**Morning Praise @ Home 27th April 2025**

**Opening prayer**

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and**

**repent.** **Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us**

**from our sin.** **Renew a right spirit within us** **and restore us to the joy of your salvation,** **through**

**Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** cf Psalm 51

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Bible Readings Revelation 1: 4 – 8 John 20: 19 – end

### Reflection from Ruth

﻿Recently, I was going through a box of my late brother's belongings and I found a letter that I had written to him 30 years ago. At the time we were living in the US, and I enclosed pictures of my children.

It was such a strange feeling to read about my life at that time, if you had told me then all the things that would happen to my family and to the world - not only would I not have believed it, I would have been afraid for the future. And it’s only by knowing and understanding the person I was then can I really understand the context.

And our reading today was also a letter, from John who was in exile to the seven churches in Asia. Many of us find the Book of Revelation challenging because the language is quite difficult to interpret. What is important to remember is that we are not Revelation’s intended audience, so we are reading a letter from another time, written to people we don’t know and who aren’t like us. Revelation was not written for you and me. It was not written to predict our time or represent our world.

When we make it about us and about predicting our time we can miss the whole point of the book.

It is always difficult to follow the Sunday after Easter. Last week Christians all over the world were basking in the joy of the resurrection, but by Easter Monday, the world breaks in again. We have the same worries about our health and our loved ones, there is so much happening in the world that it’s difficult to know what to pray for- and this Easter Monday, the world lost Pope Francis, who was a light of goodness in a dark world.

The people John was writing to had an extremely difficult life. They were living under the rule of the Roman Emperor Domitian, who persecuted them and encouraged others to blame them for any ills that befell society. They had been told Jesus was coming back- but when? John is telling them to have hope, not to give up, and not to give in. He emphasizes that God has always been and WILL come back. It is a message of hope and encouragement. And we need to hold onto that hope today, the celebration of Jesus’ resurrection can sustain us as a promise for the future. There have been many things written about Pope Francis this week, all of them demonstrating his humility and love for the marginalized.

 One of his writings from his *Evangeli* *Guardium* seems particularly apt:

“Christ’s resurrection is not an event of the past; it contains a vital power which has permeated this world. Where all seems to be dead, signs of the resurrection suddenly spring up. It is an irresistible force. Often it seems that God does not exist: all around us we see persistent injustice, evil, indifference and cruelty. But it is also true that in the midst of darkness something new always springs to life and sooner or later produces fruit. On razed land life breaks through, stubbornly yet invincibly. However dark things are, goodness always re-emerges and spreads. Each day in our world beauty is born anew, it rises transformed through the storms of history. Values always tend to reappear under new guises, and human beings have arisen time after time from situations that seemed doomed. Such is the power of the resurrection.” **Amen**

###  Affirmation of faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Prayers of intercession**

We pray for and give thanks for all those who serve God in ours parishes: PCC members, our churchwardens and all those who give of their time and resources and who contribute so much to the life of our church here in Burton and Shotwick.

We continue to pray for war-torn areas of the world; Gaza, Sudan, Ukraine, Myanmar, where great suffering is taking place and pray that peace and reconciliation will soon prevail.

We pray for people of all faiths and none who are working to find peaceful resolutions to the conflicts around the world and to relieve the suffering of others.

We pray for our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters in offering prayers for Pope Francis who has died and in so doing commend his soul to our Heavenly Father, that he may rest in peace and rise in glory.

We pray for families who are currently preparing for the baptism of their children that the Lord will help the parents recognise the privilege and promises of baptism so that their children may grow up to know and follow Jesus for themselves.

We pray for those who, through illness or infirmity, are unable to attend church services as they would wish, that they might know that they remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Lord’s Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,******Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

**Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be, that you may live and work to his praise and glory, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**