

**Collect for Third Sunday of Lent**

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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 forever. **Amen**

**Post Communion prayer:**

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen****PRAYER POINTS:**

- For Hamlin Fistula UK
- For migrants everywhere, particularly those fleeing Syria and Turkey.
- For all soldiers serving in Iraq and other war zones.
- For all doctors, nurses and medical staff.
- For our clergy, churchwardens and all those who volunteer for St Mary's.
- For all those effected by the coronavirus epidemic, particularly in Italy and that the virus may be contained in the UK.

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

Norbert Chumu, Ann Trollope, Doug Jack, Gladys Page, 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.

[parishoffice@stmarysrisborough.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.stmarysrisborough.org.uk)



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

# News

## Sunday March 15th 2020, Third Sunday of Lent

**Dear Friends**

It seems that when I'm asked to write this article the emphasis is on the outsider. Last time it was Jesus saying that he was on the side of those at the bottom of society, the poor, the hungry, those who weep. This time he is in a Samaritan village – as far as the Jews were concerned a place of total outsiders and we even find him talking to a Samaritan woman by a well who turns out to be living with a man who is not her husband. Can you get ever get further outside than that? But the result of this conversation is that not only the woman but many in her village believe in Jesus – some of the earliest non-Jewish converts. The gospel is for all!

The other feature of this story is that it takes place at a well, a place where everyone meets and where water is drawn. Jesus uses this to talk about the living water he brings but fresh water is also an essential part of God's gift and provision for his creation. For those of us who are following the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book ('Saying Yes to Life') water has been central to this last week. We have looked at day 2 of the creation narrative when God separated the waters from the skies. This has involved looking at the part that fresh water plays in our lives – it's crucial!

Fresh water, or the lack of it, is also likely to be one of the most crucial issues of climate change in the coming years. Like financial wealth it is also one of the great divides in society between the haves and the outsiders. A recent drought in Cape Town meant that people had to reduce water consumption to about 1/3 of what we use. But the Archbishop of Cape Town points out that the burden fell more on the poor than the wealthy and the Church found that it had a major part to play in minimising suffering especially for the elderly and disabled.

How do we think about the water that comes out of our taps? Saying Yes to Life suggests, for a week, saying a prayer every time we use water when we turn on a tap, flush the toilet, have a shower or a bath, put on the washing machine or the dishwasher and ask God to help us remember those who are in a different situation.

**Rev'd Steve Williams**

## NEWS & NOTICES.

**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 continues on Tuesday evenings in the Chapter House at 7.30pm, until March 31<sup>st</sup>. You are welcome to come along to any of the sessions. Led by David.

**LENT:** If anyone still owes money for their Lent books, please let the office have it asap. 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.

**LADIES' BREAKFAST:** The next Ladies Breakfast will be on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March. The theme will be an 'inclusive celebration of Mothers'.

**CANTILENA COFFEE MORNING:** This has unfortunately been postponed and will be rearranged for a date later in the year.

**MOTHERING SUNDAY:** This is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March. There will be posies given to all the ladies at all services. St Peter's will also be having a special family service at 11am. If anyone can help make posies, please could they come to St Mary's at 11am on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

**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.

**GIVING:** 'The weekly giving envelopes will be available for collection from church throughout March. With thanks'. Carole.

**JINGLERS CONCERT:** There will be a concert by the Jingers on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 3pm in St Mary's. Performances by the Jingers, plus hymns and poems. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

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

**MAUNDY THURSDAY CHILDRENS ACTIVITY MORNING:** On Thurs April 9<sup>th</sup> from 10am -12.30pm, Children 2-10 years. A fun morning for children with time to learn about the Easter story. Parents can leave their children or stay. £2 a child. Full details from Gill on [gill.sunfold@googlemail.com](mailto:gill.sunfold@googlemail.com)

**ELECTORAL ROLL:** Please check the Electoral roll to see if you are on it. If not and you would like to go on, please take a form, complete and return to the box in church.

## Sunday 15th March, Third Sunday of Lent

**Readings: Exodus 17: 1-7, John 4: 5-42**

- 8.00am** Holy Communion at St Mary's  
**9.00am** Holy Communion at St Peter's, Ilmer  
**9.30am** Parish Communion followed by coffee  
**11.15am** TGIS with children's groups

## What's on in the week beginning Monday 16th March

- Tues 17<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm** Lent course in the Chapter House  
**Weds 18<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 10.30am** Coffee in the Chapter House  
**Fri 20<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm** Praise and Play in the Chapter House  
**Sat 21<sup>st</sup> 9.00am** Ladies Breakfast in Church

## Sunday 22nd March, Fourth Sunday of Lent and Mothering Sunday

**Readings: Exodus 2; 1-10, John 19: 25b-27**

- 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 children's groups and breaking of bread.

**HELEN AND DOUGLAS HOUSE FUNDRAISING:** 'Easter cards and a quiz are available from the shop in Duke Street. Thank you for your support.' Frances.

**CORONAVIRUS:** Please read the letter from the Oxford Diocese regarding Suspension of the Common Cup and other matters.

---

**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