

COLLECT

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Acts 8.26–40

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go toward 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

This is the word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**



Be not far from me, O Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 22:25-end

R: Be not far from me, O Lord.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord shall praise him; their hearts shall live for ever. **R** All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before him. For the kingdom is the Lord's and he rules over the nations. **R** How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship, or those who go down to the dust kneel before him? He has saved my life for himself; my descendants shall serve him; this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come. They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people yet unborn, declaring that he, the Lord, has done it. **R**

SECOND READING 1 John 4.7–21

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

This is the word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

Gospel John 15.1–8

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

GLORY TO YOU O LORD

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **PRAISE TO YOU O CHRIST**

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for
ever. **Amen.**



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The United Benefice of Sharnbrook, Felmersham and Knotting with Souldrop

St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook MK44 1HU, St Mary's Church, Felmersham MK43 7JP

All Saints Church, Souldrop MK44 1EX

www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org



Welcome to church in the middle of Eastertide—Welcome!

Worship in the Benefice today... **Easter 5**

0830 Souldrop Holy Communion BCP

0930 Sharnbrook Parish Communion RnS

1100 Felmersham Parish Communion

1300 Sharnbrook Baptism of Teddy John Mossop

1800 Sharnbrook Taize

Monday-Commemoration- Pandita Mary Ramabai 1922

1145 Messy Church

Tuesday—Red Letter Day— Ss Philip & James

1930 Rectory **Holy Communion CW** followed by drinks and nibbles to keep the feast

Wednesday-Lesser Festival— Athanasius, Teacher of the Faith, 373

0930 Sharnbrook **Holy Communion 1st Wed BCP**-High Altar-

Thursday—feria

0930 Felmersham **Holy Communion CW**

1030 Sharnbrook House Holy Communion

Friday—Lesser Festival- English Saints & Martyrs of Reformation Era

1600 Souldrop Ashes Interment

Saturday—feria

Next Sunday services—**Easter 6 Rogation Sunday**

0930 Sharnbrook Parish Communion & RnS

1100 Felmersham Parish Communion

1600 Rogation Walk

starting at Felmersham to Sharnbrook

1800 Sharnbrook Benefice Rogation Evensong

including a presentation by Andrea of her placement at the Salvation Army

Benefice Ordination Gift for Andrea: a collection is started to buy the traditional ordination gifts of an Ordination stole & Preaching Scarf, in your generosity give your donations to the Rector in cash, or cheques payable to "R. Preston" or Paypal to rjp@reubenjamespreston.co.uk or BACS 20-07-82 10181048 Ref 'Andrea' Gifts will be acknowledged.



Intercessions

The sick and in need: Keri, Hazel, Stuart, Peter, Matthew, Barbara, Sally, Pam, Marjorie, Doreen, Conrad & Cynthia

The Departed: Pam Raven —**May she rest in peace**

Prayer requests for the week:

Pray for Teddy John Mossop baptised today

Pray for Andrea as she gets ready for her ordination

Pray for church cleaners and flower arrangers

Christian Meditation Group

meets on Mondays 2000 in SPR—all welcome!



Help with Maintenance at St Peter's.

1. **The Churchyard**—On Fridays 10am=noon, we will be working to tidy up the churchyard, and tackle the damaging infestation of ivy. If you can spare a couple of hours - on any Friday morning, we would be very pleased to see you..



Celebration
Christians praying that people come to know Jesus Christ
Worship with Soul Survivor

with the Archbishop of Canterbury and Revd Hayley Young, Baptist Minister

St Albans Cathedral

Saturday 19th May 2018, 6:30 pm
prayer stations and activities from 4pm

Church Contacts

The Rector: Reuben Preston, The Rectory, 81 High Street, Sharnbrook MK44 1PE 01234 782000 07971 895897 rectorofsharnbrook@rjpmmedia.co.uk **Reader: Garry Johnson** 07855 762922 **Lay Leaders of Worship:** Rosemary Drewery 07792926004, Jane Templeman, Andrea Maffie 07881 046255

Churchwardens:-

St Peter's Church: Roland Carpenter 01234 781551
Janet Norman

St Mary's Church: Sue Whitehouse 01234 781300

All Saints Church: Nick Wells 07841 759497

Safeguarding Co-Ord: Rosemary Drewery 07792 926004

Items for inclusion should be sent to sharnbrookbenefice@gmail.com by 0900 on Wednesdays.

To make arrangements for Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms/Christenings, Confessions, House Blessings etc. please contact the Rector

Sponsorship: in memory of Rosalind Pelle

If you would like to sponsor this sheet please send you £5 donation to The Rectory along with details of the sponsorship (even if anonymous)