

Collect for The 4th Sunday before Lent:

O God, you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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:

Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PRAYER POINTS:

- For the Children's Society.
- For all those effected by the virus in China and that it may be contained.
- For our country as we finally leave the European Community.
- For those attending the Alpha course and Pat who is leading it.
- For the Governors of Longwick school as they prepare to interview candidates for the post of Headteacher.

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

Matteo Bellini, Philippa and Laila King, Suzie Aries, Fred and Jenny Deverill, Frances Goodchild, Rob and Sally Goodchild, Marion Long, Joseph Fell, Iris Austin, Norman Edwards, John Hardy, Debby and Jim Cadwallader, The Goodridges, Richard Hayward, Shirley and Eric Watts, Liz and Paul Bracken, Michael Hopkins, Kelly May, Joyce Bapty, Richard Heaney, Alex Lake, Barbara Higgins, Simon Clegg.

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ASKED TO PRAY FOR:

Mel Rolfe, Gideon, Mary Jefferies, Keith & Judy Brambleby, Barbara Platts, Hazel Boon, Helena Oecken, Jean Moses, Bill & Marge Philips, Jean Coleman, Mary Williams and Angela Ettle.

WE REMEMBER WITH THANKSGIVING THE LIVES OF:

Ann Main, Tony Mead, Garry Anstead and Bess Craig-Bassey.

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St Mary's
with
St Peter's
PRINCES RISBOROUGH
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News

Sunday February 2nd 2020, Presentation of Christ

Dear Friends

Jonah was called by God to go to Nineveh, a huge city with a barbaric reputation, which was 500 miles from Jonah's home. He was to call them to repentance. He had little expectation of their listening to God's call and fully expected to be attacked or killed. No wonder that he ran in the opposite direction!

But God called him a second time and this time he went. God in his mercy wanted to give the people of Nineveh a chance to change their lives. Surprisingly, they listened to Jonah and, from the King downwards, they repented and prayed for God's compassion, which they received.

God still wants to give people the chance to change their lives and turn to Him. He uses us, as He did Jonah, to tell others the good news of the Gospel. Not that we are to harangue people about their misdeeds! But we are sent out by God with the powerful truth of how Christ died for us all, in which the message of repentance is clear.

We may feel like running away and hiding as Jonah did. But if we do, we deny those we meet the chance to change their lives and, by God's infinite mercy and compassion, to be saved.

Think of it this way. If we found a starving person on our doorstep, we would not hesitate to give them some bread to save their lives. So, when we meet those who are starving for the Bread of Life, which is Jesus Himself, we should not hesitate to give them the knowledge that Jesus can and will save them for eternity.

Rose Williams

NEWS & NOTICES.

HOLIDAY AT HOME: This is taking place on Tuesday and Wednesday 18th and 19th Feb. There will be two days on activities and entertainment on a literary theme. If you can help with the catering, cakes and sandwiches are needed. Please see Elaine Needham. If you can help on the day with craft etc or with moving furniture please contact Gill on gill.sunfold@googlemail.com or the Church Office.

CHILDREN'S WORKER: This role is now being advertised and a copy is on the children's noticeboard and on the home page of our website. Please pray that we receive applications so we can appoint someone in the summer.

PANCAKE PARTY: There will be an all age Shrove Tuesday pancake party on 25th February. There will be pancake crafts, pancake flipping, races and games for all ages. Pancakes and a sausage supper. 5-7pm in Church. Please let Gill Wilkinson know if you can come, at gill.sunfold@googlemail.com.

PILGRIM'S WAY OPEN EVENING: There will be an open evening on Tues 25th Feb at 7.30pm in the Chapter House about the pilgrimage taking place from May 31st to June 14th. David is taking part and would love people to join in for any of the route.

CHILTERN ART FESTIVAL: The opening concert will be at St Mary's on Fri 28th Feb at 7pm. This will be the Septura Brass Septet celebrating the work of female composers. Tickets online at chilternarts.com/festival or phone 01442 920303.

CTR LENT COURSE: An ecumenical Lent study course, using the book 'Saying Yes to Life' by Ruth Valerio. 'What does it mean to be human and a follower of Jesus?' 7.30pm in the Chapter House on Thurs 5th, Tues 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March.

LENT RESOURCES: On the table by the door there are various Lent resources for sale, including the book 'Saying Yes to Life'. Do have a look.

NEW WINE: 'I am going to new wine this year, week 2 - Sunday 2nd Aug - Sat 8th Aug. If anyone would like join me for a week of worship, great teaching, great youth groups and lots of fun and laughter, that would be great. If you don't fancy camping/ caravan there are local hotels / b & b's nearby and day tickets are available.' Hazel Wynn.

CHRISTIAN NIGHTLIFE INITIATIVE: have produced an inspirational new prayer and action guide. The Guide is based on the work of local Street Angels, Club Angels and Festival Angels who see how prayer and action can and does change communities and people. The free 30days Guide can be found at cninetwork.org/30days. There is also a copy in the lady chapel.

BAPTISMS: If anyone is interested in joining the baptism visiting team, please see Eleanor for a chat about what's involved in this very rewarding ministry.

Sunday 2nd February, Presentation of Christ

Winter Sermon Series: 'Changing Lives'

Readings: Jonah 3, 1-10: John 1: 43-51

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's
9.30am Parish Communion followed by coffee
11.15am TGIS with children's groups
3.00pm Open Door – A Valentine's Tea in the Chapter House
3.00pm Candlemas Evensong at St Peter's, Ilmer

What's on in the week beginning Monday 3rd February

- Weds 5th** **9.00am** Wednesday Prayers in St Mary's
10.30am Holy Communion at St Mary's followed by coffee
7.30pm **Alpha course** in Church and Chapter House
Thurs 6th **10.30am** Coffee in the Chapter House
Fri 7th **2.00pm** Praise & Play in the Chapter House

Sunday 9th February, Third Sunday before Lent

Winter Sermon Series: 'Excite'

Readings: Exodus 34: 29-35, Matthew 5:13-16

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's
9.30am Parish Communion followed by coffee
11.15am TGIS with children's groups
6.00pm United Service at PR Baptist

Rector: Revd. David Williams 346984

Associate Minister: Revd. Michael Hunt 344150 **Curate:** Revd Pat Kerr 273980

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