

Today's Services and Events –Lent 4

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

***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 11th March: 11am Funeral of Jean Porter.
- Tues 12th March: 10.00am – Holy Communion.
- Tues 12th March: 7.30pm – Prayer Meeting.
- Thurs 14th March: 9.45am School Rehearsal Bengeworth Academy.
- Thurs 14th March: 3.00pm Cavendish Park Songs of Praise.
- Friday 15th March 10.00am - Choir Practice.

Next Sunday's Services and Events – 17th March 2024

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

NOTICES

Flooring Update / Service Disruption:

You may remember from a recent mailer the exciting news that St Peter's is getting new flooring! We now have fitting dates and are aware there will be some disruption in the church while this is undertaken. The church building will be out of bounds for regular

activity between: **Monday 6th May and Friday 17th May.** We'll be in touch soon with details of changes to church services while this is ongoing and apologise for any disruption.

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.

Collect:

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ They travelled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵ they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

⁶ Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived.

Gospel Reading: Mark 15:33-38

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").^[a]

³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

³⁶Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

³⁷With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

³⁸The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

Post Communion:

Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smiters and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; 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: Adam, Lucy, and Jordan (surname unavailable), Jean Porter.