



St Andrew's Church, Reading Street

May 2026

Pastoral Letter

Dear friends,

As we begin the month of May, we look forward to celebrating Ascension and Pentecost—two very special moments in the life of the Church. They may not always get as much attention as Christmas or Easter, but they are full of hope and meaning for us all.

At the Ascension, we remember Jesus returning to the Father. It can sound like a farewell, but it is really a promise. Jesus does not abandon us; instead, He opens the way for us. He shows us that our home is with God, and that our lives have a purpose far beyond what we see day to day. The Ascension invites us to lift our eyes and trust that God is at work, even when we cannot see it clearly.

Then, at Pentecost, we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. The frightened disciples were given courage, peace, and a new sense of direction. They went from hiding away to speaking openly about God's love. The same Spirit is with us too—guiding us, strengthening us, and helping us to live out our faith in ordinary life.

These two celebrations belong together. Jesus is with the Father, and His Spirit is with us. We are not alone. We are part of a living, growing Church, called to share kindness, hope, and good news wherever we are.

We also give thanks to God for the appointment of Mayowa, our new Children and Young People's Minister, last month. We warmly welcome her into our church family and pray that the Lord will bless her richly in this important work. May God grant her wisdom, joy, and strength as she shares His love with our children and young people, and may her ministry bear much fruit among us.

So, this May, may we take a little time to reflect, to pray, and to be open to God's presence in our lives. And may we find simple ways to share His love with those around us.

With love,

Philip.