

In & around the Benefice....

22nd March | Mothering Sunday

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Worship in our churches

Unfortunately, in light of the Covid-19 restrictions, our usual pattern of Sunday services and other mid-week gatherings is suspended. But this does not mean that the Church of England has shut up shop.

Our church buildings will all be open daily from 10am to 4pm, and you are welcome to come in if you want to escape the madness of the world, say a prayer or just spend time in the peace and quiet there. There will be a prayer table with printed prayers and thoughts for you to use, and a notebook for you to write any specific prayer requests. This will be checked regularly and prayers said through the week.

Please hold in your prayers this week...

- ◇ Those suffering from, affected by or working to prevent the spread of Coronavirus.
- ◇ The NHS, that it may cope with increasing pressure
- ◇ Persecuted Christians across the world, especially in North Korea
- ◇ Those in residential care and the housebound, among them: Audrey Desborough, Ruth Williams, Gwen York, Ann and Colin Dix
- ◇ Those who suffer in body, mind or spirit, among them: Chris Sayles, Tom Stock, Nicholas Vaughan, Freddie Hogan, Diane Claber, Mandy Bates
- ◇ The recently departed, amongst them Edith O'Loughlin, and all who grieve at this time



Thoughts for Mothering Sunday

We pray Our Father.... but have you ever wondered if we could pray also Our Mother? Sounds strange, doesn't it? And yet often in the Bible we read of God like a mother bird sheltering her chicks under her wings, protecting them from danger. (Psalm 91:4, Psalm 17:8) Perhaps that image may be helpful to us at this time of worry and uncertainty – the knowledge that God is watching over us can bring us comfort and strength. It might also remind us to be mothers to those in our villages who need a bit more looking after. Why not pop a posy of flowers and a note or a card in to a neighbour who you know will be alone this Mothering Sunday? Just a simple gesture can mean a lot.

2020 Lent Course: Matthew's Gospel

Thank you Margaret for leading the first 3 sessions of the Lent Course on Saturday mornings at the URC.

Unfortunately, the remaining 3 sessions will not go ahead



LENT LUNCHES

A huge thank you to Ann and Carole for hosting the first two lent lunches. Unfortunately, the remaining scheduled lunches have been cancelled.

Please consider still making your donation to the Daylight Centre either directly or via your churchwarden who will pass any funds to Deborah Rush to collect together.

Since most, if not all, social gatherings are currently suspended, there are no **"Dates for the Diary"**

Please check the website calendar for updates as the situation improves: yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk

The Collect

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading

Exodus 2: 1-10

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.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Colossians 3: 12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2: 33-35

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord**

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus.

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A prayer for these difficult times:

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake.

Amen