



May 2022

Jesus' ascension into heaven: God is always with us



May's Teatime Church newsletter is all about Jesus' ascension (rising up) to heaven. Ascension Day is the celebration of Jesus Christ rising from earth to heaven 40 days after he was resurrected on Easter Day. God continued to be with people through the Holy Spirit, which gave Jesus' followers the power to continue his work on earth.



May's Teatime Church service takes place on Sunday 22 May, 4-5:15pm at the back of Holy Trinity Church. There will be crafts linked to Jesus' ascension into heaven, including: creating Holy Trinity triangles, ascension cloud crafts, decorating some Jubilee bunting with the theme: seeing God in our world and a monthly Lego challenge!

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Good Friday Crafts, Good Friday Service, Easter Service, Easter Egg Hunt and making an Easter Garden over April!

The resurrection and ascension of Jesus

Resurrection

After his death, Jesus' body was taken down from the cross and placed into a rock tomb with a heavy stone covering its entrance. When his female followers, including Mary Magdalene, visited the tomb the Sunday after his crucifixion, they saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb. Inside, Jesus' body was missing.

In the garden surrounding the tomb, there appeared a man dressed in white. The women pleaded with him to return Jesus' body, but the man explained that he was Jesus. Mary Magdalene returned to the disciples to tell them the good news that **Jesus had risen from the dead**. Christians call these events the resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is mentioned in the gospels as appearing many times over the next 40 days. Jesus' resurrection shows people the power of God but also teaches them not to be afraid of dying. His sacrifice overcame sin and offers humans hope of eternal life.

Ascension



40 days after Easter, the Church celebrates the Jesus' ascension into heaven. **Jesus appeared to his disciples after the resurrection and told them that he was going back – ascending – up to his father, God, in heaven.** *After Jesus had said this and while they were watching, he (Jesus) was taken up into a cloud (Acts 1:9-10).* Jesus had been seen many times during the 40 days after Easter, preparing his disciples – those people specifically chosen by Jesus to spread the gospel after Jesus' death and resurrection – to continue his work, which was all part of God's plan.

The disciples could not carry out their mission of spreading Jesus' message without help, however. Jesus tells his disciples to stay in Jerusalem until they receive power from God. This power is God's **Holy Spirit**, who Jesus says will come after he goes away. After Jesus ascends into heaven, the disciples wait for the promised Holy Spirit, a new, invisible form of God.

Jesus' ascension is important to Christians because it shows that Jesus really had overcome death – he wasn't just resurrected to die again, but to live forever. For many Christians, the fact that Jesus' followers witnessed him ascending into the clouds leaves no doubt that Jesus is alive and with God the Father in heaven, and is no longer

limited to living on earth. The resurrection and ascension of Jesus prove to Christians that Jesus is the Son of God and demonstrate God's total power. The ascension reminds Christians that Jesus has gone to heaven to prepare a place for them, so they do not need to fear death. As Jesus is no longer restricted by time, he is always with them and us too.

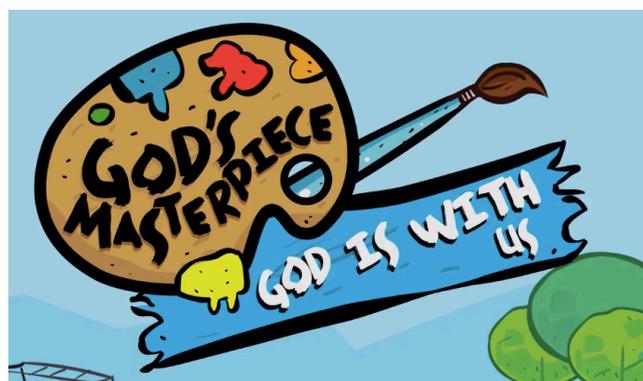
In Acts 1 in the Bible it says that Jesus will return one day, in the same way as his ascension:

Suddenly two men dressed in white clothes stood beside them.¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken to heaven. But he will come back in the same way that you have seen him go" (Acts 10-11).

50 days (7 weeks) after Easter Sunday, **Pentecost** brings the Easter season to an end. Pentecost celebrates Jesus fulfilling his promise to send the Holy Spirit to guide and help his disciples. The Holy Spirit is the third part of the **Trinity** – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – which are the three different parts of God, as the image below shows. It is the means by which God is active and with us all on Earth. People are never alone because God is with us all through our friend, the Holy Spirit, through the beauty of the world, and through the words of the Bible.



Please click on the following link to watch a child-friendly animation about Jesus' death, resurrection and ascension into heaven:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcFw8pLBSIo>

Welcome to those recently baptised



Monthly baptism services are now taking place on Sundays at 12pm in church. In April, we welcomed sisters Darcey and Phoebe into the church at their baptism and at the beginning of May we will be welcoming Maisie and George. Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives. We will support Darcey, Phoebe, Maisie and George in their Christian journeys and pray for them, their families and their godparents. We look forward to seeing them all in person in church very soon. Darcey, Phoebe, Maisie and George we welcome you into the fellowship of faith; we are all children of the same heavenly father; we welcome you. All of our baptism children are now receiving the gifts of a Family Bible and a hand-knitted bear from the Holy Trinity Craft Group to support their Christian journey and their relationship with God and Holy Trinity church.

Our Ascension prayer



God with us

Giving and loving God,
We remember your loving actions in this world,
the sending of your Son and the glory of your rising from death at Easter.

Thank you that you guide us.

We recognise that we are never alone,
for we are always surrounded by your love.

Help us to witness your presence in a world that needs your love.

Strengthen us with your Spirit
and let your light shine through us.

Amen.

Community information

Westbury-on-Trym Community Fair, 14 May 2022



Westbury-on-Trym Community Fair on 14th May is an event for local community groups and charities to get together and raise some funds and awareness. There are lots of stalls, entertainment from local music groups and schools, and plenty of refreshments! It's based at Holy Trinity Church, in the car park of the GPs surgery and a plant sale for the first hour at the Methodist hall. There will be bric-a-brac stall, children's crafts 11-12 at Holy Trinity, local produce on sale, a raffle, tower tours, teddy parachute and much more. A fancy dress competition will be held at 11am with prizes...come dressed up as a famous explorer!

We are looking for volunteers to help run the teddy parachute stall. Children can bring their favourite teddy or toy (some will also be available for a donation) and have them winched up to the top of the tower and then 'parachuted' down!

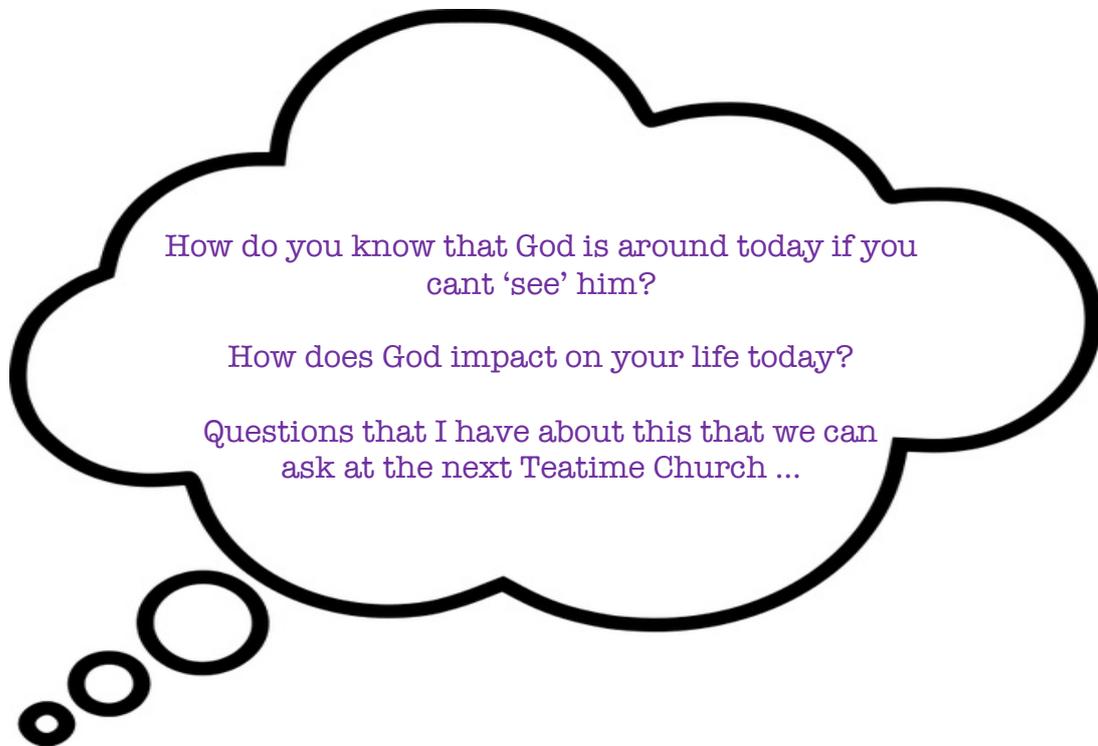
We need volunteers to offer some of their time to operate the teddy parachute stall and would love Teatime Church families to help run it. It involves connecting the teddies into their harness, pulling them to the top of the church tower and allowing them to 'parachute' down. The churchyard will be completely shut off to cars and there will be plenty of stalls inside and out so it will be a safe environment to come along with the family if your children would like to help too! Please email Georgie if you can help for 30 min - 1 hour between 11am and 3pm.

Does your child like to sing?



The parish church choir is recruiting for new singers from 8 years old. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings 6-7pm at the church and services are most Sunday mornings 9.15am -11.15am term time. Members benefit from expert musical tuition in this renowned choir which broadcasts frequently on the BBC and sings in Cathedrals and concerts around Bristol. Adults also welcome. For more information contact David Ogden info@davidogden.co.uk.

Something for the whole family to think about at home before the next Teatime Church ...



Please click on the QR code if you would like to donate to Westbury on Trym PCC to support the work and mission of Holy Trinity Church, Westbury-on-Trym. Thank you.

There is also the option to give a regular monthly donation to the church. Please visit https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=LZ8BCVBMD96XG

Georgie, Family Worker
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