

The Benefice of Foremark and Repton with Newton Solney

Mothering Sunday - Sunday 14th March 2021

Daily Reading Sunday 14th March to Saturday 20th March

Sunday 14th March - (Mothering Sunday)

Exodus 2: 1 – 10

Moses is loved by his mother so much she is prepared to bear the pain of separation from him in order to protect his life.

Colossians 3: 12 - 17

As people of God we should treat each other with compassion and understanding and forgive each other as God has forgiven us.

John 19: 25 – 27

Just before he died, Jesus entrusted his mother and his beloved disciple to each other's care.

Monday 15th March

Psalm 77, Jeremiah 17:5-18, John 9:18-end

Tuesday 16th March

Psalm 79, Jeremiah 18:1-12, John 10:1-10

Wednesday 17th March (Patrick)

Psalm 90, Jeremiah 18:13-end, John 10:11-21

Thursday 18th March (Cyril)

Psalm 86, Jeremiah 19:1-13, John 10:22-end

Friday 19th March (Joseph and Nazareth)

Psalm 25, Isaiah 11:1-10, Matthew 13:54-end

Saturday 20th March

Psalm 32, Jeremiah 20:7-end, John 11:17-27

Next Sunday will celebrate:

The 5th Sunday of Lent [Passion Sunday]



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

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

For grace to keep Lent faithfully.

All continuing to provide spiritual and pastoral care to our parishes and those within the wider community during this period of COVID-19.

All our Church, Messy Church and Youth Alpha families that they may continue to deepen their faith.

Those serving God, here and abroad: Nick Parish training for ordination, Sarah Attwood as she continues her ministry with the church in Bosnia.

Those in need of long-term prayerful support: Andrew Pitchford, Lynn Wells, Ian Tennant, Samantha Taylor, Ted Weston, Alf Booth, Kay Howard, Claire Rose, Audrey Morris, Joan Taylor, Robin Nelson, Carl Baker, Shirley Wells, Lorna Griffiths, Karen Perks.

Prayer requests: Nazanin for an end to her sentence and for her family awaiting that day; all affected by the coronavirus and all seeking to contain & combat this pandemic.

Those who have recently died and those known to us, Rest in Peace; for their families and friends who mourn them, that they find comfort and strength in God's presence. May the Place of Memorial in St Wystan's churchyard provide a quiet space to know God's peace as loved ones are remembered.

BENEFICE SERVICES AT ST WYSTAN'S

10.00am on SUNDAYS

Will continue during this lockdown.

PLEASE NOTE LIVE-STREAMING WILL BE ON ZOOM

These are the instructions for joining

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7855049461>

Meeting ID: 785 504 9461

Telephone: 0203 901 7895

Enter the Meeting ID: 785 504 9461 when prompted. There is no password required.

The service will be uploaded to YouTube and Facebook afterwards.

TODAY ACROSS THE BENEFICE

With such a year as it has been and not being able to hold special services in our churches as we would normally, we have been thinking about what we could do to lift the spirits of those who have been on their own a great deal, those who have been bereaved, those who are struggling with ill health and especially those for whom Mothering Sunday won't be the same because children will not be able to visit.

Normally many people would receive plants or bouquets at the special services with any extras being distributed after the service by church members - as far as they would stretch. This year we have come to realise that the list of those to whom we would like to give a token of our and God's love, far outnumber our ability to make arrangements for.

May I therefore encourage you to consider members of all of our churches' congregations you live near, are close to, or know of, and if there are any you feel would appreciate a small gift or a doorstep visit - give/make one to them next Sunday on behalf of yourselves and the Church.

ROADMAP TO RECOVERY, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

We have received a couple of guidelines from the Bishop's Office:

1. Permission for churches to remain closed has been extended to April 12th [from March 31st].
2. APCM's can now be as late as the end of June

As I wrote last week:

We hope to deliver to everyone a Palm Cross so that you can all join in with the zoom service on that day - March 28th.

The second part of Stage 1 of the Governments proposals come in on Monday March 29th. It is unlikely we will be allowed to congregate in church at that stage so we are planning on Good Friday at 2.00pm an online Service following the Stations of the Cross through to Jesus' Crucifixion at 3.00pm. We believe it may be possible to hold an outdoor service [subject to weather as well], similar to 'Carols in the Churchyard' on Easter morning and we will also offer a 'Said' Zoom Communion Service at some stage.

We anticipate being able to worship together in church once more from Sunday April 18th after lots of things have opened up on Monday 12th.

These things are reliant on the Government sticking to its timetabled dates. We must wait and pray!

WINTER OPENING TIMES [until Saturday 27th] - OUR CHURCHES CONTINUE TO BE OPEN FOR PRAYER

ST MARY'S [EVERY DAY] 10.00 – 3.00pm.

ST WYSTAN'S [WEEK DAYS] 10.00 - 4.00pm

St Wystan's is open on Saturdays 10.00AM – 3.00pm then it will be cleaned and set up ready for Sunday.

On **Sundays** the church will be cleaned after the service and then open for prayer until **4.00pm**.

DAILY PRAYER – A small group of us continue to say Morning Prayer each weekday from 9.00 – 9.30am

We use a Service Order from Iona Abbey. We 'meet' on Zoom and the telephone link works for this as well. If you wish to join us, then you are most welcome. Please ask Rebecca for a copy of the service order and a Zoom link.

As printed in the magazine:

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES – A PLACE OF MEMORIAL

As Covid continues so many more of us have been unable to attend a funeral of a loved one or a friend. Others will have been unable to grieve in a variety of ways because of the guidelines enforced at the moment. Many can't visit the graves of loved ones because of travel restrictions. With Mothering Sunday [March 14th] and Easter [April 4th] both falling in the next few weeks, not being able to do such things will be all the harder to bear.

Many have come from within and outside our Benefice to St Wystan's in Repton to light a candle and say a prayer, but we felt that for others, perhaps you, a family member or a friend, that might not be enough or that going into church might feel awkward.

Until mid-April we have set aside an area near the Lychgate in St Wystan's Churchyard in Repton as a Place of Memorial. A low fence encloses an area of grass and the first yew tree. On one side there is a Cross made out of the Christmas Trees used in Church this last December.

Anyone is most welcome to come and place flowers, photos, momentos, or any item with special significance on the ground either under the tree or around the Cross. If you wish to hang a prayer, photo, ribbon or lightweight memento from the tree you are most welcome to do so. *[We know that Churchyard regulations don't allow such things but this is a special one off event in a defined area so we are turning a blind eye for 7 weeks].*

All we ask is that you don't leave anything made from glass, or which is dangerous or easily breakable, and please, do not hang things from the tree over the path. We reserve the right to remove items that are not 'safe'.

As part of the **Marie Curie National Day of Reflection** on **Tuesday March 23rd at 11.50 am** [marking 1 year since the first lockdown began] there will be a short act of remembering and giving thanks leading up to the 1 minute of silent reflection at 12.00noon. Again, anyone is most welcome to come along for that special time.

The Place of Memorial will continue through Easter [our Christian Festival marking the death of Jesus and Celebrating His Resurrection] another time when many people also remember loved ones by visiting graves and so on. At our services on Mothering Sunday and Easter a special prayer will be said for all our loved ones.

We plan to clear the area later in April so would ask if you wish to retrieve a memento you do so before **Monday April 19th**.

We do pray continually for all those who die and for those who mourn the loss of loved ones – may you know God's peace if you are mourning at this time.

Martin the Vicar

CHANGING NEWTON SOLNEY

I learned this week that the owners of the Wedding venue, Newton Barns, had closed and left. It was with great sadness that I heard from a couple who had booked their wedding at St Mary's that the owners had left without returning the monies paid by several couples for their receptions. I am sure you join me in hoping that this unjust situation will be resolved in favour of the couples.

We have also learned that the Mercure Hotel is up for sale. The place could be converted into accommodation which would mean the loss to the community of a place of employment and a much used local venue for social and other occasions.

As both places have brought weddings to St Mary's over the past few years, introducing many people to the church and providing a source of much needed income we are concerned about these developments and I hope you will join me in prayer about them. Martin

DAILYHOPE PHONE LINE

DailyHope, a free national telephone line, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of the phone.

A Church of England initiative in partnership with CONNECTIONS at Holy Trinity Claygate, and Faith in Later Life.



The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind; to provide comfort and spiritual nourishment to the most isolated in our society.

"With many in our country on lockdown, it's important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are."

Archbishop Justin Welby

CHRISTIAN AID GIVING THANKS AND DONATIONS

The Diocese of Derby is now supporting an initiative by Christian Aid to give both thanks and a donation once you have received the vaccine.

The donation will be used by Christian Aid to help vulnerable communities around the world access soap, food and vital health information in the face of the pandemic.

Christian Aid will also support vaccination programmes in countries where it is operating by providing data on hard-to-reach populations to local health services and by challenging misleading information about the virus and vaccination, as well as any stigma faced by those who contract Covid-19.

[Full details are available on the diocesan website.](#)

LETTER TO THE VICAR TO ALL PCC MEMBERS – SENT OUT LAST WEEK

Over the coming weeks with the Roadmap to Recovery unfurling we hope that by the end of June we will move back into the new reality of 'normal'. There will be guidelines for us to follow to keep people safe and further restrict the spread of coronavirus and we will do our best to adhere to them. However, it will be wonderful to be set free once again to engage with our worship, mission and ministry in ways that we wish to.

You will recall what I have been saying for many months about a 'blank sheet' opportunity for us to grasp. There is the need for much discussion about the nature and form of what we as churches and a Benefice seek to do. We will begin to consider these things, but the situation is complex. Let me illustrate this by mentioning the 'pastoral' services, baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Since the roadmap was announced we have had wedding and baptism enquiries for later in the year. We will almost certainly get requests for Thanksgiving Services for loved ones whose funerals have taken place over the last year or so.

While these may not be in large numbers there is the possibility that everyone will want them sooner rather than later, which could create a little pressure, not just on clergy/ministers, but on wardens, vergers, administrator, organist, ringers, cleaners, etc etc.

A further complication is that many of us are suffering from a degree of 'pandemic lockdown' exhaustion. I am certain we are all hoping for a holiday once there is an easing of restrictions. Some have already booked them! When the timing of these holidays coincides with the pastoral services we will need to be ready to cover one another.

Considering what lies ahead the second half of this year could be a busy one for us. We will need time and space to recover and find 'ourselves' as churches once again as well as accommodate the pastoral services. Alongside we will begin to consider every aspect of what we do across the Benefice, asking:

- What from the past do we resurrect?
- What from the past do we let go of?
- What is God asking us to begin?
- How best can we be most effective in our worship, mission and ministry?
- Identifying what we can do better as a Benefice than we do as separate churches?

While this might seem like an onerous task it is a wonderful opportunity to ensure that we move forward in a positive way, laying foundations that will serve us well, especially given that the Diocese is proposing to implement a new Vision and new ways of working for us all. I will try to convey a better idea of the Vision and possible implications of that to you in the future.

The scope and scale of what we need to embrace is such that we will have to prioritise what we put our limited resources and energies into [see below]. To allow us space to pray, reflect and consider it makes sense to phase in what we do very slowly. We cannot do everything at once, to quote Corporal Jones, "Don't panic Mr Mannering". There will be issues that we need to discuss as a Benefice as well as individual P.C.C.'s. It will be inevitable that not everyone will be able to be present 100% of the time at these meetings but hopefully and prayerfully we will come to a common mind which is in accord with God's will for us.

May I suggest [not written in stone] that we approach this in the following manner/order:

Stage 1

At forthcoming PCC meetings we

- Consider what should lie behind what we do, in other words what we are trying to achieve. [This will need to embrace an appreciation of the new Diocesan Vision]
*For instance – worship has many facets:
Focus of church life, worshipping God, building fellowship, unifying, teaching, welcoming in the outsider, corporate prayer, inspiring our day to day living etc, etc.*
- Using the above - brainstorm those things we feel are vital, that have achieved and will achieve what they are for and should be put back into our 'calendar', at least for the short term.

Stage 2

Joint PCC [or sub-group] discussion of Worship across the Benefice

– both regular services and festival 'specials'

Stage 3

Joint PCC Discussion of Young People's ministry [School involvement, Christian nurture, Messy Church, Youth Alpha]

Stage 4

Exploration of Pastoral Support across the Benefice

Stage 5

Exploration of deepening our faith [Christian nurture] again Benefice wide.

Stage 6

Making more of the opportunities the pastoral services [baptisms, weddings and funerals] give us for outreach and support.

We can then move onto areas that we feel are important are a result of the above or that we have not covered such as: community involvement, governance structure, reaching out to the visitor, the wider implications of the Diocesan Vision.

This may seem a lot to grapple with but spread over the next year it is manageable. Of course, the P.C.C.'s will have the normal round of other things to cover – but the above is so worthy of our attention, being at the heart of our faith and essential to the core of our being God's people.