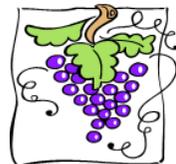


GRAPEVINE

5th Sunday of Easter
2nd May 2021

Letting people know about the love of Jesus Christ



You can do anything as long as you have the passion, the drive, the focus, and the support. Sabrina Bryan

Welcome to St Peter & St Mary's Church

When is the best time to plant runner beans? I can guarantee whenever I go past the allotments by Combs Ford there are always lots doing better than mine. Plant too early and the frosts will kill them off, that's why I've held back this year because of all the cold nights we had in April. But in other, warmer, wetter years, when the succulent shoots shot up out of the ground they had their heads bitten off by slugs. It's a tough life out there for an ambitious runner bean.

This year I thought I'd hedge my bets and have a backup plan. I've put half a packet of seeds straight in the ground and my 3 year old granddaughter, Amelie, helped me to sow the other half of the seeds in pots to start off indoors.

I explained to her what we were going to do and told her that, as it was a bit of a messy job, we would do it outside with the pots, the compost and seeds. She took me by the hand and as we walked out the back door she said, "Grandad? Why are they called runner beans? Is it because they can run?"

She had come up with a very logical answer. After I had explained that they couldn't run I then realised that she needed the right solution. What would you have said? I think it has something to do with the way they grow? As a climbing plant, they send out 'runners' which are fast-growing shoots that curl and clasp onto other plants for support. They need to do this so that when they produce their own beans, in pods, they are kept off the ground to keep them safe.

That's why gardeners plant their runner beans at the base of tall garden canes, to give them all the support they need to grow strong as a plant and produce maximum numerical growth of beans.

Jesus didn't give advice about growing runner beans but He did mention grapevines and there are a lot of similarities between the two. And if you check out what He said, there are lessons in there for the Church, as well.

Michael

Vicar: The Revd Michael Eden - theedens@talk21.com Tel. 678623

Curate: The Revd Richard Stretch - richardstretch@btinternet.com Tel. 676219

Church Wardens - churchwardens@stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk

Mr Dan Sparks 07702 196268; Mrs Michelle Sparks

Church Office CLOSED office@stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk

 Stowmarket Parish Church  @stowmarketcofe

Website: www.stowmarketparishchurch.co.uk **Regd Charity Number 1132857**

ZOOM LOGIN DETAILS

<https://zoom.us/j/9658283398?pwd=SjN2V252VGxSNGRnSnBOM1JETk1Bdz09>

Meeting ID: 965 828 3398 - Passcode: 615182

This Sunday - 2nd May

The Family Service starts at 10am. We are meeting in our Church building and Covid restrictions are still in place with handwashing, mask wearing, social distancing and only singing in your head.

If you can't get to Church you can join with us in worship from 10am on Sunday, on YouTube: https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCUjH_zTFVjMe1XckXQ0II_A
A link can also be found on the Church Website along with the Service Sheet. A DVD of the Service is also available, contact the Vicarage (678623) if you would like one.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

At last week's Annual Meeting Dan and Michelle Sparks were elected as our Churchwardens & Tony Leigh-Pollitt & Sheila Taylor voted onto the PCC.

Keeping the Church Open

We are planning to open up the Church building on Monday and Thursday for private prayer from 10am until noon. If you can help with welcoming mid-week, please contact Michael 678623. We will not be able to serve refreshments yet so duties consist of, sitting in Church and being welcoming.

Prayer Meeting

We meet on the Church Zoom at 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings for half an hour. The first 15 minutes focus on a specific subject then opening up for other areas of concern or thanksgiving.

You are invited to come along. There is no pressure to pray out loud, just the desire to meet with others and pray for our Church, friends, our town, the world and in fact anything. It is informal and a most enjoyable and rewarding time. Why not give it a go?

If you don't have the computer technology you can also join on even the most basic of phones. Just call 02039 663 809 and follow the instructions. Meeting ID which is 965 828 3398 # and if asked, dial in with meeting password 615182.

Geographical Group Leaders Meeting

Thursday 13th May, 7:30pm—Meeting on Zoom to review where we are at the moment and possible ways forward.

Diary

Sunday 2nd May

10:00am Family Service in Church & Live streamed on YouTube

Monday 3rd May - Bank Holiday

Church closed

Tuesday 4th May

12:30pm Clergy Chapter Meeting

6pm Boys Brigade & Girls Association Meeting

Wednesday 5th May

6:30pm Prayer Meeting

Thursday 29th

10am-noon Church open for Private Prayer

Sunday 2nd May

10:00am Morning Worship in Church

& Live streamed on YouTube

**May 10th – 16th 2021****Why help?**

If we have learned anything through the pandemic, it is that the whole world is in this together as regards both COVID-19 and climate change, but some people are affected far more drastically than others.

Christian Aid aims to help some of those facing the greatest challenges.

Next week you will find a Christian Aid donation envelope in the Grapevine if you can get to church, and details of how you can make a donation by Faster Payment if you are currently taking part in services from home. If you would like to give a cash or cheque donation from home for Christian Aid Week, please let Jane know and she will make sure that you get an envelope delivered to you.

What can you do?

We are encouraging church members to see if they can do something extra to raise funds for Christian Aid on behalf of St Peter and St Mary's Church. Is there something you could do to make a difference for others and have some fun yourself?

Quiztian Aid

If you would like to take part in a nationwide quiz, Quiztian Aid is back on Saturday 8th May at 7pm. The quiz was a smash hit last year raising almost £7000. This year's quiz is hosted by Death in Paradise stars, Tobi and Prisca Bakare with special guest hosts including Rhidian Brook, Kate Bottley, Kris Marshall and Rowan Williams. Sign up now and invite your friends, family or church to join and help Christian Aid transform lives in Kenya. To sign up, go to: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/virtual-events>

Contact Jane Stretch if you have questions or need resources.