

## CONCLUDING MUSIC

I stand amazed in the Presence  
of the Nazarene

I stand amazed in the presence  
Of Jesus the Nazarene,  
And wonder how he could love me,  
A sinner condemned, unclean.

How marvellous! How wonderful!  
And my song shall ever be:  
How marvellous! How wonderful!  
Is my saviour's love for me!

He took my sins and my sorrows,  
He made them his very own;  
He bore the burden to Calvary,  
And suffered, and died alone.

When with the ransomed in glory  
His face I at last shall see,  
'Twill be my joy through the ages  
To sing of his love for me.

*Charles H. Gabriel, (1856-1932)  
performed by Norton Hall Band*

We invite you to the next Reflections  
on Sunday 1 June at 6pm.

Please feel free to leave when you feel  
ready – or stay to the end.

*Please take this sheet home with you.*

If you would like to be part of the  
Reflections team – please let one of us  
know.

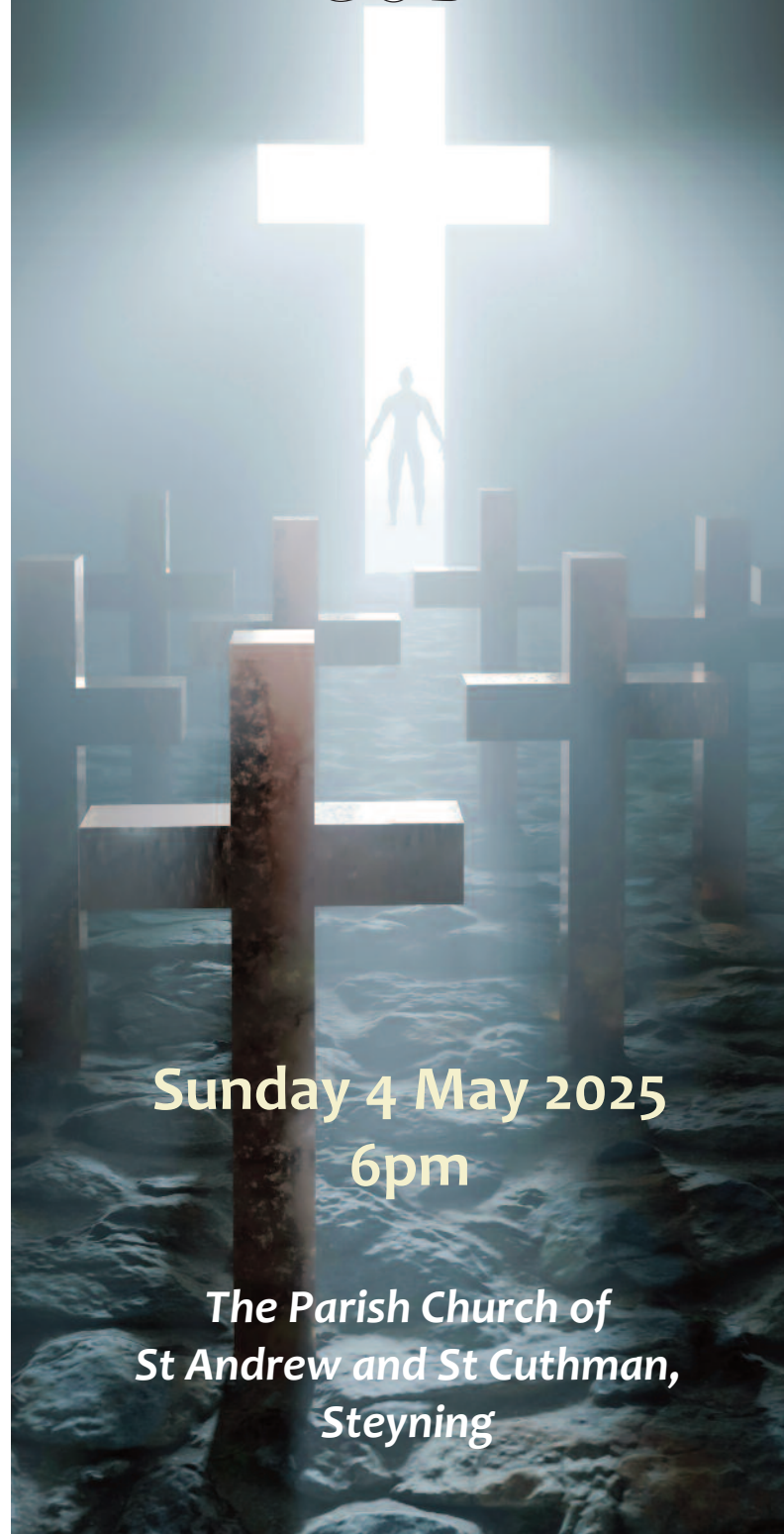
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# Reflections

A quiet contemplative service  
lasting about 40 minutes

## ENCOUNTERING GOD



Sunday 4 May 2025  
6pm

The Parish Church of  
St Andrew and St Cuthman,  
Steyping

# REFLECTIONS

Sunday 4 May

## ENCOUNTERING GOD

*Based on reading:*

*Acts 9:1-19, (the conversion of Paul /  
Road to Damascus)*

### MUSIC ON ENTRANCE

**‘Yeshua’ by Harpa Dei**

*The name of Jesus, chanted in Hebrew.*

*The Roman Catholic church adopted the  
custom of reciting the name of Jesus 1000  
times on 3 May, the Feast of the Invention  
(finding) of the Cross.*

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Meeting God - are we aware where is  
God in the everyday?

### POEM

**Be still**

You do not have to look for anything,  
just look  
You do not have to listen for specific  
sounds, just listen  
You do not have to accomplish  
anything, just be  
And in the looking, and the listening,  
and the being, find me.

*by Ann Lewin*

Help us to begin to understand that  
reality and the eternal revelation of  
‘God with us’.

We can always ask- help us to  
understand you will always answer.  
Help us to desire to seek you in our  
daily lives and encounter your  
presence in all that we do, so that  
we may reflect your love and glory.

*Please join in with the responses in bold  
text:*

In the power of the presence

**Lord may we abide**

In the love of the Lord

**Lord may we abide**

In the strength of the Saviour

**Lord may we abide**

In the compassion of Christ

**Lord may we abide**

In the joy of Jesus

**Lord may we abide**

In the indwelling of our God

**Lord may we abide**

That we may dwell in Him and He in us

**Lord may we abide**

*We say together;*

**Lord God whose we are and  
whom we serve**

**We place our lives afresh in your  
hands**

**Take us as we are and make us  
what you would have us to be**

**Through Jesus Christ our lord  
Amen**

### BLESSING

## PERIOD OF SILENT REFLECTION

(10-12 minutes)

*Please feel free to move around the church, if you wish, to reflect and pray.*

## BIBLE MEDITATION OUT OF SILENCE

**1 Samuel 3:9** - And Eli said to Samuel, "Go lie down, and it shall be if he calls you, that you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

**Psalms 42:1-2** - "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God

**Jeremiah 29:13** - You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart

**Revelation 3:20** - "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me."

**Psalms 46:10** - Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

## PRAYERS

Heavenly Father

We come before you now in silence and reverence. Help us to be still and listen.

Help us to know that you are ever present and with us.

When you seem far away teach us to understand that you are always there and are a ceaseless presence in our lives.

## BIBLE READING

**Acts 9:1-19** - Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

"Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

## POEM

### The Conversion of St Paul

What is conversion? Not at all  
For me the experience of St Paul  
No blinding light, a fitful glow  
Is all the light of faith I know  
Which sometimes goes completely out  
And leaves me plunging into doubt  
Until I will myself go  
And worship in God's house below  
My parish church- and even there  
I find distractions everywhere

What is conversion? Turning round  
To gaze upon a love profound  
For some of us see Jesus plain  
And never once look back again  
And turned and gone away alone  
But most of us turn slow to see  
The figure hanging on a tree  
And stumble on and blindly grope  
Upheld by intermittent hope  
God grant before we die we all  
May see the light as did St Paul.  
*by John Betjeman (1906-1984)*

## MUSIC INTO SILENCE

### Just as I am

Just as I am with all my imperfections -  
You draw me close  
And offer strength in weakness,  
You don't require more than I can give  
you  
It's your desire that nothing's hidden  
from you - you know me and still  
love me  
There's nothing you can't see  
The secrets, the heartache  
And still you're calling me  
Just as I am

Just as I am you lead me to your  
presence -  
Your grace renews and offers me  
acceptance.  
You don't require more than I can give  
you.  
It's your desire that nothing's hidden  
from you

You know me and still love me  
There's nothing you can't see -  
All the secrets, the heartache  
And still you're calling me  
Just as I am

Oh... just as I am  
You don't want perfection -you just  
want my heart .  
When I was lost and broken, you said,  
"Come as you are".  
You don't want performance -you just  
want what's true.  
With your arms wide open you draw  
me back to you.

*Lakewood Music*