

MAY 2026

After the variable weather of April passes, how wonderful it is to see abundant greenery and budding flowers bursting into full bloom. A glorious time of the year!

This inevitable process of the cyclical seasons of Creation reflects the cycle of our spiritual journey by the Grace of God. And so the month of May offers us a perfect time for spiritual renewal, as this year we mark the Ascension of Jesus on Thursday 14th May, with the Joyful celebration of Pentecost on May 24th marking the end of Eastertide.

Even in the harshest and most challenging times, we have the ability to find spiritual strength in God through Christ Jesus, emerging with fresh seeking and discerning eyes as our faith deepens during our spiritual pilgrimage.

So often it is the unseen or sudden changes in our lives that lead to a deeper relationship with Christ:

the agony and frustrations of the breaking down of integrity and love in the world around us;

the inner pain as we watch our loved ones suffering;

the missed opportunities to help others re-direct their lives toward God, and the myriad of other happenings around us.

As we think of the ongoing hostilities in the Middle East, Ukraine and other areas in the world it is important to remind ourselves again that whatever and wherever the challenges, large or small, God's Grace cannot be earned.

His Grace is a gift which is more than enough for our needs – all our needs.

Loving God,

We praise, worship and love you, giving thanks for all our blessings.

Help us to examine and reflect afresh on our pilgrim journey in the knowledge that our spiritual winter is surely followed by re-awakening and Joy, offering us renewal and fresh purpose as we seek to follow you in faith.

We lift to you all Global conflicts, and by your Grace, we pray for wisdom, honesty and strength for those in decision making authority on the Global stage. We give thanks and offer prayers for our church and local community. Help us to see and respond to the needs around us Lord, as we pray your healing touch on all who suffer.

We give thanks for the power of your restoring Grace, available to all who ask.

In your name we pray. Amen

Revd Tish Bird

2 Corinthians 12:9

⁹ but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.