



Mother Anna Stuttard  
2 Windmill Road  
London N18 1PA  
[vicar@aldhelms.co.uk](mailto:vicar@aldhelms.co.uk)  
07845 137233

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Dear friends –

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

It might seem like a while since Easter, but in church we like to make the most of the season and we are still celebrating – we still have another two Sundays of Easter, but after all, it's always a good time to celebrate the risen Christ!

Many of us are now gathering on Sunday to worship God in our beautiful church. It is wonderful to see so many people and to welcome people as they return to church for the first time since the pandemic began. But of course we understand that not everyone is ready to return yet – please be assured that if you have decided to stay home for a while yet, you are still in our prayers.

We will for now be sending out a mailing by post once a month and an email once a week – if I haven't got your email address and you would like to receive our weekly message do let me know and I will add you to the list. We are now also livestreaming our services on facebook and uploading the recordings to YouTube, so if you are able to use the internet then you can join us for worship without leaving home.

But whether you are on the internet or not, you can still join us in prayer – below you will find a list of our principal services in May, along with the readings and the prayer of the day, so you can be part of our worship. We continue to meet to share the Eucharist on Sundays at 10 and for a short service of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer on Thursdays – this month, we will have an extra service on Tuesday 25 May, which is St Aldhelm's Day - a service of the Eucharist at 7.30pm to remember and celebrate our patronal saint.

This season is a joyful time, as we move towards Ascension Day and Pentecost and our church year reminds us of the astonishing power of the Holy Spirit, working miracles and marvels in the early Christian church. As we come up to Pentecost, I pray that we might all be empowered by God the Holy Spirit to live out our faith in Jesus boldly and confidently. Please join me in prayer for our church and our community this month.

With my prayers -

**Prayer for this week**

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. Amen.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Collect</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> reading</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
2 May Easter 5	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.	<u>Acts 8.26-end</u>	<u>John 15.1-8</u>
9 May Easter 6	Risen Christ, by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples: help your Church to obey your command and draw the nations to the fire of your love, to the glory of God the Father.	<u>Acts 10.44-end</u>	<u>John 15.9-17</u>
Thursday 13 May Ascension Day 10 am Holy Communion	Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever.	<u>Acts 1.1-11</u>	<u>Luke 24.44-end</u>
16 May Easter 7	Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father.	<u>Acts 1.15-17,21-end</u>	<u>John 17.6-19</u>
23 May Pentecost	Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.	<u>Acts 2.1-21</u>	<u>John 15.26-27, 16.4b-15</u>
Tuesday 25 May St Aldhelm 7.30pm Eucharist	Almighty God, the light of the faithful and shepherd of souls, who set your servant <i>Aldhelm</i> to be a bishop in the Church, to feed your sheep by the word of Christ and to guide them by good example: give us grace to keep the faith of the Church and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.	<u>Malachi 2.5-7</u>	<u>John 10.11-16</u>
30 May Trinity Sunday	Holy God, faithful and unchanging: enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth, and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love, that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.	<u>Isaiah 6.1-8</u>	<u>John 3.1-17</u>

## Notices

### *Wednesday Bible Study*

Our Wednesday Bible Study is now on Zoom! The group meets on Wednesdays at 8pm - to join the meeting, go to the Zoom website, click on Join A Meeting and then use the following codes:

Meeting ID: 838 5130 2618

Passcode: 568134

Please contact Dorothy or Mthr Anna for more information.