**10th May 2020**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Live-Streaming:**

Worship will be live streamed on my **Facebook** page (Peter Hayler) this morning, from St Giles’ Church at 9:30, and from Plaxtol Parish Church at 11:00.

**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**

**Gospel:**

Jesus said, ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it. *(John 14:1-14)*

**Making Meaning:**

This week’s reflection is given by the Archdeacon of Rochester, Andy Wooding Jones:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QodNPYmrhes&feature=youtu.be>

**Prayer:**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.**

**Reversing Lockdown:**

Following the House of Bishops’ meeting on 5th May, and the direction of Simon, Bishop of Tonbridge our churches Church will remain locked, but may be used by clergy and their household for daily prayer, and the streaming and filming of worship for social media.

I will endeavour to say Morning Prayer at Plaxtol 8.30pm and Evening Prayer at Shipbourne on a daily basis, and I will celebrate Holy Communion at Shipbourne at 9.30am, and at Plaxtol at 11.00am on Sunday ‘on behalf’ of ‘everyone’. Prayers and readings will continue to be published on St. Giles’ Church pages at [www.shipbourne.com](http://www.shipbourne.com), and on the **Facebook** group page: ‘Plaxtol Parish’.

The next phases of reversing lockdown are likely to be for funerals and weddings followed by public worship,

each with restricted numbers and social spacing, and only in step with the Government’s timing on the easing of restrictions… watch this space!

**Special Opportunity: Oberammergau 2022**

This renowned Passion Play was due to run this year, but the whole season has been postponed till 2022 because of the pandemic. A Meopham- and Eynesford-based group with whom Donna and I will be travelling now has up to seven places available for a week’s tour with McCabe Travel beginning Wed 31st August 2022. Please contact Jan Thompson if you are interested on [holysmoke@talktalk.net](mailto:holysmoke@talktalk.net) 01322-683062.