

UNITED BENEFICE OF CRADLEY MATHON AND STORRIDGE

Essential news from around the benefice on 19 May, Fifth Sunday of Easter (BCP Easter 4)

Readings: Acts 11: 1-18; John 13: 31-35

9.30 a.m. Mattins - Lay led

Mathon

9.30 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)

StorrIDGE

10.30 a.m. Morning Service- Lay led by Sue Ronan, Address by Kevin Brewer

Cradley

CRADLEY SERVICE TIMES: Please note, a paper survey of Cradley's Sunday congregation is running for a month to test reactions to a proposed trial return of Cradley's Sunday morning service to 11.00 a.m., to facilitate a better sharing of the Rector's time across all three parishes. Cradley worshippers are asked to leave response slips (just one each, please!) in the box at the back of church.

WEEKDAY SERVICES:

EVENING PRAYER - said on Tuesday at Mathon at 6.30 p.m. and Wednesday at StorrIDGE at 6.30 p.m

HOLY COMMUNION (CW) on Wednesday at **Mathon** at 10.00 a.m

EVENTS & MEETINGS: CRADLEY SCHOOL GOVERNORS Monday 7.00 p.m. at the school.

CONFIRMATION, and/or EXPLORING THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. contact the Rector soon if interested.

STORRIDGE LITERARY FESTIVAL 2019 launches THIS WEDNESDAY, 22 May, 7.30 p.m.: Peter Sutton on Alice Elgar's Poetry. Entry and interval drinks free. Donations invited for StorrIDGE church. All welcome!

IVOR'S QUIZ NIGHT FOR CHRISTIAN AID, Saturday 25 May, 8.30 p.m at the Royal British Legion, Cradley

ASCENSION DAY- THURSDAY 30 MAY- Deanery Communion Service at St Michael's Ledbury at 7.30 p.m

QUIZ NIGHT IN AID OF CRADLEY CHURCH FUNDS at the Oak Inn, Staplow, Sunday 2 June, starting at 7.00p.m. Cost: £2.50 per person including food in the half time break. To book a team, call 01531 604959

ANNUAL ETHELBERT LECTURE AT HEREFORD CATHEDRAL- Tuesday 21 May, 4.00 p.m.: The Cathedral's role in the Civil Wars of 1215-1217, and the emergence of Magna Carta.

A Wild flower and plant identification session will be held on Tuesday 11 June in the Cradley Church wildflower meadows and is to be led by plant expert Rob Rowe from 10.30-1pm. This is part of the "Beautiful Burial Grounds Project" run by Caring for God's Acre. Places are limited, but free, courtesy of HLF - to book please contact George on 01588 673041.

DIOCESAN PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: God our Father, we praise you for the blessings you shower upon us. Bless the lives of our sisters and brothers and their precious children. In life's saddest moments, may we feel your love most, O Jesus. Continue to dwell in our hearts, Lord. May your love keep us strong. (The Christian Aid Week prayer)

TODAY IN OUR PRAYERS: As Christian Aid Week ends, give thanks for the way in which the Week raises both vital resources and also awareness to support a process that begins with listening and is about partnership and co-operation. Pray for St Mark's Theological College in Dar es Salaam, which Bishop Richard will be visiting during his stay in Tanzania, as it struggles with financial problems. **In the wider church** pray for The Anglican Church of Melanesia, The Most Revd George Takeli (Archbishop, and Bishop of Central Melanesia) and for all who live or work in that part of the world. **In our diocese**, pray for the Pontesbury Deanery, for the Rural Dean (Revd Giles Tulk), the Lay Co-Chair (Mike Kirk), for appointments to the Westbury Group and Pontesbury, and for the development of collaborative ministry across the Deanery. **Pray for our country**, for all involved in the "Brexit" process, and in the forthcoming European elections. **In the wider world**, pray for an adequate response everywhere to the challenge of the ecological crisis. Continue also to pray for peace: for an end to the conflicts in Syria, Yemen, Sudan, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Palestine and Myanmar; for everywhere there is war, fear, suffering or division. Pray for all in our armed forces and all who work for peace. **Pray for Cradley School**, and for all involved in the interviews this week for a new headteacher: especially for Eryl Copp, Chair of Governors, the candidates, and those interviewing. **Among the sick**, pray for Sally Williams, Heather George, Natalie, Elspeth Barks, Margaret Adams and any others known to us, with all who support and care for them. **Remember all who have died recently**, among them Frank Hare and David Ralph, both of Cradley; and Bert Waters, of StorrIDGE. Pray for Christine Hare, Betty Waters, their families and friends, and all who grieve.

NEXT SUNDAY – 26 May: Sixth Sunday of Easter, ROGATION SUNDAY

Readings: for Communion at Cradley. Acts 16: 9-15; John 14: 23-29. Special readings for Rogation at Mathon

8.30 a.m. Holy Communion – BCP (said)

Cradley

10.30 a.m. Rogation procession through the village, starting and finishing at the Church

Mathon

Rector: Revd. Robert Ward, Tel: 01886 880438, E-mail: robert.ward776@gmail.com (Day off: Friday).

www.cradleychurch.org.uk; www.mathonchurch.org.uk; www.storrIDGEchurch.org.uk