



**St Leonard's Church**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021**

*"To be a Christian presence in the community, embodying God's love in all we say and do."*

Revd Sue Burchell 01295 271008

Churchwardens: Jerry Lewis 01295 262854; Alison Brown 01295 367247

Verger: Liz Spittle 01295 254035

**Prayers:**

**Bidding:** Your kingdom, let it come!

**Response:** Your will, let it be done!

**First Reading:** *Acts 8:26-40*

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

**Gospel: John 15:1-8**

Jesus said to his disciples:

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

**Memory Hearts**



We will hold memorial events later in the year, to remember those who've died during the pandemic, and want to create a 'Memory Blanket' covered in fabric hearts to put on display.

Make a fabric heart in memory of your loved one decorated, on one side only, any way you wish.

Hearts should be no more than 26cms (10") wide and 30cms (12") long.

Completed Memory Hearts can be brought into church any Sunday, by 27<sup>th</sup> June, please.

**This week:**

- Tuesday** 7.30pm Bible study group via Zoom  
**Wednesday** 10am Midweek Communion in church and via Zoom  
**Thursday** ***Church in use as a Polling Station***  
**Saturday** 10am Morning Prayer in church and via Zoom  
10.30am to 12 noon Church open for individual private prayer  
**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May** 10am Eucharist in church and via Zoom

**Further ahead:**

The following events are planned, dependent on Covid restrictions being lifted:

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 10.30am.** Put up Memory Blanket after Morning Prayer. People can bring in hearts on the day (if they haven't already) and light candles.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> July 6pm.** Memorial service for those who've died during the pandemic

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July, 3pm to 5pm.** Community afternoon tea, with music from Gospel Bell

**St Leonard's School**

There is a vacancy for a Foundation Governor (one appointed by the PCC). Please speak to Revd Sue if you are interested.

We hope to start Open the Book assemblies (acting out Bible stories) again in school sometime in the summer term. Please speak to Revd Sue if you are interested in taking part. No acting experience necessary!