

You are very welcome to take your Pew Sheet home.
Please see the back page for a list of upcoming services in the United Benefice

Sunday 12th March 2017 - CW edition



**The United Benefice of Long Crendon (LC),
Cheersley (Ch) & Nether Winchendon (NW)**

WELCOME EVERYONE TODAY AND EVERY DAY

Parish prayer points for March



Prayer is the foundation of all we do in our daily lives as well as in our church life - after all, a relationship thrives on communication. As we pray throughout March on our own, or in gatherings on Sunday and during the week, can I invite us to pray for these particular people:

In our 3 churches, giving thanks for all who come and clean them, for their hidden act of service. For Alicia Howard, Dorothy Lagden, and Sarah Evans who co-ordinate each of our cleaning teams

In our 3 villages, please pray for everybody who works in our health and social care services. For those who work elsewhere; for our doctors' surgery, dental practice, and care providers; and for the many carers who serve our residents.

Collect for the Second Sunday of Lent

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. **Amen**

Readings for Today:

The Old Testament: Genesis 12.1-4a



Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth

shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

The Epistle: Romans 4.1-5 and 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") - in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Gospel: St. John 3.1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except

the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Notes for your diary:

Benefice Lent Course started 2nd and 3rd March for six weeks but you are welcome to join in at any stage:

Ever feel like the Bible is a bizarre collection of obscure laws, far-fetched stories, and incomprehensible prophecies? If so then you're invited to come to a 'crash course' in navigating the more baffling parts of the Bible, using **Krish Kandiah's book, 'Route 66'**.

There's a choice of two times to meet during the week:

Thursday evenings 8:00-9:30pm in Church House, Long Crendon

Friday afternoons 1:15-2:45pm at Long Meadow, Dark Lane, Chearsley. If possible, bring your own Bible.

You don't have to come every week, or even buy the book, to benefit from the course. However if you'd like to follow the book's daily Bible studies through Lent then used copies in good condition can be bought online for as little as £3. If you have any questions, including directions to the venues, email Reverend.Richard.Phillips@gmail.com

Saturday 18th March, 9:00 am St. Mary's Long Crendon: Volunteers are sought for a Churchyard working party. Please bring any useful tools. Hot cross buns and coffee will be provided!

Saturday 2nd April, Monthly Prayer Gathering at St. Mary's, Long Crendon, 9:30-10:30 am. Our prayer focus will be on the three villages and wider issues. All welcome. Ray Copping and Geoff Hogbin

Services in the United Benefice

Sunday 12th March 2017 – The Second Sunday of Lent (CW), or the Second Sunday in Lent (BCP)

8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	LC	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Morning Celebration	Ch	Lay Led
10:00 am	Matins	NW	Robert Spencer Bernard
10:30 am	Holy Communion	LC	Richard Phillips
6:00 pm	Evensong	Ch	John Scholefield

Sunday 19th March 2017 – The Third Sunday of Lent (CW) or the Third Sunday in Lent (BCP)

9:00 am	Holy Communion	Ch	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Family Service	NW	Gordon Kuhrt
10:30 am	Family Service	LC	Richard Phillips

Sunday 26th March 2017 – The Fourth Sunday of Lent (CW) or the Fourth Sunday in Lent (BCP) Mothering Sunday

8:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	LC	Richard Phillips
10:00 am	Family Service	Ch	Richard Phillips
10:30 am	Family Communion with posies	LC	Steve and Rose Williams
11:00 am	Family Service	NW	Richard Phillips

Sunday 2nd April 2017 – The Fifth Sunday of Lent (CW) or the Fifth Sunday in Lent (BCP) – Passiontide begins

9:00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	NW	Derek Witchell
10:00 am	Café Sunday	LC	Lay Led
10:00 am	Family Holy Communion	Ch	Derek Witchell

Sunday 9th April 2017 – Palm Sunday (CW), or the Sunday next before Easter (Palm Sunday) (BCP)

10:00 am	Benefice Breakfast and Palm Craft at Cheersley Village Hall followed by a procession from the Hall to St. Nicholas' for Family Communion at about 10:30 am (when the procession arrives)		
		Ch	Richard Phillips
6:00 pm	Seasonal Lessons and Carols	LC	Richard Phillips
Note: there is no service in Nether Winchendon today			

If you have events coming up in the Benefice and would like them included in future Pew Sheets, please let us have the details on llm.chearsley@btinternet.com Please note that your wording may have to be edited to fit the available space - John and Jenny Scholefield