

**A huge question that has become a hot potato in our culture: Can you be a Christian without the Church?**

If the sum total of salvation is nothing more than a one-off prayer, if being Christian is reduced to the right to wear a label or logo with little or no particular ethical content to our lives, then anyone can be a 'Christian' without the Church. But if following Christ is about the ongoing work of our redemption and moral formation, then the answer is an emphatic NO.

In truth, the very question is simply another symptom of how deeply embroiled we are in exactly the kind of isolationist, individualistic philosophy that dominates our society. For those who choose to follow Christ rather than simply name-check him as their folk hero, the Church - the Christian community - is the primary ethical unit. Put simply, just as it was impossible for the first Disciples of Christ to follow him in isolation - they had to do so in community - so today, things are just the same.

A faithful church is a church that allows the Bible to breathe again in its native habitat. Indeed, our lack of robust, ongoing communal debate around the text of Scripture perhaps accounts, in part, for why so much of it is unknown or incomprehensible to so many Christians today. Every healthy church should be a big conversation around the Bible. Or to put it another way, all Christian ethics are social ethics - the Bible has no concept of the lone-ranger Christian.

Steve Chalke - "Different Eyes"

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William Booth of the Salvation Army – at his last public engagement – the *Royal Albert Hall* – May 9<sup>th</sup> 1912.

*While women weep, as they do now, I'll fight; while little children go hungry, as they do now, I'll fight; while men go to prison, in and out, in and out, as they do now, I'll fight; while there is a drunkard left, while there is a poor lost girl upon the streets, while there remains one dark soul without the light of God, I'll fight-I'll fight to the very end!*

# Bincombe with Broadway Upwey and Buckland Ripers



**Welcome to Church today**

**Please take these notes away with you**

**Remain connected to Jesus**

## May 16th

Broadway

Bincombe

Upwey

Buckland

Bibles – page

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

10.30am

9.15am

10.30am

6.00pm

1112

Family Worship (Vicky Piggott-Genge)

Holy Communion (Revd Pat Jones)

Parish Communion (Rector)

Evening Service (Rector)

1250

*Acts 16: 16 – 34; Revelation 22; John 15: 1 - 17* **page 880**

## The Prayer for Today

O God the King of glory,

you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:

we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,

but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us

and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,  
who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## Introduction to the Peace

God has made us one in Christ.

He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come,  
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

The peace of the Risen Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

**U-R-4-Given**

**COMMUNION** We welcome all who are members of their own Churches to receive the sacrament at any of our Communion Services.

**Today's Gospel John 15: 1 – 17**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This is my command: Love each other.

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**The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,**

**give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God.**

**A BUNDLE OF STICKS**

**John Newton,**

I COMPARE the troubles which we have to undergo in a year to a great bundle of sticks, far too large for us to lift. But God does not require us to carry the whole at once. He mercifully unties the bundle, and gives us first one stick, which we carry tomorrow, and so on. This we might easily manage, but we choose to increase our troubles by carrying yesterday's stick over again today, and adding tomorrow's burden to our load, before we are required to bear it.

**Notices**

Monday	7.00pm	Chat and Prayers at The Rectory.
Tuesday	10.00am	Holy Communion at St Laurence Upwey
Thursday	10.00am	Holy Communion at St Nicholas Broadway
Thursday	2.00pm	Funeral Service for Dorothy Bigland at Holy Trinity Bincombe.
Saturday	1.30pm	Wedding at St Laurence Upwey Clara Pankhurst and Thomas Curran

**Benefice Website - [www.theweytojesus.org.uk](http://www.theweytojesus.org.uk)**

**23rd**

**Broadway**

**Pentecost (WhitSunday)**

**10.30am Family Communion  
(The Bishop of Sherborne)**

*Ezekiel 36 24-28; Revelation 22; John 17: 20-26*

**Following our Service at St Nicholas Broadway** when we welcome the Bishop of Sherborne, there will be a bring and share lunch at our Primary School – St Nicholas and St Laurence. Plenty of car parking and space for the children. Do come along and join us for this service when we can meet Bishop Graham.

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**We congratulate Alex and Terry Landsbert  
on their Ruby Wedding Anniversary today**  
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I find myself in the story of God. This drama defines me. This screenplay shapes me. May I play faithfully the part I'm given.