

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 19th 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 Third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, 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: Exodus 17.1-7



From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in

the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The Epistle: Romans 5.1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Gospel: St. John 4.5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from

the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world."

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Notes for your diary:

Benefice Lent Course started 2nd or 3rd March for six weeks but you are welcome to join in at any stage: You are invited to come to a 'crash course' in navigating the more baffling parts of the Bible, using **Krish Kandiah's book, 'Route 66'**, held on **Thursday evenings 8:00-9:30pm** in Church House, Long Crendon (started **2nd March** for 6 weeks) or **Friday afternoons 1:15-2:45pm** at Long Meadow, Dark Lane, Chearsley (started **3rd March** for 6 weeks). If possible, please bring your own Bible. . 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 1st 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 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

10th – 15th April 2017 – Services during Holy Week

Monday 10 th	LC	7:30 pm	Compline (Night Prayer)
Tuesday 11 th	Ch	7:30 pm	Compline (Night Prayer)
Wednesday 12 th	NW	7:30 pm	Compline (Night Prayer)
Maundy Thursday	NW	7:30 pm	United Benefice Communion
Good Friday	LC	9:00 am	Prayer Walk
	Ch	10 am	Good Friday Service
	NW	11 am	Good Friday Family Service
	LC	2 pm	Stations of the Cross, Devotional
	Ch	5-8 pm	Rock Solid
Holy Saturday	Ch	10 am	Creation of Easter Garden
	Ch	8 pm	Benefice HC and Service of Light

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.cheersley@btinternet.com Please note that your wording may have to be edited to fit the available space - John and Jenny Scholefield