

NOTICES

Grant Bid Successful We have some exciting news! St Peter's has been awarded the full grant request of £123,538 from the Church of England towards paying a **Children's and Youth Worker** for the next 5 years! The grant will be provided through the Healthier Churches initiative from the Church of England. This new role will enable the church to further develop discipleship and outreach for young people within the congregation and the wider community. A huge thank you to everyone who prayed for the success of this venture. We ask for your continued prayers as we move forwards in our search for a suitable person to fill the position.

Prayer Focus: Psalm 81:7-9 In your distress you called and I rescued you, I answered you out of a thundercloud; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. 8 Hear me, my people, and I will warn you—if you would only listen to me, Israel! 9 You shall have no foreign god among you; you shall not worship any god other than me. James 1:22-24 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. Reflection: How do we listen to God? How do we know that He is speaking to us? Scripture tells us of the many times that God's chosen people, the Israelites failed to listen to Him. When things became tough, they hankered after the old days of slavery and capture in Egypt, but His patience, His Grace is without bounds. It can be difficult to hear God at times, let alone listen to Him through all the busyness and difficulties that can crowd in on us at times. Many things compete for our attention each day. We need to find a secret or quiet place where we can regularly spend time alone with God reading our Bibles and being open to see what happens. Practice spending time with God, reading His Word. He speaks in many and varied ways at various times in our lives. This month, let's all give serious listening a try. When we've experienced God speaking into our lives, (it may be from the Bible, another person, or perhaps God will give us a thought or a picture) write it down and be prepared to tell someone else about it so that we can encourage each other to continue listening.

 **St Peter's
Bengeworth**
Sunday 3rd March 2024



Today's Services and Events – Lent 3

- 8.00am Holy Communion.
- 9.15am Morning Eucharist
- 11.00am Informal Gathering – Children's Groups.

Gluten free Communion breads are available. Do please ask one of the welcomers or the Wardens if you require this. The Church is fitted with a loop system. To use this, please switch your hearing aid to 'T'.

Church Diary for the Week

- Mon 4th March: 11am Ashes Burial – Sylvia Emson.
- Tues 5th March: 10.00am – Holy Communion.
- Tues 5th March: 1.15pm – School Rehearsal Bengeworth Academy.
- Tues 5th March: 7.30pm – Prayer Meeting.
- Thurs 7th March: 1.15pm School Rehearsal Bengeworth Academy.
- Friday 8th March 10.00am – Mother's Day School Service.
- Friday 8th March 10.00am - Choir Practice.

Next Sunday's Services and Events – 10th March 2024

- 8.00am Holy Communion.
- 9.15am Morning Praise.
- 11.00am Informal Gathering – All Together Service.

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.

Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

20 And God spoke all these words: ² "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. ³ "You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶ but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷ "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. ⁸ "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labour and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. ¹² "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³ "You shall not murder. ¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ "You shall not steal. ¹⁶ "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour. ¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour."

Gospel Reading: John 19:23-27

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

"Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

"They divided my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment."

So this is what the soldiers did.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

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.

For our Prayers this Week: For those who are sick, in special need or housebound. Mark Bartlett, Dave Cockram, Colin Hemming, Ella Graves, Stuart Pickett, Eileen Pieters, Helen Shepherd (Pat Bullman's daughter).

For the family and friends of those who have died: Jean Porter.

