

INTERCESSIONS

Please remember in your prayers...

The World Church:

The Church of the Indian Ocean and Archbishop Ian Ernest. Also the Church in Latvia and Archbishop Janis Vanags with Bishops Einars Alpe and Pavils Bruvers.

Churches Together:

Holy Trinity Amblecote

Bishop John:

Please pray for Graham Usher as he becomes bishop, for Bishop John and all Bishops.

Please pray for:

Mark Wear and Nadine Jones who are being married here on Friday.

Those living in:

The Crescent and Grange Road

Local Community:

The residents and staff of Doveton House.

Among those who are ill:

Susan Haskew, Lesley Price, Michael Reuter, Anna Scudamore, William Bates, Rory Macintosh, Richard Tatler, Denise Inge, Brian Norgrove, Marilyn Thomson, Sally Taylor, Cliff Day, Margaret Macdonald, Eddie Hind, Doreen Ryan, Margaret Casey and Michael Woodall.

We continue to pray for:

Sanchia Farman, Eleanor Hill, Lennon Southall, Vicky Croydon, Martin Aston, Jonathan Bryan, Audrey Cartwright, Ruth Hardy, Pauline Parsons, Ros Bickel, Noah Cantius, James Allport, and Callum Loveridge.

Those in Residential and Nursing Home care:

Sheila Westwood, Pat Skinner, Margaret Pole, June O'Brien, Roy Green and Ethel James.

The departed:

Martha Richards, Ian Duncan, Brian Quinton and William Bedford.

In memoriam:

Betty Beard (25.3.13) Maurice Castle (28.3.13)

May they know the peace and joy of God's Kingdom.

Please pray for families and friends of all who mourn the loss of loved ones.

Please inform the clergy as soon as possible if you know of any illness or particular need within the congregation.

NEXT SUNDAY 30th March Mothering Sunday

8.00am Communion (BCP)
10.00am Parish Communion
3.00pm Baptisms
6.30pm Evensong



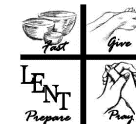
St Mary's Church Old Swinford

Sunday 23rd March 2014
The third Sunday of Lent

A warm welcome to any visitors who are worshipping with us today.

Please join us for coffee in the Narthex after our 10.00am service.

If you would like to find out more information about any of the activities associated with church please speak to a warden or sides person or visit our website at: www.stmaryschurcholdswinford.org.uk



Our services today are as follows:

8.00am - Holy Communion

Collect, Epistle, Gospel P133

Sides: Nick Harbach

President: Revd Stephen Agnew

10.00am - Parish Communion

Preacher: Kanthi Ariaraj

President: Revd Stephen Agnew

Reader: Judy Hall Romans 5: 1—11

Intercessions: Judith Nex

Sides: Richard Hall & Pauline Pettet

Warden: Judy Hall

Anthem: The secret of Christ—*Shepherd*

Voluntary: Litanies - *Alain*

Children Together: Pauline and Les

6.30pm - Evensong

Officiant: Roy Peacock

Preacher: Revd Stephen Agnew

Sides: Dawn Nex

Warden: Ian Nex

Readers: Dawn Nex Josh 1:1-9 & Ian Nex Eph 6: 10—20

Intercessions: Revd Stephen Agnew

Anthem: I give you a new commandment—*Nardone*

Voluntary: Prelude in c —*Mendelssohn*



We have a loop system installed in church. If you wear a hearing aid please turn it to the T position.

Collect for this week:

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 for ever. **Amen**

DIARY FOR THIS WEEK

Monday 24

2.00pm Flower Guild meeting in church

Tuesday 25

2.30pm Tuesday tea in the narthex.

7.30pm Third meeting of the Lent Course in the narthex.

Wednesday 26

11.30 am Holy Communion at holly Lodge

7.30pm Resources committee meeting in the rectory.

Thursday 27

10.30am Holy Communion

7.30pm Coach House AGM

Friday 28

2.00pm Wedding of Mark and Nadine

3.30pm Funeral of Martha Richards RIP

Saturday 29

9.30 am Walking group meeting

10.00am—11.00am Vestry Hour

10.00am—12.00pm Open Church

The Old Testament Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, travelling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarrelled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?" But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me. "The LORD answered Moses, "Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and because they tested the LORD saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The New Testament Reading

Romans 5: 1-11

Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

This is the Word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD

Gospel Reading

John 4: 5—42

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

Jesus came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water." He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back." "I have no husband," she replied. Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true." "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth."

The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." Then Jesus declared, "I who speak to you am he." Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman. But no-one asked, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?" Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" They came out of the town and made their way towards him. Meanwhile his disciples urged him, "Rabbi, eat something."

But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about." Then his disciples said to each other, "Could someone have brought him food?" "My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour." Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world."

This is the Gospel of the Lord
PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.