

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 19TH MARCH 2017

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WELCOME TO OUR INCLUSIVE, GROWING CHURCH FAMILY

St Michael & All Angels is a church where people are called to come together to explore the mystery of God's love. We listen to the Word of God, and celebrate Christ among us in the Eucharist. After our fellowship we are sent back into the world in a spirit of faith, hope and love. All of us, without exception, are called by God. A special welcome to all visitors and newcomers. May God bless you this day and every day. Please help yourself to a *Welcome Pack* before you leave.

MOTHERING SUNDAY POSIES

We will be distributing the Mothering Sunday posies after Samantha's party next Sunday. They will double up as table decorations before they become gifts! Please gather - from your gardens and other (legal) places - spring flowers, foliage and blossom. Bring your flowers etc to church next Saturday from 10am so that our specialist floral designers can make posies out of them. Thank you in advance!

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Walk the way of the Cross on Saturday's through Lent. Starting at 6pm we will spend a few moments at each station for reflection and a short prayer.

THE ROLE OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

The PCC meets today after church. Please pray for our meeting and for the PCC members as we continue to address important areas of life and growth.

What role does the PCC play in the life of the church? It is akin to a board of trustees of a charity and, as a result, requires representatives who are wise, considered with specific skill-sets. The PCC is the strategic decision-making body of the church. During this moment of the church's life it is involved in re-structuring the church's finances, making provision over property, developing the Threshold Project, overseeing good practice in pastoral ministry such as safeguarding. The list goes on. To serve the church as a PCC member is a privilege as well as a serious commitment. The PCC is keen to make its work more transparent and accessible to the 'person in the pew.' At least 4 people will be resigning from the PCC at the APCM after excellent service. Will you consider replacing them? Please ask the churchwardens for more information.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The APCM is on Sunday 2nd April. This meeting gives an account of the church's activity in the last year. The financial accounts are presented and the PCC is re-elected. We also need to formalise our Electoral Roll (ER). If you have been attending church regularly and have not signed an ER form please do so — they are on the newcomers table.

CHURCH CLEANING FOR EASTER

Saturday 8th April from 10 am and 2pm . If you are able to volunteer then please see Doreen, one of our church wardens.

WHY I LIKE ST MICHAEL'S

Comments from those in the know!

"... thought provoking and God-inspired, Bible-based sermons"

SUNDAYS

8.00 am Holy Eucharist

Traditional Language

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

1st Sunday of the month:

All-Age Family Eucharist

5th Sunday of the month:

Rotation with partnership churches

6.30pm Taizé Prayer

30min worship in the Lady Chapel

WEEKDAYS

Morning Prayer

9.30am (for 25min)

Holy Eucharist

Thursdays 10.00am

1st Thursday of the month: Healing - the laying on of hands and anointing.

Adult Choir Practice

Thursdays 6.30-7.45pm

Contact Steve Allen - 07717 852020

Men's Breakfast

1st Saturday of the month

Contact Steve Hunter - 01865 552475

Confirmation classes

Contact Gavin - 01865 556079

FOR CHILDREN

'Children's Church' on Sunday

meets in the vestry during
10.00am Parish Eucharist

Godly Play

every 4th Sunday
at 10am with a crèche provided

St Michael's Choristers Age 3+

practise Thursdays in church
in term-time at 5.30 pm and sing on the
1st Sunday of the month
Contact Alice - 07791 328108

Baby & Toddler Group

Tuesdays 10.00 - 12.00 noon
Play for children and chat for carers
Contact Juliet - 01865 552640





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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Cor. 1:18)

COLLECT

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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 5: 1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 4: 5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

POST COMMUNION

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.

NEXT WEEK: MOTHERING SUNDAY

Readings: Exodus 2: 1-10/ Luke 2: 33-35

8am - Celebrant & Preacher: Gavin Knight

10am - Celebrant : Gavin Knight/Preacher: Samantha Stayte

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

LENT

1. **An Explorer's Guide to Christianity**: Five sessions exploring important questions of faith at 7.30pm in church. 21st March, 28th March, 4th April, 2nd May. Be part of our learning community.
2. **Children's Confirmation classes**: These take place in Sunday Club on 19th March and 26th March as well as the All Age Eucharist on 2nd April.

THE REHEARSAL FOR THE CONFIRMATION SERVICE WILL TAKE PLACE AT ST MICHAEL'S ON SATURDAY, 13TH MAY AT 5PM. THE CONFIRMATION ITSELF WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, 14TH MAY. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS EVENT!

3. **Lent Lunches**: There will be 3 soup and cheese lunches in the upper Church hall, on March 8th, 15th and 22nd. Soup makers are needed, please see Sarah or Doreen, our church wardens. A collection will be made to Christian Aid. All are welcome, this is a partnership-wide invitation.
4. **Dethroning Mammon** by Justin Welby is a new (paperback) book by the Archbishop of Canterbury for Lent. There are 6 chapters and some of us will be discussing and reflecting on one chapter each Friday evening, 7pm onwards during Lent. We begin on Friday, 3 March at Ann Zacheis' home, 11 Jackson Road. Everybody very welcome but please read the relevant chapter beforehand. Any questions etc please ask Ann Zacheis or Ann Stedman.
5. **Stations of the Cross** – a moving and prayerful experience (focusing on Claire Sadler's drawings) from the perspective of those who witnessed Jesus' last words. Every Saturday in Lent from 6pm (lasting no longer than ½ hour).

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Palm Sunday – we meet outside the Dew Drop pub at 9.40am to read the Gospel of the Palms and to process - triumphantly - into church.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week – 6pm we will be praying the Stations of the Cross.

Maundy Thursday – Holy Eucharist at 10am; At 8pm, Holy Eucharist with washing of feet, stripping of the altars and vigil of prayer.

Good Friday – 12 noon, Stations of the Cross (with choir); 1pm, Haydn's '7 Last Words', 3pm, the Liturgy of Good Friday (PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF TIME FOR THE LITURGY OF GOOD FRIDAY).

Holy Saturday (Easter Eve) – 9pm for the Easter vigil, the solemnity of solemnities! We anticipate Easter and listen to the history of our redemption and bless the waters of baptism by the light of the paschal candle.

Easter Sunday – 8am Holy Eucharist; 10am All Age Eucharist celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.