFICE OF CRADLEY MATHON AND STORRIDGE

Pewsheets for Sunday 22 April, Fourth Sunday of Easter (BCP Easter 3) Essential news from around the benefice

DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Give us, O Lord, a steadfast heart, which no unworthy affection may drag downwards; give us an unconquered heart, which no tribulation can wear out; give us an upright heart, which no unworthy purpose may tempt aside. Bestow upon us also, O Lord our God, understanding to know you, diligence to seek you, wisdom to find you, and a faithfulness that may finally embrace you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Thomas Aquinas)

SERVICES ON 22 APRIL

Readings: Acts 4: 5-12; John 10: 11-18

9.30 a.m. Shorter Mattins

9.30 a.m. Mattins – Lay led

10.30 a.m. Family Communion

Mathon
StorrIDGE
Cradley

OTHER SERVICES

Evening Prayer at 6.30 p.m: Monday at Cradley, Tuesday at Mathon, Wednesday at StorrIDGE

Holy Communion on Wednesday at Cradley at 10.00 a.m.

BENEFICE COMMUNION SERVICE AT CRADLEY CHURCH - 29 April at 10.30 a.m.

A service celebrating 'Godparents Sunday' with Eastertide Renewal of Baptismal Vows

On **ROGATION SUNDAY**, 5 May, the annual Benefice Rogationtide Walk, to bless the land and the crops, takes place in the centre of Mathon village, starting from the church at 10.30 a.m. The only other service in the benefice that day is a celebration of Holy Communion at Cradley at 8.30 a.m.

A DEANERY COMMUNION SERVICE FOR ASCENSION DAY (Thursday 10 May) will be held at St. Michael's, Ledbury, at 7.30 p.m. Celebrant the Revd. Robert Ward, as Rural Dean; Preacher the Venerable George Howe, Archdeacon Emeritus; with refreshments to follow. All are invited.

THY KINGDOM COME, a national vigil of prayer, runs from Ascension (Thursday 10 May) till Pentecost (Sunday 20). Resources to enable individuals to take part are now available in all three parish churches.

EVENTS & MEETINGS

ST GEORGE'S DAY CELEBRATION AND COMMUNITY PARTY at the Red Lion on Sunday 22 April starting at 12.00 noon. Cradley Church is having a tombola stall at this event with proceeds going to Church funds. Items suitable for the tombola would be welcome and can be given to Sue Ronan, Ian Bailey or Maggie Edgar

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS (for the election of churchwardens and PCC members and to hear reports on the year's activities and finances) Mathon Monday 23 April, 7.30 p.m. in church; Cradley Wednesday 25 April, 7.30 p.m. in Cradley Village Hall.

ELGAR AND THE POETRY THAT INSPIRED HIM: A talk by Peter Sutton, author, actor, translator and lecturer. Admission is free (donations to StorrIDGE Church are welcome) - Tuesday 24 April in StorrIDGE Church at 7.30 p.m. (This event is part of StorrIDGE Literary Festival 2018)

TODAY IN OUR PRAYERS

On Vocations Sunday, pray for all that is being done to encourage and awaken a sense of vocation, both to the priesthood of the Church and to other forms of ministry; pray too for all who sense that God is calling them and are perhaps wondering how to respond, and what their next step should be. **In the wider Anglican Church**, pray for The Church in Nippon Sei Ko Kai (The Anglican Communion in Japan), for The Most Revd Nathaniel Makoto Uematsu, Primate, and Bishop of Hokkaido, and for all who live or work in that part of the world. Pray for the church where it is persecuted or opposed, and for all in our world who face discrimination because of their beliefs. **In our diocese**, pray for the Leominster Deanery. **In the wider world**, pray for the peace of the world, and for those responsible for diplomatic relations with Russia; for all places of fear and conflict: for the Middle East, South Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan; and for every family where there is division: for all victims of famine or natural disaster; all members of the armed forces and those who work for peace

Among the sick, we're asked to pray for Ashley and Natalie (Sheila Mullaney's grandson and his partner) following a road traffic accident; Peter Baker; Alison, suffering from cancer; Margaret Adams, Elspeth Barks, Eryl Copp, Eric Payne, Paul Peters, Tim Ross, Graham Wykes and all who support and care for them.

Remember all who have died: and in particular this week John Scott-Dickins, pray for their families and friends and all who mourn.

NEXT SUNDAY 29 April – Fifth Sunday of Easter, (BCP Easter 4) *Readings: Acts 8: 26-end; John: 15: 1-8*
10.30.a.m. Benefice Communion (see notice above) **Cradley**

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www.cradleychurch.org.uk; www.mathonchurch.org.uk; www.storrIDGEchurch.org.uk