Sunday 17th May
Sixth Sunday of Easter

**Worship Online:**A pre-recorded service can be found at:

<https://youtu.be/LPikn8buN48>

We will alternate venues between Shipbourne and Plaxtol on a weekly basis. Many thanks to Steve Davis for use of his equipment and for editing the footage.

**Gospel:**
Jesus said: ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

‘I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.’ *(John 14:15-21)*

**Word Study:**The New Testament teaches many things about the Holy Spirit, mainly from three voices: In Acts of the Apostles (written by Luke), in the Epistles attributed to Paul, and in John’s Gospel. The normal Greek word for Spirit is *pneuma* – from which we get pneumatic and pneumonia – and this word has more the sense of ‘fluid’ – either a liquid or a gas – hence ‘living water’ as a sign of the Spirit (John 4) and ‘breath of God’ (John 20). But John uses another word too: *paracletos* – which is very difficult translate. If you have the New English or Revised English Bible at home you will find the word ‘Paraclete’ which is just a transliteration of the Greek and perhaps not very helpful; other translations offer: Counsellor, Advocate, Guide, Comforter. Which word rings truest for you? Which word helps you to understand the work of the Holy Spirit, and to reach out directly to the Holy Spirit in prayer?

**Further Reflections:**The Dean of Rochester, The Very Rev’d Philip Hesketh, shares with us this week:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHZp7TBFYKE>

**Anthems for the week:**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JoEtQtxXdXA><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fl05xS9m_fI>

**Prayers:**

Living God our world is so fragile and vulnerable at this time as we work to manage the devastating effects of the corona virus. Guide our leaders - as individually and together they make difficult decisions as to how and when to move forward. We pray for our NHS and all hospitals, medical facilities and care homes throughout the world –specifically we pray for the resource of PPE so medical professionals can work in safety, for the medical skills and knowledge needed to care for patients and to find a vaccine, for resilience and strength so workers can cope with the heavy workload and most of all we pray for hope.

***Sweet Spirit comfort us - Comfort and guide us***

Living God, may the Way Jesus lived his life be the Way we live our life. In our communities of Plaxtol and Shipbourne we thank you for the love, compassion, understanding, care, support and hope we have shared with each other…..and for the small gestures that bring a smile and sense of joy. Strengthen us to continue to offer this ‘Way of Being’ to all, especially those who are vulnerable, anxious and struggling with their isolation at this time.

***Sweet spirit comfort us - Comfort and guide us***

Living God, we remember those who have died and pray for them now. You have led them out of pain into the light of eternity. We remember grieving families in their pain, not only in losing their loved one but also for not being able to comfort them in their dying. Keep us all in the Way that leads us to share that everlasting life with you

***Sweet spirit comfort us - Comfort and guide us***

Living God, our life is in your hands,

Your love for us is so great, and our love for you so small. Thank you for accepting what we are able to offer. Although we cannot be together at the moment, build us up and unite us by the power of your Spirit into a temple where you are glorified day after day, in all our praise and worship, and in our love for one another.

Merciful Father, ***accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.***