

Collect for The 3rd Sunday of Epiphany:

God of all mercy, your Son proclaimed good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom to the oppressed: anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

Amen

Post Communion prayer:

Almighty Father, whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments, shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen

PRAYER POINTS:

- For Mercy Ships.
- For Archie Clements, being baptised today, and his family.
- For peace and a resolution to conflicts around the world.
- For our world leaders, that they might make the right decisions to help combat climate change.
- For all migrants as they seek to find a place they can call home.

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

Matteo Bellini, Philippa and Laila King, Maggie Wooster, 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:

Eva Lloyd, Rosa Lidington, Ann Main, Tony Mead, Garry Anstead and Bess Craig-Bassey.

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

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

News

Sunday January 26th 2020, Third Sunday after Epiphany

Dear Friends

This is the third week of exploring the core values of St Mary's based around the word GRACE. The first week was G – growing in grace. The second week looked at R – relationships matter. And this week it is A – all (ages). I've added the brackets to emphasise that the focus is about ALL, a wide range of descriptors that could be added after 'all'.

The dictionary definition of 'all' says it is 'used to refer to the whole quantity or extent of a particular group or thing'. It is about 'all' and an implication of all (by definition) is that nothing is left out. In the context of God's Kingdom, or God's Church this seems to me very significant. There is nothing (indeed no thing) that is left out – all are included in God's creation, and all are included in God's acts of redemption, forgiveness and mercy. As Jesus says: 'I have come that all may have life' (John 10:10).

Putting this into practice is a lot harder than it sounds. Most church communities will not reveal the 'all' of God's creation – certain age groups may be absent, there may be more women than men, some groups may not feel welcome due to their appearance, ethnicity, sexuality, or background. Being open to all is difficult, particularly with our preference for 'comfortableness' with what we know and those like us.

The story of David in the bible illustrates that following God leads to some very uncomfortable places. Yet David's story reveals something that helps him to deal with the uncomfortableness – David knows who God is. David knows Goliath is not God. Goliath is the reality in front of him right now, and that reality is big, ugly and intimidating. But David knows that what's in front of him is not the ultimate reality. God is the ultimate reality, and God is for all. Being open to all will make us uncomfortable, yet through God's grace it will bring life.

Rev Michael Hunt

NEWS & NOTICES.

ALPHA: The St Mary's Alpha course starts this week, Wednesday 29th January at 7.30pm. The evening will start with a meal in Church and then is followed by a video, talk and discussion in the Chapter House. Email stmarysprcurate@gmail.com for more info or to sign up.

MESSY CHURCH: Forget the spring clean, let's get 'Messy'. A ministry that reaches out to all in our community. Come and be a part of this fabulous ministry. All gifts and talents needed. Training morning with lunch on Saturday Feb 1st 11-1:30. To book a place contact stmarysprcurate@gmail.com

HOLIDAY AT HOME: Can it really be that time of year already? This year, our holiday will be on Tues February 18th and Weds Feb 19th and will be a 'bookfest'! Come and meet some of the characters from your favourite books and spend a couple of days on activities and entertainment on a literary theme. If you are interested in coming along, please contact Gill on gill.sunfold@googlemail.com or the Church Office.

Offers of help on both days would also be greatly appreciated.

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.

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.

CHILTERN'S 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.

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.

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 26th January, 3rd Sunday of Epiphany

Winter Sermon Series: 'All People'

Readings: 1 Samuel 17: 1-11; 32-50, Matthew 4: 12-23

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's
9.30am Parish Communion with baptism followed by coffee
11.15am TGIS with children's groups

What's on in the week beginning Monday 27th January

- Weds 29th 8.30am** Morning Prayer in St Mary's
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 30th 10.30am Coffee in the Chapter House
Fri 31st 2.00pm Praise & Play in the Chapter House
Sat 1st 11-1.30pm **Messy Church** training in Chapter House

Sunday 2nd February, Fourth Sunday before Lent

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 breaking of bread and children's groups
3.00pm Open Door – A Valentine's Tea in the Chapter House
3.00pm Candlemas Evensong at St Peter's, Ilmer

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY: This is on Weds 29th Jan and to mark the day there will be an evening service of prayer, 'Stand Together' at All Saints Church, High Wycombe at 7.30pm. Info from barbara@sampsons.org.uk

PILGRIM'S WAY OPEN EVENING: There will be an open evening on Tues 25th Feb at 7.30pm about the pilgrimage taking place from May 31st to June 14th.

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