



SERVICE FOR SUNDAY MAY 20th 2018 and notices for the coming week

A very warm welcome this morning to the Rev. Brian Treharne.

This year the Lectionary is taking us into parts of the Bible rarely visited and this morning our Old Testament lesson is from Ezekiel which has been described as being "for many Christians a closed book, apart from a few familiar passages". But it is also recognised that "we need to be acquainted with Ezekiel in order to understand Revelation" (where it is referenced more than in any other New Testament writing).

So who was Ezekiel? He was born into a priestly lineage and was in training to be a priest serving God in the Temple, like his father before him. Instead, when the armies of Babylon in 597BC forced the capitulation of the rebellious city of Jerusalem and deported the Judeans, Ezekiel found himself deported and exiled in Babylonia, far from Jerusalem. This seemed like the end of his hopes but when he was 30 (the age at which he would probably have taken up his duties as a priest) God called him into service as a prophet.

The Book of Ezekiel is seen as one of the major prophetic books of the Old Testament and records Ezekiel's six visions. The book has a broad three-fold structure:

- prophecies against Judah and Jerusalem
- prophecies against the foreign nations
- prophecies of hope and salvation

Ezekiel saw himself as one who must warn of danger or be held accountable. One of his most characteristic themes was that of individual responsibility before God. He was a visionary and imaginative, he was passionate, dedicated and utterly obedient to God. The most hardened onlooker could not fail to have been impressed as Ezekiel acted out his sobering messages.

Alan Steele

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

As the body of Christ in the power of the Spirit, we pray for a fresh out pouring of the Holy Spirit on the people of God all over the world and in all worship traditions. Amen.

9.00-10.15am eMerge (Fairtrade Sunday breakfast)

Today's stewards are

Vestry Steward Nancy Wilks

Duty Steward Sue Weighton

(stewards are the people to ask, if you need help before, during or after a service)

Our CLOSED LOOP SYSTEM requires hearing aids to be switched to the telephone or T programme. Recordings of our services are available through the church website, or a CD copy can be provided on request – please ask a Steward.

The Church operates a system of covenanted, planned giving (details of which may be obtained from Nicola Garriock).

There is a children's area available at the rear of the Church which parents and their young children may use during the service.

The service will be recorded as usual but there will be no filming this morning.

10.30am MORNING WORSHIP with HOLY COMMUNION

	Led by	Rev Brian Treharne
Organist:		Keith Nye
Hosts:		the August family
Sound System:		Richard August
Projection steward:		Julie Rowling

Welcome and notices

Call to Worship John 15: 26-27

HYMN (H&P) 285 Creative Spirit, by whose aid

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 37: v. 1-14 (p.868) read by Wendy Bicknell

HYMN (H&P) 68 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

New Testament Reading

Acts 2: v.1-21 (p.1093) read by Janet Shaw

HYMN (H&P) 281 Come down, O Love divine

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession led by Margaret Ireland

Invitation to the Sacrament

Collection of Offering and Prayer of Dedication

HYMN (H&P) 598 **Because thou hast said**

The Sacrament

Gracious words

The Institution of the Lord's Supper

The Peace (all share with one another)

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Breaking of Bread

Distribution of Bread (all retain and partake together)

Distribution of Wine (all retain and partake together)

Blessing for the Weysiders

Prayer after Communion

HYMN (H&P) 326 **There's a spirit in the air**

Blessing

Everyone is welcome to join us for coffee or tea or a drink
of squash in the River Room after the service.

The flowers today have been given by Louise and Alan Steele in
celebration of Charles' 18th birthday. Arranged by Wendy Weston.

Today **Thy Kingdom Come at Guildford Cathedral**
 4pm Taize service (ticketed event)
 7pm Contemporary Worship (ticketed event)
From 5pm to 6.30pm the prayer stations set up by various groups,
including the Wey Valley Circuit, can be visited.

The Music Kids will be singing at Birtley House this afternoon.

Sunday 3rd June 6.30pm Circuit Service
at Merrow Methodist Church

Led by Local Preachers the service will be exploring the idea that
God may be calling us to be a worship leader or preacher

The music group *Breeze* will lead our music and Local Preacher Francis
Roberts will be presented with her 25 year long service preacher award
