

30th April 2017  
Third Sunday of Easter  
Holy Communion with Baptism

## **I believe in the Holy Spirit : the Spirit of truth**

'When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide  
you into all the truth.' John 16:13

## **Welcome to today's service!**

'What is truth?', Pilate asked, scoffing at Jesus' claim that everyone on the side of truth listens to him. In today's world there are many people who, like Pilate, prefer to hide away from the notion of absolute truth. In an age of relativism, 'fake news' and cheap soundbites, the concept of truth has all too often been absurdly reduced to something like 'what seems true to me right now'. Jesus, though, could not be clearer. Not only is there such a thing as eternal, absolute truth, but it couldn't be more important for us - both for now and for all eternity - to discover it personally and to hold onto it as the guiding principle in our lives. Truth, though, is not simply an abstract formula: it can't be reduced to the sort of 'grand theory of everything' that scientists like Stephen Hawking have devoted their lives to chasing after. Truth is far more personal than that. Truth is a lived reality found only in God. It is only in God that we find the true context for our existence, and God has chosen to reveal himself definitively and uniquely in Jesus. Because God has made us as people, we can only know truth when we know him personally through Jesus, and to enable us to come to know him personally in that way, he sends the Holy Spirit into our lives. The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism, and so it's especially fitting that we're thinking about the truth that the Spirit lead us into us as we celebrate Evelyn's baptism this morning with her parents Nicole and Sam. Let's join them in praying that Evelyn will be guided into all truth, and let's pray the same for ourselves too.

  
James Kennedy (Vicar)



During our 10.45 service, to serve our families, we run a supervised crèche (for 0-3's), 'OneWay' (for children aged 3-11) and 'Ablaze' (for youth aged 11-16). Everyone is welcome!

**3rd Sunday of Easter**

**St Mary's NO 8am Holy Communion**

**St James' Chapel Over Norton (No service on 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)**

**St Mary's 10.45am Benefice Communion + Baptism (with crèche, OneWay**

**Leading:** Rev Martha Simpson **Preaching:** Rev James Kennedy & Ablaze)

**Reading:** John 15:26-27, 16:13-15 **Mary Smith Prayers:** Rev Ursula Simpson

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**NOTICES**

**Pentecost praise**

On Sunday June 4th, as a church, we will remember and celebrate Pentecost—the day when God sent the Holy Spirit to his people. To allow more time to delight in God's spirit, seek him together, and to pray for the gifts he promises through his Spirit we will be having a special evening service of praise and prayer, 7.30-9pm. It'll be relaxed, contemporary and informal so do come along if you would enjoy worshipping in this way. All across the Benefice are welcome! For more info ask Chris O Shea or Martha—martha.simpson@stmaryscnorton.com.

**1st Priority Prayer—Churches Together (7.30pm, Wed 3rd May)**

Join us this month as we pray together with other churches in the town. As we enter into a new season, we need the full weight of all of your prayers, so please be a part of a time of uplifting worship and corporate prayer. If you've not been before, come and take up your place in what fuels the life of the church.

**Men's Fellowship Breakfast—, 8.30-10.00am on Sat 6 May in Parish Rooms)**

Come for a full English and to hear our guest speaker, Peter Stephens, a senior employee of Nissan Cars and former Missionary in Namibia. Contact David Bishop if you'd like to join us (davidbish5@phonecoop.coop)

**Come for Tea** is open to all and is held every second Monday in the month in the Parish Centre - The next one is Monday 8th May. For information contact Amanda Gafford, on 641284. **Come and join us!**

**Christian Aid:** This year Christian Aid week runs from Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May to Sat 20<sup>th</sup> May. Would anyone be prepared to collect in Church Street or Distons Lane, where most people will be well used to the collection and likely to respond positively.

We are selling teas in the church at Chastleton to visitors to Chastleton House (NT). Would anyone like to help on the afternoons of 13<sup>th</sup> May (Sat) and/or 19<sup>th</sup> May (Friday)? Or perhaps you could provide a cake that could be cut into large slices?

Contact Fiona Rossington on 01608 643344 or [lfrossington@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lfrossington@hotmail.co.uk) (NB: the first letter is a lower case L)

**4th Sunday of Easter**

**St Mary's 8am Holy Communion (BCP)** Leading: Rev Jackie Jones  
Reading: Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Acts 242-end Barbara Ambrose

**St James' Chapel Over Norton 9.15am Holy Communion Rev Martha Simpson**

**St Mary's 10.45am Holy Communion (CW) (with Creche, 'One Way' & Ablaze)**

Leading: Rev James Kennedy Preaching: Richard Cunningham

Reading: Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13 Peter/Jen Williams Prayers: Bill Rees

**Contacting St Mary's**

Website: [www.stmaryscnorton.com](http://www.stmaryscnorton.com)

**Clergy Team**

**Team Rector of Chipping Norton Benefice:**

**Rev Dr James Kennedy**

✉ vicar@stmaryscnorton.com

Tel: 01608 642688

*N.B. James takes his rest day on a Friday*

**Curate**

**Rev Martha Simpson**

✉ curate@stmaryscnorton.com

Tel: 01608 645668

*N.B. Martha works part time and so is not available on Tuesdays, Fridays or Saturdays*

**Team Vicar of Kingham & Churchill:**

**Rev David Salter**

✉ david.salter@stmaryscnorton.com

Tel: 01608 658852

*N.B. David takes his rest day on a Friday*

**Associate Minister:**

**Rev Jackie Jones**

✉ jackie.jones@stmaryscnorton.com

Tel: 01608 65861600

**Youth Worker**

**Jonny Lowe**

✉ youth@stmaryscnorton.com

Tel: 01608 645668

*N.B. Jonny takes his rest day on a Saturday.*

**Office**

**Church Office, St Mary's Parish Rooms,  
Church Street, Chipping Norton, OX7 5NT  
(Office hours 09.00-11.30 weekday mornings)**

**Church Administrator**

**Emma Bayley**

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Tel. 01608 646202

**Finance Administrator**

**Emily O'Shea**

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St Mary's is a registered charity:

**Church Wardens**

**Linda Carpenter**

**Graham Povey**

✉ churchwarden@stmaryscnorton.com

**Financial Giving**

If you would like to give to support the mission and ministry of St Mary's, may we encourage you to join our planned giving scheme. If you are a UK taxpayer you may be able to add Gift Aid which increases your giving by 25%. Please pick up a leaflet to explore ways to give or you can give online at <https://my.give.net/donations>

**St Mary's is a caring fellowship.**

Being a member of a Small Group is the best way to make sure you are both cared for, and able to care for others. For more information about joining a group please email [smallgroups@stmaryscnorton.com](mailto:smallgroups@stmaryscnorton.com). Otherwise, if you or anyone you know is sad or unwell, in hospital or in need of any other support, please let the Church Office know. We have a team of pastoral visitors who would love to help.

