

**Collect for The Sunday before Lent:**

Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Post Communion prayer:**

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**PRAYER POINTS:**

- For Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
- For the Syrian refugees, some of whom are dying in the extreme conditions.
- For peace and resolution in those countries where there is conflict.
- For Sophie Rutson-Geary being baptised today, and her family.
- For the volunteers in our Church family that give their time so willingly.
- For all those affected by the flooding, particularly those whose homes have been flooded in the South West and North of England.
- For all those effected by the coronavirus epidemic.
- For the families of the victims of the shooting in Germany.

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

Doug Jack, Ken McMurray, Tony Eccleston, Matteo Bellini, Philippa and Laila King, Suzie Aries, , Frances, Rob and Sally Goodchild, Marion Long, Joseph Fell, Iris Austin, Gordon and Kathleen Plumridge, Norman Edwards, John Hardy, Debby and Jim Cadwallader, The Goodridges, Richard Hayward, Shirley and Eric Watts, 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, Angela Ettle and Daphne Baptiste.

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

# News

## Sunday February 23rd 2020, Sunday before Lent

**Dear Friends**

There is a delightful story that is told of a young Vicar who, on leaving theological college, went to work in a rural group of Churches. When he arrived to take his first Sunday service in one of their beautiful Churches, he noticed something rather strange. Everyone came in and sat on only one side of the Church. Then, when it came to sing the hymn before the sermon, he was amazed to watch the entire congregation stand up and walk over to the other side of the Church before singing the hymn. He really didn't know what to make of it, and no one said anything, but the same thing happened week after week until finally he worked out what was going on!

He found out that, many years ago, the Church was heated by a woodstove that had been positioned over on one side of the building, as during the winter the building could get very cold. So when the people first arrived they all sat on the side closest to the woodstove. As the service went on, the woodstove would get very hot, in fact too hot for comfort, and so the congregation developed the practice of moving over to the other side where they could then continue with the singing of the hymn that came just before the sermon. However, even though the Church had been refurbished several times and the woodstove had long since been replaced, the congregation still kept its practice of changing sides during the service. Most of its members had no idea why they did this, it was just something they did.

There are times when it's good to ask ourselves, 'Why do we come to Church and do what we do?' What do Christians really believe? What gets us out of bed in the morning? This Sunday our Gospel reading tells of the transfiguration of Jesus and answers all these questions. It's a passage full of awe and wonder. A passage that tells us who Jesus really is. He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings, and, like those first disciples, may we fall facedown to the ground in awe of Him.

**David Williams, Rector**

## NEWS & NOTICES.

**THANK YOU:** to Gill and her team for putting on another fantastic 'Holiday at Home' with record numbers. Thoroughly enjoyed by all!

**PANCAKE PARTY:** This Tuesday, 5-7pm in Church. All ages. Please let Gill Wilkinson know if you can come, at [gill.sunfold@googlemail.com](mailto:gill.sunfold@googlemail.com).

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

**LENT:** The #Live Lent booklets are now available in Church. Daily readings, reflections and actions to help us make the most of our Lent journey. There is also a free app available to download to your phone, #LiveLent. Please see the table for the other Lent resources available for sale. Only available for one more week.

**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?' The course will start at 7.30pm in the Chapter House on Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> March and then continue on Tuesday evenings, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March. Led by David.

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

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** Formerly called Women's World Day of Prayer, this will be held on Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> at 11am at St Mary's. This year it is from Zimbabwe. Refreshments served afterwards (offers of cake welcome! Contact Louise Fell)

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** The next men's breakfast will be on 14<sup>th</sup> March at 8.45am when Chris McGough will be speaking on 'Ethical Investments'.

**CANTILENA COFFEE MORNING:** There will be a free coffee morning on Friday March 20<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am in St Mary's. Music by the Cantilena Winds concert band.

**ALPHA LIBRARY:** We are hoping to establish an Alpha Library so if anyone has any contemporary Alpha books in good condition, please let the Office know.

**PATHWAYS:** The new edition of Pathways, the diocesan magazine is now available so do pick up your copy for an interesting read.

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY COLLECTION:** Just to let you know, we have now heard that we raised £583.73 for the British Legion on Remembrance Sunday.

**QUIZ NIGHT:** Wycombe Homeless Connection are having a quiz night on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at the Hit or Miss Pub, Penn Street. £12 a head inc Curry supper. Teams of up to 8. Call Office if interested.

## Sunday 23rd February, Sunday next before Lent

**Readings: Exodus 24: 12-end, Matthew 17:1-9**

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

## What's on in the week beginning Monday 24th February

- Tues 25<sup>th</sup> 5.00pm** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party in Church  
**7.30pm** Pilgrims way Open Evening in the Chapter House  
**Weds 26<sup>th</sup> 9.00am** Wednesday Prayers in St Mary's  
**10.30am** **Ash Wednesday** Holy Communion at St Mary's followed by coffee.  
**7.30pm** Alpha course in Church and Chapter House  
**Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> 10.30am** Coffee in the Chapter House.  
**Fri 28<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm** Praise and Play in the Chapter House  
**7.30pm** Septura Brass Concert in St Mary's

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March, First Sunday of Lent

**Readings: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Matthew 4:1-11**

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

**PRINCES CENTRE DRAMA AFTERNOON:** Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb at 12.45pm. An afternoon of three short plays by a visiting drama group. £2 a ticket, contact PR 345105 or 07536 001824 For tickets. Refreshments and a tombola.

**QUIZ NIGHT:** Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.30pm at St John's School Hall, Lacey Green. £12 a head to include fish and chip supper. Contact Pat PR 345452 or Margaret 347094 asap.

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**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