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## Becoming lifelong followers of Jesus Christ

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**8am** Holy Communion in St John's Hall - *new monthly service* – booking required.  
**10am** Morning Worship in church (booking required) and live streamed on [Church YouTube channel](#)  
Speaker: Geoff Lanham *Prayer: Why pray together?* Readings: 1 Timothy 2: 1-8 and Acts 4: 23-31  
Followed by 'Virtual Coffee'



## Also Today

**9.30am** Children's YouTube service  
**6pm** *Heroes of the Faith* KPC Youth service on Penny's YouTube channel

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## What's on this week:

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May** 10am Morning Prayer in Church (booking not required)  
**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May** 10am Morning Prayer in Church and live streamed. *Prayer: Touching the heart of God*  
Readings: Nehemiah 1: 1-11 and Jeremiah 8:21 -9:6

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## Collect for 5th Sunday of Easter

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.

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## Please pray for those who are unwell including:

**Chris Tayler**, for a good recovery following his recent surgery.  
**Bruce Fulford**, home from hospital, but struggling with mobility.  
**Paul Holden** for the healing of his tinnitus.  
**Janet Stewart** who is undergoing chemotherapy for recurrent myeloma.  
**Kevin Evans** for strength and improved mobility.

**Stephen Andrews** thanks everyone for their prayers during his chemotherapy treatment. He is now in complete remission and will soon start a further two years of chemotherapy injections.

Please pray for Audrey Hinchcliffe, Kay Sabell and the wider family in their loss of Audrey's husband and Kay's father, Bill.  
Please also pray for the family of John Pay who sadly died last week.

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## World Church Prayer Focus: Covid in India

Earlier in the week, the UK sent medical aid to India to assist in the treatment of the Covid pandemic that is surging through the sub-continent. Other nations including the USA, France and Germany are also helping but the need is huge. Please pray for the wealthy nations of the world to contribute vaccines and medical equipment with hearts full of generosity, and for the government and officials of India to work fairly, efficiently and quickly together to distribute this aid and enable hospitals to cope with the enormous pressure on resources.

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## News Headlines

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### Message from the Vicar

Dear friends,

Probably like a lot of you, I've been very conscious of the parched condition of the ground in the garden. Every day I go and inspect a shrub that was recently dug into a flower bed, in order to see how it's been doing. Sadly, it has been almost painful to

witness everything so dried out and desiccated. Seeing the leaves curling and turning yellow has filled me with an urge to arm myself with watering cans. One day I empty the can of water only to come back the next day and see the ground looking just as parched. A day ago, I found myself reflecting "How eager am I to water my thirsty soul?" If only I was as attentive to my own spiritual dehydration as I am to the dehydrated state of my garden. As we all have eager eyes on the June 21 hinge point for coronavirus restrictions lifting, it's worth thinking about how we are going to emerge spiritually. Will our souls be dried out and frustrated, or will they have been receiving appropriate spiritual watering?

During lockdown, we've all had to cope with a spiritual diet deprived of singing and being able to receive both elements in communion. No doubt this has rendered the experience of church slightly passionless. For some this has resulted in a new trellis, supporting a few different new spiritual practices. It's been encouraging to get emails from quite a few people saying how much they've been enjoying discovering new ways of praying and relating to the scriptures. Others have, no doubt, become weary of missing the joy that can be released among us when we're engaged in corporate sung worship. It has of course been what it's had to be. Our duty of care towards public health has had to trump our diverse worship appetites. Whatever our frustrations, we'd do well to follow the example of John Wesley, the hymn writer and evangelist. Wesley would always open up small group meetings with the question "**How is it with your soul?**" It's a great question. "How is your soul doing? How is your spirit faring?" We often ask other people, "How are you?" out of habit. But Wesley's question is potentially more threatening. Perhaps it's a question we like to avoid because answering it forces us to really take stock of the health of our souls and may involve us in admitting that we are not doing as well as we want others to think.

One way to measure the health of our souls is to reflect on the position that Jesus currently occupies in our life. After such a dreadful year when we've been denied so much of what we usually enjoy without thinking, it wouldn't be surprising if our minds have turned towards attending to personal comforts, wants and desires. In the rush to get back some normality we've long been craving, the risk is that we take a holiday from following Jesus. Church and connecting with the Christian community may get relegated in the list of our priorities. After all, we've all got so used to a drive-by, fast food kind of church experience. We've been able to tune in when we want and where we want to suit our convenience. Perhaps it's important to be reminding ourselves of what Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5: 14,

"And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them."

Pandemic or not, the truth is that for the Christian **Jesus is our life, not one bit of that life**. Jesus is not just one ingredient among many. Following Him does not mean we can tack him on as an adjunct to give a bit of added spice to our lives in the area of spirituality. In the rush to get back to normal living, we still need a right ordering of our wants and desires. What will it mean to no longer live to please ourselves, but for Him who died for us? Again, Paul writes of how our lives now orbit around the Son;

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me."

That mystical sense of Jesus living in me by the power of the Holy Spirit is what defines our lives as Christians. Why not invite Jesus to take up the pre-eminent place in your life once more? Wherever you have been; whatever difficult journey you have been on this last year, make him Lord again.

Jesus may well want to talk water with us! He sees all too well where we have become dried up. In John 7: 37-38, we read,

37 On the last day of the festival, the great day, while Jesus was standing there, he cried out, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, 38 and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"

We're meant to drink deeply from the life that Jesus gives. We're designed to be replenished from his spring. This involves coming daily to drink and, as we drink, our parched lives are refreshed and made fruitful. What might you need to do to enable this re-filling to take place? What part will church play in this process?

I'll leave you with the thought that God seems to get thirsty too. "Really?" you say. Well, yes in the sense explained by St. Augustine,

*"Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. **God thirsts that we may thirst for him.**"*

If you're feeling dried up, perhaps it helps to know that God is thirsting for you to know Him better. He thirsts for you to follow him as your only Lord and give him the best of your time, devotion and talents.

God bless  
Geoff

## **KPC Youth Corner**

**Penny's Gone Wild!** Unfortunately Penny's Youth Café is closed but following guidance from the National Youth Agency we can arrange outdoor youth discipleship groups for up to 15 young people. Please check the church website for dates/times and to book your place.

**Penny's Youth Service** Please check out the new "Heroes of the Faith" Youth Service on YouTube from 6pm on Sunday (Penny's Youth Café Channel)

**Youth Discipleship Groups** are as follows: (No meeting on Bank Holiday Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May) Tuesday 4pm -Year 8. Wednesday 4pm-Year 7. Please book your place on the Penny's calendar at [www.kpc.org.uk](http://www.kpc.org.uk).

**Lit Residential** The dates for the Lit Residential have changed again (due to COVID restrictions) so we plan to go in the summer holidays (August 20-22). The total cost of the trip will be £200 to include accommodation, food, activities and travel. Please email [anna.holden@kpc.org.uk](mailto:anna.holden@kpc.org.uk) to register interest.

**Newsheet** We have emailed out a Monthly Youth Newsheet. If you did not receive it please let us know by emailing [pennysouthcafe@gmail.com](mailto:pennysouthcafe@gmail.com)

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## **Message from the Children's Team**

Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup> - YouTube service @ 9:30

The KPC Kids pattern for Sundays has now changed. As you know we are running All-In on the fourth Sunday of every month, this will remain virtual for just a little longer until we can run it in the building without restrictions. This will be our focus on the fourth Sundays rather than having a morning programme as well.

We are then introducing KPC Kids Goes Outdoors on the second Sunday of every month at 3pm and our first session will be next Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> May. This will run as an event for all the family, that you do together as a family, whilst being able to remain socially distant from others. Sarah has shared more details via the email, Facebook and WhatsApp groups but if you have missed that do contact her for further information.

The first and third Sundays, and fifth where there is one, will be a mix of YouTube services, zooms and resources sent home for this term.

Dates for May as follows:

9<sup>th</sup> - KPC Kids Goes Outdoors (for all the family) @ 3pm

16<sup>th</sup> - YouTube service @ 9:30

23<sup>rd</sup> - All-In service

30<sup>th</sup> - Resources sent home

Do keep an eye on your emails / Facebook / WhatsApp for other resources / ideas to help you with nurturing faith at home whilst we are still unable to meet together.

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## **Bumps 'n' Babies...in the park!**

If you're an expectant mum, or a parent or carer with a baby or toddler, join us on Fridays at 10am as we meet in Knowle Park. Enjoy the fresh air and chat to other parents and carers with little ones. Please register by emailing [anna.holden@kpc.org.uk](mailto:anna.holden@kpc.org.uk)

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## **Other News**

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### **Help needed please**

Our live streams have been a blessing to so many people in Lockdown and those who are unable to attend church, as well as new visitors online. But we need a few more helpers – would you be willing to be trained to join our friendly audio-visual team?

To find out more, please contact Karen Humby ([karen.humby@me.com](mailto:karen.humby@me.com)) or Tony Lumb ([tony@lumb.me.uk](mailto:tony@lumb.me.uk)) – thanks so much!

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### **Reader news**

Congratulations to Janet Stewart on being licensed to serve as a reader at Knowle Parish Church.

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### **Prayer support to underpin the appointment process for the New Associate Vicar**

You may already know that interviews will be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Would you please continue to pray for those involved in those days, for the applicants, for those who will be interviewing and for clear guidance for the appointment of God's chosen person.

In addition, on the morning of both the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> there is an opportunity to join in a zoom prayer meeting for 30 minutes from 9 am. Peter and Wendy Thompson will coordinate the meeting. If you would like to join in please email the Parish Office [office@kpc.org.uk](mailto:office@kpc.org.uk) by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May and you will receive the link details. It will be the same link for both days.

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## Thy Kingdom Come 13<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> May

We are praying "Thy Kingdom Come" this year, signing up to dedicate time in the days between Ascension and Pentecost to pray 'Come Holy Spirit' for God's kingdom to come. We are encouraged to pray for 5 people. This year especially we will also be remembering those who have suffered because of the pandemic, those who may feel lost or left out because of the need to use technology, but also remembering the huge numbers of people who have joined in and tasted the Love of Christ and seen the work of the church to help and care.



### How can I be Involved?

This year we are praying in our own homes, going for prayer walks or praying virtually on-line together in home or other activity groups. Visit [www.kpc.org.uk/whats-on/prayer-at-kpc](http://www.kpc.org.uk/whats-on/prayer-at-kpc) and you will see the link to the [Thy Kingdom Come Prayer Calendar](#). There you can commit times to pray in 1-hour slots between 13-23 May. Any time slot will accommodate more than one person so you can pray with others. On the web page you can also download the Thy Kingdom Come prayer journal and Thy Kingdom Come App. If you do not have access to the web site, then contact the church office for a printed prayer journal and to note your prayer time.

### A Prayer for Thy Kingdom Come

Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Outdoor worship event Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May

In support of the Archbishops' Thy Kingdom Come initiative, on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May between 7.00 and 8.30pm, Paul Holden and the youth band, supported by Liz Welton will be holding an outdoor worship event outside the priest's door of the church. The event is open to all ages and as we will be outdoors, those attending will be able to sing and join in with the worship leading us into praying for people we know to find faith.

We will still have to socially distance so if you want to attend you will need to book a seat for yourself or your household, indicating the number of people in the household so that we can manage numbers in the space we have available. Bookings can be made on the Penny's Youth calendar by following this [link](#). We look forward to seeing you there.

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## Noticeboard

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### Join the 'Quizian Aid' Quiz!

Have fun for a good cause at 7pm on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Christian Aid are hosting an online Quiz and invite us all to join in! Suitable for all the family, this quiz is one way we can all unite as a global family for Christian Aid week and help transform lives in Kenya. The quiz is hosted by actors Tobi and Prisca Bakare (from the BBC's 'Death in Paradise' series) with special guests including Rhidian Brook, Kate Bottley, Kris Marshall and Rowan Williams. For more information or to sign up please click the Christian Aid link [here](#).

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### Plant Sale – Christian Aid

This will be held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am - 12.00 noon, at the front of church.

If you have any plants you would like to contribute please leave them no earlier than Friday evening 14<sup>th</sup> May outside St John's Hall.

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### Opportunity at Christian Music Ministries

We are looking for someone with special gifts in Administration and Media - a music loving, Spirit-filled person to join our small team in maintaining and developing the mission of Christian Music Ministries (CMM). You would be at the heart of all we do and should gain much satisfaction and inspiration in experiencing God at work amongst us. CMM has a special ministry in bringing musical productions, events and resources to churches, schools and organisations, in UK and abroad.

1. 3 days per week, including Monday & Thursday (0930-1630).
2. Based at Roger & Mary Jones' home in Lickey End, Worcs.
3. Some remote work may be possible.
4. Salary: £875.00 per month GROSS

Email [roger@cmm.org.uk](mailto:roger@cmm.org.uk) for further information. Closing date 31<sup>st</sup> May.

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### Tearfund 'Recover Together'

Today please stand alongside those who have to wait the longest for the Covid-19 vaccine. Tearfund need your support. Because of Covid-19 poverty is increasing and people are desperately in need. If you can please donate £29 this could train two church leaders to share accurate information about Covid-19 vaccines in their communities. Please give whatever you can. Thank you. <https://www.tearfund.org/campaigns/recover-together>

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## Malawi Container

Knowle Mothers' Union will again this year be supporting the Diocesan Initiative in Malawi by collecting good clean second-hand clothes for adults and children, children's shoes, towels and sheets, stationery items, craft items, and simple English books, picture books, and simple children's games. Donations for the Container can be left at the following addresses:

8 Beausale Drive, or 36 Alveston Grove, or 2 Hall Farm Court, Kenilworth Road. If leaving at 2 Hall Farm Court please telephone first to arrange: 01564 775790.

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## Cobbles 'Outdoors'

We will be serving drinks and cakes outdoors beside the church on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May from 10 am to 12.15 pm, weather permitting. COVID-secure procedures including social distancing will operate. Entry is via the gate midway down the wall on Kenilworth Road. The price of each cake/drink is £1 as usual. Payment may be made by cash (sorry, no change given) or card. We look forward to welcoming you!

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## Keep in touch 😊

KPC is on Twitter @\_KPC\_ and Facebook @knowleparishchurch so do please give us a follow on social media.

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*All items for inclusion in the notice sheet – in writing and not more than 50 words – should reach the Parish Office by **9.15am on Wednesday at the latest.***

<b>Vicar</b>	791556	<a href="mailto:geoff.lanham@kpc.org.uk">geoff.lanham@kpc.org.uk</a>
<b>Parish Office</b>	779123	<a href="mailto:office@kpc.org.uk">office@kpc.org.uk</a>
<b>Youth Office</b>	778802	<a href="mailto:paul.holden@kpc.org.uk">paul.holden@kpc.org.uk</a>
<b>Children's Office</b>	772661	<a href="mailto:sarah.covington@kpc.org.uk">sarah.covington@kpc.org.uk</a>
<b>Finance</b>		<a href="mailto:treasurer@kpc.org.uk">treasurer@kpc.org.uk</a>
<b>Giving</b>		<a href="mailto:giving@kpc.org.uk">giving@kpc.org.uk</a>
<b>Prayer ministry</b>	779123	<a href="mailto:prayer@kpc.org.uk">prayer@kpc.org.uk</a>

[www.kpc.org.uk](http://www.kpc.org.uk)