**PRAYER DIARY**

**We remember with thanksgiving the anniversaries of:** Evelyn Roderick (2nd); Maria Wooder (3rd); Simon Shannon (6th).

**Prayer requested for healing and other needs:** Ralph Bedford; Stuart Hobbs; Jean Murch; Marion Perry; Andrew Phelps; Pam Storey; Michael Scott-Kerr; Elizabeth Tinsey; Avice Wright.

**Happy Birthday to:** John Blanchard (4th); Rose Chamberlain (6th); Elizabeth Bello; Georgine Maxlowe (7th); Surghee Yun (8th).

**Congratulations to:** Annie and Eriabu Nakabale who were married on 5. May. 1984 may they have a happy anniversary on the day and many more to come.

**Church Families:** Ralph Bedford; Elizabeth and Kayoed Bello; Sue Barnard; Diane, Katie, Emily and John Bidder; John Blanchard; Sue and Emma Broatch; Marita, Eleanor and Phil Brown; Shirley Brown; Susan and David Brown; Shirley Bullion.

**The Parish:** Alexandra Avenue; Berriton Road; Bodmin Close; Brookside Close; Cannon Lane; Capthorne Avenue.

**The Persecuted Church**: **Armenia** U.S. President Joe Biden has become the first president of the United States to officially recognise as genocide the massacre of Armenians and other Christians by the Ottoman Empire. In a statement on Armenian Remembrance Day, April 24th, Biden not only acknowledged the genocide of a century ago but warned of the need to prevent such genocide from happening again.

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

Give comfort, O Lord, to all who are torn away from their homes and their loved ones by war; famine or the cruelty of their fellows; grant that we who dwell secure in this insecure world may be generous in caring for our displaced sisters and brothers.

***Please send any items for next week’s STARLINK to Susan McLeod by midday this Friday, preferably by email (mcleod383@btinternet.com), or otherwise by hard copy to 8, Drake Road.***

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, ROXBOURNE**

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| **SUNDAY, 2nd May 2021 EASTER 5****Happy Easter The Lord is risen Alleluia** |
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| **8.00 am: Holy Communion****10.00 am: Parish Communion** *and* **Go Mad on Sunday** |
| **This Week’s Services** |  | **Next Sunday 2nd May** |
| **Monday – Friday**9.00 am Morning Prayer [cw]**Wednesday**: 9.30am Holy Communion |  | **8.00 am:** Holy Communion**10.00 am: Parish Communion***Isaiah 15: 1-11; Acts 10: 44-48; John 15: 9-17* |
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**R isen Christ, your wounds declare your love for the world and the wonder of your risen life: give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves for those we serve, to the glory of God the Father. Amen**

 **Amen**

***Readings: Genesis 22: 1-18***

***Acts 8: 26-40***

***Gospel: John 15: 1-8***

**E**

**Post-Communion** Prayer

**ternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen**

***Genesis 22: 1-18***

Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together,Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied.“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.”Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place The Lord Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

***Acts 8: 26-40***

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+8%3A+26-40&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27204a)] eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.” The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

***John 15: 1-8***

 “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 prunesso that it will be even more fruitful.You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also 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 you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are 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 done for you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

**NOTICES**

**LENT APPEAL 2021 Donation to MIND** Church members' generous giving helped us to raise and donate £ 1,450 to our Lent Charity MIND. Please see a 'Thank You' letter from MIND on the notice board at the back of the church.  There is also information on the work of the Charity at the back of the church.

**FAMILY FLOWERS** The Family Flower for May has been donated by Shirley Brown in memory of her daughter Sarah and of her Mum and Dad

**SMALL STEPS TO NORMALITY** From today we will be resuming the offertory collection. People will be asked to put their offerting into the brass dish as they come into church; the collection will then be taken up to the alter for a blessing at the appropriate point in the service.

1. St Andrew's Church bank details for one-off payments and gifts -
2. **PCC of St Andrew's Roxbourne Parish**
3. **Sort code: 40-11-58  Acc No: 20404810**
4. *Please note this is not the account for regular Stewardship Giving - please see Wendy Godwin or Peter Sage for those details (Tel: 07889 249500*