

The Wykeham Benefice Pewsheet and Newsletter

Epwell, Broughton with North Newington, Shutford, Sibford, Swalcliffe, Tadmarton
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Mothers' Sunday

22nd March 2020

CORONA VIRUS

The Archbishops have directed that all public worship services should be suspended with immediate effect. We will adopt this immediately in the Wykeham Benefice. This is obviously a sensible precaution, particularly for parishes such as ours with a large proportion of older or vulnerable people who are members of the congregations. I hope that churchwardens will agree to the Archbishops' suggestion that all churches should be kept open for as much of each day as possible for private prayer. We may all need them.

Collect

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen

Old Testament - Exodus 2: 1 – 10 (NRSVA)

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

New Testament – Colossians 3: 12 – 17 (JB Phillips translation)

As, therefore, God's picked representatives of the new humanity, purified and beloved of God himself, be merciful in action, kindly in heart, humble in mind. Accept life, and be most patient and tolerant with one another, always ready to forgive if you have a difference with anyone. Forgive as freely as the Lord has forgiven you. And, above everything else, be truly loving, for love is the golden chain of all the virtues. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, remembering that as members of the same body you are called to live in harmony, and never forget to be thankful for what God has done for you. Let Christ's teaching live in your hearts, making you rich in the true wisdom. Teach and help one another along the right road with your psalms and hymns and Christian songs, singing God's praises with joyful hearts. And whatever you may have to do, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, thanking God the Father through him.

Gospel

Luke 2:33-35 (NRSVA)

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

or John 19:25-27 (NRSVA)

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

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For Prayer This Week

All inter-faith dialogue and co-operation. All initiatives seeking to bring peace to this troubled world.

RIP – Jack Cook of Broughton (cremation Monday 30th March), and Barbara Conner of Broughton (funeral and burial Friday 3rd April)

A prayer for our time

Caring Father, just as you share our human joys, you share our fears. Your world - our world - is facing challenges few have experienced before. Regardless of class, faith, colour, income, or personal need, suddenly our world is for the first time united in uncertainty, and for many of us, fear. But we are also united in our resolve to defeat this new, common, unseen enemy. Everything we thought we knew about our world has been changed and no-one can be untouched by these unfolding events.

May we find inspiration, encouragement and comfort from the kindness of strangers, the steadfast love of our families and, for those of us who have faith, the assurance of your unceasing care.

For those who are sick, restore health.

For those who are frightened, bring calm.

For those who are confused, bring clarity.

For those who are lonely, bring companionship.

For those who are exhausted or overwhelmed, in body or spirit bring peace and restoration.

Father, remember us as we start each day, unsure of what lays ahead. Calm our fears and our imaginations and - when we reach out to you – may every one of us find your hand and experience your presence in our lives so that at the end of the day we will be reassured that you have never once left our side. This we ask in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and our solace. **Amen.**

The week ahead

Sat 28th

10.00am Lent Course at Abingdon House, Swalcliffe

LENT LUNCHESES The Lent lunches which were due to take place at Sibford on Tuesday this week and on April 6th in Shutford Village Hall have been cancelled: the Lent Lunch planned for March 30th in Epwell Village Hall will be reviewed nearer the time in the light of Government guidance.

PCC MEMBERS

The meeting on 30th March which I encouraged you all to attend has now been cancelled: it will be replaced by some sort of virtual meeting on email: more details to follow.

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