

# **THE UNITED BENEFICE OF CRADLEY WITH MATHON AND STORRIDGE**

*Essential News from around the Benefice*

## **THIS SUNDAY - 27 April – Second Sunday of Easter**

Readings: Acts 4: 32-35; 1 John 4: 6-9 & 16; Luke 24: 13-35

**10.45 a.m. Benefice Communion at Cradley,**  
marking the retirement as Rector of the Revd. Prebendary Robert Ward  
and to give thanks with him for his eighteen years as incumbent in the benefice.  
All are invited afterwards for lunch in Cradley Village Hall.

**6.00 p.m. Live streamed evening service**  
Join online (or by 'phone on 0330 221 0097 with Access Code: 578-270-35)

## **Tuesday 29 April**

3.30 p.m. Interment of ashes (Mike Sheriff) at Cradley

4.30 p.m. Private burial at Cradley

7:30 p.m. **"The Man Who Planted Trees"** A story for our time in words and song about Man's relationship with Nature and with his fellow man. Presented by 'Folk from the Fold' and **"Riversong"** A sequence of tunes, song and spoken word exploring our relationship with inland waterways. **FREE EVENT** in StorrIDGE Church, WR13 5EY. This event launches the **StorrIDGE Literary and Music Festival, 2025.**

## **Wednesday 30 April**

10.00 a.m. **Holy Communion**, said, at Cradley

6.30 p.m. **Evening Prayer** Live-streamed online or 'phone 03302 210097 (Access Code: 496060773#)

**A PRAYER FOR EASTER WEEK:** I need thee to teach me day by day, according to each day's opportunity and needs. Give me, O my Lord, that purity of conscience which alone can receive, which alone can improve thy inspirations. Thou alone canst quicken my hearing and purge my sight, and cleanse and renew my heart, each me to sit at thy feet, and to hear thy word.. (John Henry Newman)

**THIS WEEK IN OUR PRAYERS:** This Second Sunday of Easter is known as Low Sunday, perhaps as a simple contrast with Easter Day itself as the high day of the Christian year, but perhaps also from the Latin laudes, "Let us praise". May our Easter praise resonate in all we are and do. **Pray for places of war and conflict**, for leaders of nations and all with power to make a difference: for peace, with justice. Pray for Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Syria and Sudan; and for the safety and release of hostages. **With our diocese**, pray for the development of shared ministry in our churches, including the Local Ministry Scheme, study opportunities and shared resources and good practice: for all that helps stimulate faith, support teamwork and motivate action. Pray also for sheep farming families as the lambing season draws towards its close, a time of shared stress and hard work, and of immense highs and lows. **In our parishes**, as schools start their summer term this week., pray for all who teach and all who learn, and especially for those who will be studying now for important exams. Pray for all working towards the appointment of a new Rector. Give thanks for the eighteen years of the Revd. Prebendary Robert Ward ministry in Cradley, Mathon and StorrIDGE, and pray for a fore-filling and joyful time in his retirement. **In the wider church** pray for The Anglican Church of Australia and all in that part of the world. **Among the sick** pray for Wendy Dixon, in care in Nottingham; the Revd. Prebendary Mike Vockins, in hospital; Rod and Pam Ellis; Gill Howard; Anne Edmonds; Anne Drummond; John Norman and Jillianne, supporting him; Maurice Taylor; Pam and Peter Noel, and Doreen and David McKerracher. Remember Christine Washbrook and Alison Brewer, both convalescing. **Remember all who have died recently** and all whom we remember year by year, and give thanks for our communion in Christ with all who have gone before in earth and heaven.

## **NEXT SUNDAY – 4 May – Third Sunday of Easter (BCP 2nd After Easter)**

9.30 a.m. **Parish Communion** (Revd. Nicholas Menon) at Mathon

9.30 a.m. **Live streamed morning service (mattins)**

Join online (or by 'phone on 0330 221 0097 with Access Code: 578-270-35)

10.45 a.m. **Church 4 All** - lay led - at Cradley

**Rector:** Revd. Prebendary Robert Ward, Tel: 01886 880438, E-mail: [robert.ward776@gmail.com](mailto:robert.ward776@gmail.com) (Day off: Friday).

**Licensed Lay Minister:** Jane MacFarlane, E-mail: [jbthebirdsnest98@gmail.com](mailto:jbthebirdsnest98@gmail.com)

[www.cradleychurch.org.uk](http://www.cradleychurch.org.uk); [www.mathonchurch.org.uk](http://www.mathonchurch.org.uk); [www.storrIDGEchurch.org.uk](http://www.storrIDGEchurch.org.uk)