

Collect for the Second Sunday before Lent

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. **Amen**

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

PRAYER POINTS:

- For CMS Uganda.
- For all those suffering extreme hardship and hunger in the Yemen.
- For all victims of child abuse.
- For the Church to be a safe place for all children and vulnerable adults.
- For all those people in our Church who give their time so readily to organise and help with our events.

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

Stephen Upton, John Hardy, 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, Arabella Smith, 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 LIFE OF:

Anne Marshall

parishoffice@stmarysrisborough.org.uk

Open: Mon & Tues: 9:30am -1.30pm, Weds & Thurs 9:30am -5.00pm

Tel: 01844 273300 Charity No: 1133923

www.stmarysrisborough.org.uk



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

News

Sunday 24th February 2019, Second Sunday before Lent

Dear Friends,

This week I visited my Mother and discovered that her much loved GP of 37 years had told her of his retirement and emigration to Australia at the end of March. We reminisced on his exceptional, medical care of 4 ½ generations of my family. Doctor McKee has provided real security for my Mum and it is a hard thing to face major change at 97 years of age!

It is a paradox that change is an inevitable part of life and yet we are often taken by surprise by it. The joke is told that the three things certain in life are birth, death and taxes. I consider that change should be added to the list. We face changes in every part of our lives at different times. I wonder what changes you are currently facing and how you are coping ?

Change was no less true for the Lord Jesus Christ in his life on earth. He went from a settled home in Galilee to becoming a homeless, itinerant wanderer. In one week, he went from being his nation's hero on Palm Sunday to an out-cast on Good Friday. How do we see Jesus coping with change?

We see a man who lived in constant trust and relationship with his heavenly Father; seeking His guidance, receiving His love and motivated to please Him. This was a man who was secure in his identity, at peace within himself and able to love others deeply. Jesus accepted change and yet he was totally honest and open in his emotions and questioning; whether facing the death of Lazarus or his own death. He was not a victim but a Master of his circumstances. In the end Jesus faced rather than feared change.

I was impressed that even with my Mother's real sorrow at losing her GP, she was able to be at peace; knowing that her ultimate security lies in her relationship with the Lord Jesus and her Heavenly Father. May this be true of us.

"Through all the changing scenes of life, in sickness and in joy, the praises of my God and King, my tongue shall still employ."

Averil Stephenson LLM

NEWS & NOTICES

TRAINING SESSION ON WELCOMING: On Tuesday 26th 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.

THANK YOU! A big thank you to Gill and her team for organising a hugely successful Holiday at Home. Everyone enjoyed it and it was great to see so much fellowship.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: This is on Fri 1st 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 5th March, 5pm-7pm. Everyone is invited, whatever age. There will be pancakes, a quiz, games and fun for all.

PRAYER EVENING: There will be a prayer evening in Church on Fri 8th March at 7.30.

MENS BREAKFAST: The next one will be on Sat 9th March at 9am and the speaker will be from MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship)

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

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'. It is very important for the Church to have as many people on the roll as possible so do fill in the roll form if you attend.

LENT RESOURCES: If you are looking for some inspirational reading over Lent or something for the children to do, please see our Lent resources box on the table by the main door where there are various items for purchase.

LIGHTHOUSE QUIZ SHEET: Thank you to everyone who bought a Lighthouse quiz sheet. It raised £619 and the winner was Pam Harding of Haddenham who kindly donated the £25 cash prize back to Lighthouse. Thanks also to Gill Wilkinson and Richard Hayward who sold quiz sheets at St. Mary's. Next quiz is 26th April.

LIGHTHOUSE VACANCY: This year we are facing a major challenge as the Site Manager of recent years will not be available. The role has now been broken down into five, more manageable, chunks. Each of these needs a team and a leader. Four teams are more physical. The 5th role is more administrative and involves just one or two people giving a few hours at a time. Please make initial contact via email to lighthouse-pr@dawshome.plus.com for more info, if you can help. Vicky Bant.

LOST PROPERTY: Last chance to claim, see top of cupboard.

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.

What's on in the week beginning Monday 25th February

- Mon 25th** **11.30am** Funeral of Anne Marshall
Tues 26th **7.30pm** Welcoming Training in St Mary's
Weds 27th **9.00am** Wednesday Prayers in St Mary's
9.30am Children Society Box opening in the Chapter House
10.30am Holy Communion followed by coffee
2.00pm St Mary's Church open for prayer and healing.
3.30-4pm Evensong
7.30pm Alpha Course at St Mary's
Thurs 28th **10.30am** Coffee in the Chapter House

Sunday 3rd March, Sunday next before Lent

Readings: Exodus 34: 29-end, Luke 9: 28-36

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's
9.30am Parish Communion followed by coffee
11.15am TGIS
3.00pm Open Door, a Spring Tea, in the Chapter House
3.00pm Evensong at St Peter's, Ilmer

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