

**Collect for the Third Sunday before Lent**

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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. **Amen**

**Post Communion Prayer**

Merciful Father, who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life, that those who come to him should never hunger: draw us to the Lord in faith and love, that we may eat and drink with him at his table in the kingdom, where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

**Amen****PRAYER POINTS:**

- For Helen House.
- For all those suffering extreme hardship and hunger in the Yemen.
- For the people effected by the mine collapse in Africa.
- For all families who have been effected by knife crime.
- For the clergy, PCC and Churchwardens working hard for our Church community.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THOSE IN IMMEDIATE NEED OF HEALING AND PEACE:**

Stephen Upton, Janet Rand, Sue List, Tony Eccleston, Alan and Iris Austin, Oliver Baillie, Gladys Page, Suzie Aries, Michael Hopkins, Kelly May, Gordon & Kathleen Plumridge, Joyce Bapty, Richard Heaney, Alex Lake, Hazel Sullivan, Philip and Sally Jones, Shirley and Eric Watts and Barbara Higgins.

**WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED TO PRAY FOR:**

Libby, Lisa and Russell Squire, Peter Covell, Ashleigh Nichas, Gideon, Mary Jefferies, Keith & Judy Brambleby, Barbara Platts, Tony Mead, Hazel Boon, Jorge, Peter Braithwaite, Michael George and Helena Oecken.

**WE REMEMBER WITH THANKSGIVING THE LIVES OF:**

Anne Marshall

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St Mary's  
with  
St Peter's  
PRINCES RISBOROUGH  
& ILMER

# News

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2019, Third Sunday before Lent****Dear Friends,**

If you look up today's passage in the NIV (Luke 6:17-26) you will find that it has the title – Blessings and woes. It's a passage which for most of us will have both encouragement and challenge – blessings and woes. I am writing this waiting to hear from the police in Derby because an elderly cousin with no immediate family and for whom I'm his executor was found dead in his bungalow yesterday. Rose is out visiting a family where the mother died last night and on Wednesday I should be at the funeral of friend. When faced with so much death one can't help but wonder at the transitory nature of our human lives. C S Lewis, writing during the Second World War, said that "war makes death real to us, and that it would have been regarded as one of its blessings by most of the great Christians of the past." He was inclined to agree with them. The reason for this was that it made people realise that "if we had un-Christian hopes about human culture, they were now shattered. If we thought we were building up a heaven on earth, if we looked for something that would turn the present world from a place of pilgrimage into a permanent city satisfying the soul of man, we are disillusioned."

I don't think that war is a good thing and I don't think C S Lewis did, but it highlights the point that so much of our world in good times is focused on our pleasure here and now. Our Bible passage highlighted the risk of focusing too much on our own satisfaction only to find that in the long term the rich and the well fed would find their position reversed with today's poor and hungry. Our life on earth is just the beginning of our eternal journey. In fact C S Lewis said, in one of his stories, that it was not even chapter one – only the preface.

Now Jesus did challenge some to give up all they had but he also had rich followers who he seems not to have challenged in the same way. This is a world that G has given us to enjoy but also to see as just stage one of our race and he requires us to treat it as such. To enjoy its resources but also to use them for the good of his kingdom which starts now but goes on for ever. We need to keep our eyes focused on the long term goal.

**Rev Steve Williams**

## NEWS & NOTICES

**EVENSONG:** Tonight at 6pm we have our last evensong service for the time being. All welcome to come along.

**ALPHA AWAY DAY:** This is on Sat Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10-4pm at the Thame Barn Centre. Bring and Share Lunch. All are welcome even if you haven't attended the rest of the course. Please contact Dan ([revdbeesley@gmail.com](mailto:revdbeesley@gmail.com)) if you would like to attend.

**TRAINING SESSION ON WELCOMING:** On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm at St Mary's, Michael Harvey, founder of 'Back to Church' Sunday will speak on the culture of invitation. All are welcome to join this training session, which will equip us to go out and invite others to join us. We would like as many people as possible to come along to improve our welcoming and sharing of our faith with others.

**ST MARY'S BOARD GAME NIGHT:** The next one will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb from 6-8pm.

**CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOX OPENING:** This will be on Weds 27<sup>th</sup> Feb from 9.30am to 12noon in the Chapter House. Coffee and cake will be served.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** This is on Fri 1<sup>st</sup> March at the Methodist Church at 10.45am. All are invited to this joint service followed by refreshments.

**PANCAKE PARTY:** This will be on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 5pm-7pm. Everyone is invited, whatever age. There will be pancakes, a quiz, games and fun for all. If you would like to go, please contact Gill on PR 346145.

**PRAYER EVENING:** There will be a prayer evening in Church on Fri 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30. Keep the insert for diary dates throughout the year.

**BRING AND SHARE LUNCH:** On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March there will be a bring and share lunch after TGIS, for everyone, especially those new to our Church family.

**LENT COURSE:** There will be a lent course starting on 19<sup>th</sup> March, see flyer.

**BREAKOUT:** This is a CTR children's group for ages 5-7 and 8-11. Held on Friday evenings from 5-6.15pm at Elim Church. All sorts of fun, songs, bible stories, crafts. More helpers needed and also children. Contact Doline Gadd via the parish office.

**ANNE MARSHALL:** Anne Marshall died peacefully on Sunday 10th February and the funeral will be 11.30 Monday 25th February. Anyone who knew her is welcome to come. Contact Surinder 07957 603378 for further details.

**NEW ELECTORAL ROLL:** Each six years, the Church is required to complete a new Electoral Roll. Therefore, everyone has to fill in a new form. If you wish to be on that roll, please take a form from the stack next to the letter boxes, fill it in and return to the box marked 'Electoral Roll applications'.

**LOST PROPERTY:** If you think you might have lost something, please check the lost property table. Any items not claimed will be taken to the charity shop at end Feb.

### Sunday 17th February, Third Sunday before Lent

**Readings: Jeremiah 17: 5-10, Luke 6: 17-26.**

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's  
**9.00am** Holy Communion at St Peter's, Ilmer  
**9.30am** Parish Communion followed by coffee  
**11.15am** TGIS  
**6.00pm** Evensong at St Mary's  
**6.00pm** Later at Methodist Church

### What's on in the week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February

- Tues 19<sup>th</sup>** **10.00am** Holiday at Home  
**Weds 20<sup>th</sup>** **9.00am** Wednesday Prayers in the Chapter House.  
**10.00am** Holiday at Home  
**10.30am** Holy Communion in the Chapter House followed by coffee  
**7.30pm** Alpha Course at St Mary's  
**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup>** **10.30am** Coffee in the Chapter House  
**NB** No praise and play as half term  
**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup>** **6.00pm** Board Game night in the Chapter House.

### Sunday 24th February, Second Sunday before Lent

**Readings: Genesis 2: 4b-9, 15-end, Luke 8 22-25.**

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's  
**9.30am** Parish Communion followed by coffee  
**11.00am** Family Service at St Peter's, Ilmer  
**11.15am** TGIS with breaking of bread.

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**Rector:** Revd. David Williams 346984

**Associate Minister:** Revd. Michael Hunt 344150;

**Curate:** Revd. Dan Beesley 345521;

**Assistant Clergy:** Revds. David & Nancy Wallace 290670;  
Revds. Steve & Rose Williams 274225; Canon Nick Molony 273895;  
Revd. Jenny Deverill 274269; **LLM:** Averil Stephenson 343649

**Churchwardens:** David Stephenson and Bryan Matthew