

Collect for First Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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:

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PRAYER POINTS:

- For The Princes Centre.
- For James Seward being baptised today, and his family.
- For the people of war torn Syria, suffering in extreme conditions.
- For the people suffering due to the violence in Delhi.
- For our doctors, nurses, paramedics and all medical workers
- For all those affected by the flooding, particularly those whose homes have been flooded in the West and North of England.
- For all those effected by the coronavirus epidemic.

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

Doug Jack, Gladys Page, 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 Etle and Daphne Baptiste.

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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 March 1st 2020, First Sunday of Lent

Dear Friends

This is the first Sunday of Lent. This year St Mary's is hosting the Churches Together in Risborough Lent Course which starts next Thursday 5th March. This year's course is based on Ruth Valerio's excellent book 'Saying Yes to Life'. If you haven't bought a copy yet, I urge you to do so. It is a very thought-provoking and inspiring book. Failing that, come along to the course on Thursday and find out more.

The book, which combines theology with practical science, considers each element of the Creation story in Genesis 1 with chapters on light, water, land, sun, moon and stars, birds and fish and finally animals and humans before God rested on the seventh day. Throughout all this, we need to concentrate afresh on the One who existed before the Creation – God. God was the true and only reality before Creation. God didn't have to create but he chose to. Why? Because that is his very nature to share his overflowing divine love with someone or something other than himself.

God is love, and love expresses itself in creative generosity. In order to create, the infinite God had to make space within himself for his Creation so we and all Creation are surrounded by God. We are not divine (far from it!) but we are made in his image and likeness and need to remember this when faced with the many temptations that surround us.

God may indeed be hidden from us but that doesn't mean he is not there, surrounding us with his love. Jesus, however, was far more tangible to the disciples and those others fortunate enough to see and hear him in the first century. We are blessed with the gospel stories to bring Jesus to life for us. Let us pray that we can focus afresh on Jesus and listen to what he says and follow him as he leads us into this season of Lent.

Peter Cline

NEWS & NOTICES.

HOLIDAY AT HOME THANK YOU: 'A huge thanks to everyone who helped in any way with Holiday at Home. Chair movers, cake, sandwich and scone makers, craft makers and helpers, game helpers, makeover and hand massagers, cooks, washer uppers, AV operators, musicians and many, many more behind the scenes. We had a really great two days and couldn't do it without you. Very many thanks to you all.' Gill

LENT: There is a free app available on the Church of England website to download to your phone, #LiveLent. Reflections and actions to help us make the most of Lent.

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 5th March and then continue on Tuesday evenings, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March. Led by David.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Formerly called Women's World Day of Prayer, this will be held on Friday March 6th 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 14th March at 8.45am when Chris McGough will be speaking on 'Ethical Investments'.

LADIES' BREAKFAST: The next Ladies Breakfast will be on Saturday 21st March at 9am in St Mary's, speaker to be confirmed.

CANTILENA COFFEE MORNING: There will be a free coffee morning on Friday March 20th at 10.30am in St Mary's. Music by the Cantilena Winds concert band. If you can provide a cake or help serve refreshments on the day, please contact the office.

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.

QUIZ NIGHT: Wycombe Homeless Connection are having a quiz night on Friday 6th March at the Hit or Miss Pub, Penn Street. £12 a head inc curry supper. Teams of up to 8. Call the office for details of tickets.

GIVING AND TAX: If you would like to support the running of our church, please consider regular giving. Are you or your spouse a tax-payer? If so, the church could gain an **extra 25p per £1** if you agree to "Gift Aid" your giving; you still pay the same, but the church reclaims the income tax. For you, the process is very simple. Please pick up one of the little "Giving" leaflets in church or speak to Michael Hoey on **275 192** or at mhoey@btinternet.com.

Sunday 1st 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

What's on in the week beginning Monday 2nd March

- Weds 4th 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 5th 10.30am** Coffee in the Chapter House.
- 7.30pm** Lent Course in the Chapter House
- Fri 6th 11.00am** World Day of Prayer Service at St Mary's
- 2.00pm** Praise and Play in the Chapter House

Sunday 8th March, Second Sunday of Lent

Readings: Genesis 12:1-4a, John 3:1-17

- 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 Baptists

PRINCES RISBOROUGH CHORAL SOCIETY: On March 29th at 3pm at St Lawrence's Church, West Wycombe, there will be an afternoon tea concert. This will include music by Handel, Vivaldi, Bach and Vaughan Williams.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT: Runs from 24th Feb to 8th March. Please support by buying fairtrade products and help support the people who grow our cotton, cocoa, coffee etc and are so often exploited and underpaid.

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