

This week we pray in love for:

The worshipping life of the churches

- ◆ Church organists
- ◆ Our choirs and other musicians
- ◆ Our bell-ringers
- ◆ Our flower-arrangers
- ◆ The benefice prayer group
- ◆ Those who worship with us from outside the parishes
- ◆ Those who care for our churchyards

April prayers for...

Kensworth

Common Road from Hollicks Lane to Isle of Wight Lane

Studham

Dunstable Road, Southern Way, Bell Farm Close and Bell Cottages

Whipsnade

Oldhill Wood and Byslips Road

This week please remember in your prayers:

Gayle and Chris, married yesterday at Kensworth; Archie, to be baptised at Kensworth today; and those in the midst of illness, operations or accidents, including Don Burger, Lee-Anne Burger, Frank and Barbara Walker, Jim and Margaret Putterill, Trish Palmer, Jo, John and Helen, Hilda, Mike; and those who have died recently, including Margaret Clarke, Ellen Aston, Roger Beard, Denis Knowles and Patrick Carrigan.

Do you have a name or a request for prayer that you wish to have included on this prayer list? Please email Nicola on revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com before Thursday each week.

A prayer for this week: Almighty God, thank you for your great story, which has been shared from generation to generation down to us today. ***Amen.***

*Readings for next week – Isaiah 55: 1-11;
Acts 10: 44-end; John 15: 9-17*

• ***Dates for your diary***

- **Tuesday 30th April, 10.30am** – Funeral and burial of Roger Beard, Kensworth Church
- **Tuesday 30th April, 3pm** – Kensworth School Collective Worship, Kensworth School
- **Thursday 2nd May, 2pm** – Funeral of Ellen Aston, Bierton Crematorium
- **Wednesday 8th May, 12.30pm** – Whipsnade Village Lunch, Whipsnade Village Hall
- **Thursday 9th May, 11.30am** – Funeral and burial of Patrick Carrigan, Studham Church
- **Thursday 9th May, 7.30pm** – Ascension Day Eucharist followed by the AGM of the NCG, Kensworth Church
- **Friday 10th May, 3.30pm onwards** – Kids Club, Studham Church

Foodbank requirements:

Long life milk; tinned meat meals (Irish stew, chicken in white sauce, meatballs etc.); tinned fruit; long life fruit juice; tinned potatoes; tinned carrots; carrier bags!
They are well-stocked with baked beans.

May Festival! After the 10.30am service at Kensworth on May 5th, join us for a celebration festival in the churchyard with the crowning of the May Queen, BBQ, Morris dancing, beer and wine tent, cake stall, bric-a-brac, open bell tower, plant stall, face painting, raffle, dog show and lots of fun and games! Do come along and support us at this fundraising event.

Congratulations to Dorothy Blackburn, who was awarded Kensworth Villager of the Year by the Parish Council.

Well done Dorothy – richly deserved!

Welcome to the United Benefice of Kensworth, Studham and Whipsnade

Part of the North Chilterns Group of Parishes

Sunday 28th April 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Kensworth	8.00am – Holy Communion
	10.30am – Family Service
	12noon – Holy Baptism
Studham	10.30am – Holy Communion
Whipsnade	9.00am – Holy Communion

Services next week: 5th May

Kensworth	10.30am – May Day Holy Communion
Studham	10.30am – Family Service
Whipsnade	9.00am – Holy Communion with Sunday School

If this is your first visit to one of our churches, then please make yourself known as we're a friendly lot – really! The rector (Nicola) can be reached on (01582) 872223 or at revnicolalenthall@btinternet.com. Please also email Nicola if you'd like to receive this service sheet weekly by email. We hope you enjoy your time with us.

Sunday 28th April 2024
Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Collect

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 8: 26-40

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

All: Thanks be to God

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All: Glory to You, O Lord

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayer after 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.**

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS:

Can you see opportunities to share your faith gently in everyday life?

For parents and carers, ask your children: "How would you feel if someone asked you 'Why are you a Christian' or 'Why do you go to church?'"