



22-28 May • Faith 24/7

All shall be well

 **Revelation 21.10,21.22-22.5**

An angel shows John a vision of the new Jerusalem, a city with God as its focal point and source of light. Foreign nations come to honour God there, and from the city, healing flows out to all the nations of the world.

Now read **Revelation 21.10,21.22-22.5** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

John was writing to churches who were suffering, and in times of hardship, it can be reassuring to receive a concrete picture of hope. The new Jerusalem shows us what a world with God at its centre might look like. Negative things, like darkness, death and conflict between nations, are overcome by the glory of God, the water of life and the tree whose leaves heal the world. This picture of what Christians hope for can also show us what our inner lives may be if we put God at the centre.



Make a list of all the different groups that you are engaged in (school, college, work, clubs, etc.). On a large piece of paper, draw a map of where each one of these fits into your life. Put the most important ones in the middle and the least important at the edges. Now think about where God fits into each of these groups. What could you do to make God a more central part of your week?



You will need: a paper plate, a hole punch, a brown pipe cleaner, brown wool and coloured tissue paper.

Follow these instructions on The Pinterested Parent to create a tree of life decoration: <https://thepinterestedparent.com/2018/05/paper-plate-tree-of-life-craft/>.

In John's vision, the leaves of the trees bring healing to the world. Pick appropriate colours for countries you would like to pray for, and make the tree an aid to prayer.



Where in your community could you show Jesus' hope and healing in action?



You will need: soft toys and a hoop or target mark.

We aim to have God at the centre of our lives, but it isn't always easy to achieve this. Place your hoop on the floor and step back 10 paces from it. Can you throw the soft toy into the centre of the hoop? Back further away if this is too easy and then throw the teddy 10 times. How often do you get it in the middle of the circle? Even when it is difficult, we should keep trying to make God central, because this is when healing can begin.



In John's vision, the nations of the world bring honour and glory into the new Jerusalem. One of the ways we share our cultures with one another is through food. When you sit down for a meal this week (or stop for a tea break), think about where the food and drink has come from. You may already know where your coffee comes from, but you may need to do some research. Does the food symbolise good relations between nations, or is somebody being exploited? Pray for the nations that provide your food, giving thanks for the good things and asking for healing where there is hurt or suffering.

SOURCE OF HOPE



John shared his vision with the churches in Asia Minor to give them hope; we, too, can be a source of hope by sharing and living generously. Find out about your closest food bank and when you, or your parents, go shopping this week, buy one or two items to donate. Think about how a community that shares is a community that hopes. When have you received something that made you feel hopeful?

Holy Trinity & St Matthew's Church, Ronkswood

Weekly Newsletter and Reflections Easter 6 22nd May 2022



Daily Readings for week commencing 23rd May, 2022		
Monday	Numbers 16: 1-35	Luke 6: 27-38
Tuesday	Numbers 16: 36-end	Luke 6: 39-end
Wednesday	Number 17: 1-11	Luke 7: 1-10
Thursday	Isaiah 52: 7-end	Hebrews 7: 26-end <i>Ascension Day</i>
Friday	Numbers 20: 1-13	Luke 7: 11-17
Saturday	Numbers 21: 4-9	Luke 7: 18-35

Pray for those in need... Please pray for the people of Ukraine...for those in need of God's healing touch...Heather, Dorothy, Pat, Sue, Joyce, Maureen, Shane, Bryn, Katie-Lou, Margaret and Alison... **Please pray for those who mourn the loss of a loved one, remembering the souls of ...Pamela, Eric, and Jane.**

As Government ministers are coming under increasing pressure to intervene over the cost of living crisis, how secure do any of us feel about the future? It is pertinent that the passage from Revelation was directed at those whose lives were under threat? Reading about the tree full of fruit in season by the crystal stream, and the imagery of rest and refreshment, the contrast with today's challenges and distress could not be more stark. Is it all pie in the sky or is there a calling to all of us to be so set on this vision of beauty and healing for all that we also set our hearts on doing whatever we can to give people a taste of healing, of heavenly fruit and a drink from the crystal stream here and now? As John Bell once wrote in a challenging and provoking hymn, heaven shall not wait.

Heaven shall not wait for triumphant Hallelujahs,
when earth has passed and we reach another shore:
Jesus is Lord in our present imperfection;
his power and love are for now; and then for evermore.
Graham Maule and John L Bell (Wild Goose Worship Book)



Ascension Day

is a major festival in the church calendar, and everyone should make every effort to be in church. This year the Deanery are coming together for the service at St Martin's Church 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 26th May. Please do try to be there.

**ATIC Thanksgiving Service
for the Platinum Jubilee of Her
Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**

**Sunday 29th May 10.00 a.m.
at Ronkswood Community
Centre.**

**Everyone is welcome - do invite
others to come.**

Community Jubilee Party on Thursday 2nd June from 2-4 pm on Newtown Green - bookable but free! We are running a Tombola for the event so any donations of non-perishable household items, sweets, trinkets etc would be gratefully received. Plus offers of help on the day. Please speak to Penny if you can help.

**Your church needs a
Treasurer - know anyone
who might be able to help?
Please speak to Phil or
Penny.**