

<p><b>Prayer of the Day</b></p> <p>Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen</p>	<p><b>READINGS for 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH:</b></p> <p><b>EXODUS 2; 1-10,</b></p> <p><b>JOHN 19: 25B-27</b></p> 
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**PRAYER POINTS:**

- For our Government as they try to do the best for our country in these difficult times.
- For migrants everywhere, particularly those fleeing Syria and Turkey.
- For all doctors, nurses and medical staff, now working under extreme pressure.
- For our clergy, churchwardens and all those who volunteer for St Mary's, as we look at new ways of spreading God's word.
- For all those effected by the coronavirus epidemic, particularly the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

**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 Ertle and Daphne Baptiste.

**WE REMEMBER WITH THANKSGIVING THE LIFE OF:**

Margaret Wilson and Gillian Rustman.

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

# News

**Sunday March 22nd 2020**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent and Mothering Sunday**

**SUSPENSION OF SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

In line with the advice from the Government and from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York normal Sunday services and other mid-week activity and meetings has been suspended with immediate effect.

As the Archbishops said: **“Being a part of the Church of England is going to look very different in the days ahead. Our life is going to be less characterised by attendance at church on Sunday, and more characterised by the prayer and service we offer each day. We may not be able to pray with people in the ways that we are used to, but we can certainly pray for people. And we can certainly offer practical care and support.”**

We recognise the significant impact this will have on all who are part of the Church or associated with it, and our prayer is that the suspension will be for as short a period as possible. We are already considering ways in which we can maintain contact with each other through other means and we are already working to put in place arrangements to ensure that all, and especially those who are vulnerable, lonely and in need at this time, are supported, both spiritually and physically.

One action we have already taken is to ensure St Mary's church is open on a daily basis for those in our town and community who wish to come to church for prayer or to find a listening ear. More information on this and other initiatives will be available from our website (<http://www.stmarysrisborough.org.uk/>) and through facebook (<https://en-gb.facebook.com/stmarysrisborough/>).

Along with churches across the country we will join in a day of prayer and action this coming Sunday - Mothering Sunday (22nd March). Mothering Sunday has always been both a day of celebration for many and a sensitive and emotional day for some. Wherever you are this Sunday please do join in this day of prayer and action and remember especially those who are sick or anxious, and all involved in our Health Service. We are calling on everyone to place a lighted candle in their window at 7.00 p.m. as a sign of solidarity and hope in the light of Christ that can never be extinguished.

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK FOR MOTHERING SUNDAY**

**Dear Friends**

It may seem that Mothering Sunday is now just another marketing opportunity, but for the Church, the relationship between a mother and her child has always signified the divine love of God for his children. In our Eucharistic prayer we say: *As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled, your love remained steadfast.*

Today's Gospel gives us a very poignant and touching picture showing the importance of the role of a mother. Even after he has endured hours of torture at the hands of the Roman soldiers and the humiliation of the walk to Calvary and the unimaginable pain of crucifixion, Jesus is still able to worry about what will happen to his mother. Maybe by now she is a widow, one of the poorest and least regarded members of their society. She is there at the foot of the cross with a small group of women supporters and disciples, who have remained throughout the ordeal. Despite the horror, her mother's love is so great that she cannot leave but stays to share her son's agony. Almost the final words that Jesus utters are to tell her that from now on John will fulfil the role of her son and she will be a mother to him. Nothing could be clearer; the bond of mother and child is one of the closest that we experience and should be cherished.

Today is a day for remembering our mothers, even if they are no longer with us, or if in today's unprecedented circumstances it is not advisable to see them in person, and for giving thanks for their love and care for us.

**Debby Cadwallader**



**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

**MESSAGES**

- **From this Sunday, we will be live streaming the Sunday communion service at 9.30am on Facebook live and the St Mary's website. So sign up and join in. Please be aware this is all new technology to us and there may be some teething problems. But we are going to develop this over the next few weeks.**
- **This Sunday is a National day of prayer and we are asking everyone to put a lighted candle in their window at 7pm**
- **Church will be open Monday to Friday from 10am to 2pm for prayer.**
- **Please do sign up for e news to keep up to date and receive news direct to your phone or computer. Just follow the link on the website.**
- **Please do contact the office if you need help with shopping or anything else.**
- **Please contact us if you can help with shopping and so on. We are also asking for donations of food and money.**
- **Peter Cline is setting up an on-line Wednesday morning prayer group. Please let the office have your email address if you would like to be part of this group.**
- **The remaining Alpha sessions are being streamed. Please let Pat know your email address if you would like to take part.**
- **April's Viewpoint is not being distributed in the normal way but copies are available to pick up in Church. The issue of future copies is suspended for the time being.**

**ELECTORAL ROLL:** If you do come into Church, 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. Further news about the APCM to follow.