

Lord, as we look at the state of our world we sometimes start to wonder. When we focus our attention on incredible suffering in Africa; the devastation of so much of the Middle East; the continued war in Ukraine and the fragile attempts for a ceasefire, we often fail to understand. help us Lord.

Lord, we do not have the answers. Yet you have invited us to pray. And so we come, believing, even if only a little bit at times, that you are listening and you will act. We bring the many, many needs of the world to you now -those we see in the news and those seen only by you. You see the pain and you see the suffering and yet we know, and we trust, that you are Lord.

Lord, thank you for all the beauty in our world. We think of the new growth blooming at the start of spring. We are amazed by the incredible night sky, the stars, the planets: everything we can see and everything that is beyond our comprehension. All of it crafted by your hands. All of it upheld by you. Lord, as we look at the stars, help us to remember your promise to Abram and your promises to us. Abram never saw the full fruit of the promises and yet he carried on following your word. We may not understand, we may be confused but help us, whenever we see the night sky, to remember that you are a faithful God.

Lord, sometimes our problems and troubles seem insurmountable. We can't see a way through. We can't understand why. We think of those we know who are in pain; awaiting a diagnosis; struggling with anxiety and depression; facing a long, hard road to recovery; and those who are mourning the loss of a loved one; a job; an opportunity; those who live on the edge of society.

We pray for those who work in our community and we pause to think of our neighbours, those we meet on the bus, in our office, our classroom, in the park as we walk the dog. Lord, you are Lord of all these people and places whether we recognise it or not. You have a plan for our community. Help us to listen for the part you want us to play in bringing that plan to fruition. Give us the courage, as a church and as individual people of God, to tell others of your amazing faithfulness and love.

Lord we thank you for the times when we have glimpses of your glory; when we have seen your promises coming true even when we didn't expect it. We think of all the good things that have happened to us or our families this week and we pause to smile. We thank you for good news stories; for those unexpected moments of joy, maybe from people we don't normally have much to do with; for fun; for laughter; for a job well done. We thank you that you are with us in these small moments as well as the life-changing situations.  
Amen

## Weekly Notices

*Rector: Rev. Jonathan Gordon 01442 871547*  
*Associate Priest: Rev. Michael Eggleton 01442 823273*  
*Readers: Peggy Sear and David White*

[www.stbartholomewschurch.org](http://www.stbartholomewschurch.org)

Services for March 16th  
**2nd Sunday in Lent**  
8am Holy Communion BCP

**10 00am** Parish Eucharist  
Hymns; 188, 6, 228, 541

### Readings:

Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18  
Philippians 3: 17-4.1  
Luke 13; 31-end

**6pm** Evening Prayer  
Psalm 135  
Jeremiah 22:1-9, 13-17  
Luke 14: 27-33

Services for March 23rd  
3rd. Sunday in Lent  
8am Holy Communion BCP

**10.00 am** Parish Eucharist  
Hymns; 235, 399, 549, 329

### Readings

Isaiah 55: 1-9  
1 Corinthians 10: 1-13  
Luke 13: 1-9

6pm Evening Prayer  
Psalm 12, 13  
Genesis 28: 10-19  
John 1: 35-end

### Prayer for today

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### Prayer for Peace

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

### **The church electoral Roll**

**A complete revision of the Electoral Roll is required this year.**

**Everyone wishing to be included on the roll, which is required if you wish to vote at the Annual church meeting on April 13th. 2025, must complete and application form and send it back by April 1st.**

**Forms are available from Rita 07905845593**

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### **Lent Course 10am to 11am**

The subject —Hope

Week 3 19/3/25

Week 4 26/3/25

Course booklet is provided

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### **Dates for your diary**

#### **Additional Services over Lent and Easter**

March 30th. 10am Mothering Sunday

April 14th. 10am Palm Sunday

April 17th. 8pm Maundy Thursday Service

April 18th. 2pm -3pm Good Friday devotions

April 20th. 10am Easter Day Celebration Eucharist

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### **Wigginton Gardeners Association**

Wigginton Gardeners Association is holding a Spring Social in the Village Hall on Saturday 22nd March from 2pm to 4pm. Tables will be available for cream teas and chats.

At the same time we are holding a small friendly 'competition' involving spring flowers. Either your own, or shop bought, in your own vase, to arrange at the hall or beforehand. This is not a serious flower arranging contest, just a bit of fun to make the hall look cheerful and pretty. Entries will be judged by votes from members of the public.

There will also be a similar 'competition' for children under 14, for a decorated hen's egg. This should be staged in an egg cup.

We look forward to seeing you. Any queries, please look at Facebook or contact Georgina Tregoning on 01442 822702.

### **The lighter side of life**

The Rectory  
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

It seemed such an innocent suggestion. A local farmer announced he wanted to arrange a Spring music festival. I could already hear Mozart string quartets being played in our Lady Chapel, and arias from Donizetti operas being sung al fresco in the Glebe field, while we sipped champagne in the warm Spring sunshine and admired the flowers.

Unfortunately, our farmer was thinking of a heavy metal weekend in one of his fields. The teacups began to rattle when village talk turned to portable lavatories, mobile catering vans and using the churchyard for overflow camping space. Then the police arrived to discuss crowd control and drug policy. At James the Least of All we tend more towards congenial dinner parties, with drinks labelled Bollinger or Glenfiddich.

That was the point when Colonel Trubshaw began to search out his old shotgun. His wife even stopped serving coffee after Mattins, in order to patrol the perimeter of their estate with their arthritic spaniel. On the other hand, Miss Little went a little mad. She exchanged her usual tweeds and brogues and pearls for a red bandana, long patchwork dress and peace beads. She must have enjoyed the 1960s.

It was time to take action, so I told our farmer that St James the Least of All would support him to the hilt. Our ladies would of course do flower arrangements for the stage, and our sidesmen would greet the campers as they arrived. We would provide a full choral Evensong on Friday night, to help set the tone for the weekend. When the farmer gasped something about heavy metal, I was able to reassure him. "Heavy metal? We're doing that Saturday morning from about 6am, when our bellringers will give a three-hour exhibition of change ringing." The farmer pleaded something about singing, and I was able to reassure him on that point as well: "On Sunday we'll do a Songs of Praise, and not to worry, your campers can choose their favourite hymns from 'Ancient and Modern'."

I was thanked profusely, but the following week, our dear farmer wrote to tell me he had decided to graze sheep on his field after all. Shame about that.

Your loving uncle,  
Eustace