

ST PETER AT GOWTS CHURCH

MAY 6TH 2018

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9.30AM SUNG EUCHARIST

Readings

First reading; Acts Ch.10 v 44-end

Second Reading; 1 John Ch5v 1-6

Gospel; John Ch.15v 9-17

Collect

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power
of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of
your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has re-
called us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he
may raise us
to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Priest in charge:

Revd Jeremy Cullimore.

The Vicarage,
Sibthorp St, Lincoln.

tel 01522 542908

email; jscullimore@btinternet.com.

Lay ministry Mrs Mary Rose

Church Wardens

Mrs Mary Rose, Tony Frecklington

Hall caretaker

Hall bookings & baptisms

01522 528215

Please pray for;

the sick; Fred Bowskill, Pam Goodman,
Elizabeth Graham, Joy Gray, Mandy
North, Claire O'Neil, Stuart Rose, Mi-
chael Vaughan , Tim Wheeldon.

Years Mind;

7 Reuben Hollingsworth,

Eileen Johnson

9 Dave Cooper

- The ongoing work at the home of centre of Julian of Norwich (8th)
- The meaning of the Ascension (10th)
- Those who suffer from the immune disorder, lupus (10th)
- Nurses in all sectors of the NHS and private care (12th)
- Those suffering with fibromyalgia (12th)
- Those working to increase fair trade (12)
- That local councils learn to work together whatever their politics for the good of the people they serve.

Upcoming events

6th	Monday	11am	Sue's At Home, 31 High Street Skellingthorpe	
			All are welcome	
1th	Tuesday	10am	Women's social group	church hall
8th	Wednesday	10am	Keep fit	church hall
13th	Sunday	9.30am	Sung Eucharist	church
14th	Monday	7.30pm	PCC	church hall

Dear Friends,

'You are witnesses of these things.' The words of Jesus to his disciples in one of the Easter season gospel readings. There he was before them, the one they'd seen crucified, sealed in a tomb, and now very much alive, eating fish – explaining what it had all been about, encouraging them to tell others what they now were discovering to be true themselves.

The Sunday after Easter, with some of my family, I was witness to a very different kind of event, as I was there as Lincoln City beat Shrewsbury Town in football's Checkatrade Trophy Final at Wembley Stadium. It didn't feel totally right, as some of my Grimsby friends have pointed out, that the Bishop of Grimsby was there to watch Lincoln – but then when you're a Norwich City supporter at heart, opportunities to go to Wembley don't come around too often!

And so I was there, I saw it happen, and so were 27,000 other City supporters, who have no doubt spent much of the following weeks witnessing to anyone unfortunate enough to have come across their paths, and sharing what they saw and experienced.

The real challenge to me over Easter, however, was being at *Spring Harvest* at Butlins in Skegness, and listening, with around 5000 other Christians, to a lady from North Korea – a country where Christians are seen as hostile to the state, and to talk openly about your faith, risks betrayal, even by family, and persecution, imprisonment in labour camps as political prisoners, and even death.

After she spoke we sang 'Amazing Grace' together incredibly quietly, almost as a whisper, because that's how worship has to be in North Korea when Christians meet together, when you're meeting in secret.

To be a witness in a place like that takes real courage, real belief. I went with a friend for a drink after hearing the lady speak, and we later reflected that although we had had a good time, it felt in some ways an inappropriate thing to do straight after the things we had just heard.

It leads to the question of how would I respond if I were in that situation? And the honest answer is I really don't know – I suspect few of us do. I hope I would show the same bravery and courage as that lady, and as those early disciples, in how I lived and by what I said, taking the opportunity to witness, like those City supporters, to what I knew to be true.

I hope I would. I hope you would – because it's that kind of witness that our world, and our friends, still need to see from us today.

With every blessing,

Bishop David (Grimsby)