

Apolo Kivebulaya

**Priest
& Evan-
gelist**



c1864—30 May 1933

Apolo Kivebulaya was born in the African Kingdom of Buganda in about 1864. Despite being raised Muslim, Apolo converted to Christianity around 1890. After service as a soldier and a foreman of roadwork, he was baptized in January 1895 at which time he chose the baptismal name Apolo. After hearing a plea for new recruits by Baganda missionaries returning from the Toro Kingdom in western Uganda, Apolo volunteered to join them in 1895. After a brief and effective stint in Toro, the mission sent Apolo to reinforce its work in the village of Mboga along the disputed border area between the Ugandan Protectorate and the Belgian Congo. Although he did not begin the church in Boga and the surrounding region, he would be best known as its pioneer. In 1898, Tabaro, the chief of Boga,

blamed the accidental death of a local woman on Apolo and sent him back to Toro for trial by the resident British official. After an extended imprisonment, Apolo was eventually found innocent and released, returning to Boga and successfully converting Tabaro, his once ardent opponent. Back in Kabarole, the capital of the Toro kingdom, he began itinerant work in the district. During this time, he was ordained a deacon in 1900 and a priest in 1903 within the Church of Uganda. Despite occasional visits, the ongoing border dispute prevented Apolo from residing permanently in the Congo again until 1915. After receiving a vision of Jesus in 1921, Apolo felt called to begin evangelistic efforts among the Batwa, (Pygmies) until his death.

In March 1933 Apolo was found to have a heart problem, but nevertheless he decided to make the long and arduous trip back to Boga to end his days where he had ministered for so long. After completing the journey, he died on May 30. Among his last wishes to a fellow African missionary was the desire to be buried with his head toward the forest. The significance of this request lay with the Buganda custom of burying dead with the head toward their home. Apolo added that he wanted this done "...to signify that I am still going towards the forest to preach the gospel; even now my spirit is towards my work."

St Cross Newsletter

May 2026



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The Vicar writes.....

Dear Friends

Another month goes by, and yet Holy Week and Easter Day seem so long ago now. It was for me, quite honestly, the most amazing Parish Holy Week I have ever experienced. Yes, it was tiring, led and made possible by a core of us, which culminated with a wedding on Easter Day, but for me it really felt like a spiritual journey with Christ that began on Palm Sunday and finished on Easter Day. By placing the Taizé Service on Tuesday evening, and the Last Supper in the form of a Passover meal before the Sung Eucharist, I felt there was a good variety of worship to engage with throughout the week.

There was the truly amazing experience of being part of the ecumenical walk with Jesus on Good Friday. After departing from St Vincent's RC Church the procession gained in number as it progressed through the town. It was with the assistance of the Knutsford Little Theatre that the crucifixion was re-enacted on the Moor. I reckon there were around 200 people gathered there and I expected that most might leave at that point given St Cross demands a moderately stiff climb up from the town. I was proven wrong. It seems people there were caught up in the moment. We know the next instalment of the story, but it felt impossible to drop out now. If Christ had climbed to Calvary for us, and half-dead at that, surely we had to climb to the Crosstown Church of St Cross to gather around the Easter Garden in the Lady Chapel and place

Jesus in the tomb, thus paying our respects?

There was a surreal experience on the Moor: when the narrator told us that the sky went dark, the sun made a brief appearance—as though to say our witness was being blessed and that Jesus is victorious now. For as Paul wrote, 'We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again (Romans 6.9).'

Now as we enter May, we continue to celebrate what remains of Eastertide and look to the Ascension and Pentecost: lesser celebrated festivals now than they used to be, but nonetheless, important stages of the Church Year that should be celebrated, and through which we can once again ponder the mysteries of God coming to us in the person of Jesus to reconcile us to God and draw us into eternal life.

Yours, in Christ

Paul



Occasional Offices in April

Wedding

April 5 Isaac Samuel Everson & Hannah Bethany Macdonald

Baptism

April 26 Finlay Joseph Way

Calendar for May

Mondays

2-4pm

Monday Together in the Parish Room

Thursdays

2.30pm

Prayer Group in the Parish Room

Tuesday 12th May

7.30pm

Lectio Divina (on Teams)

Thursday 14th May ASCENSION DAY

7.30pm

Taizé Service

Saturday 16th May

10am-12 noon Coffee Morning

at the Whiteley's home

16 Delmar Road, Knutsford WA16 8BG

Proceeds to Christian Aid.

Sunday 24th May PENTECOST

8.45am SAID EUCHARIST

10am SUNG EUCHARIST

Wednesday 27 May

7pm

PCC Meeting in the Parish Room

To access the Audio Online Services from St Cross
<http://www.stcrossknutsford.org.uk/media/>