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Please see the back page for a list of upcoming services in the United Benefice

Sunday 28th February 2016 - CW edition



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

WELCOME EVERYONE TODAY AND EVERY DAY

Prayer



Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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: Isaiah 55.1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;

let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10.1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Gospel: St. Luke 13.1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking

for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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:

The Benefice Lent Group will continue to run from 19:30 to 21:30 on **Tuesdays up to and including Tuesday 15th March 2016**, in Church House, Long Crendon. The theme is the Women who encountered Jesus, and will also introduce us to women who are being helped by one of Chearsley's charities - ***Embrace the Middle East***. All are welcome. John Scholefield

Long Crendon Home Groups: please see poster on St. Mary's noticeboard and website with details of the various dates and times for Home Groups, and the subjects covered. Please contact Robert Hutton on 202060 or Ray Copping on 208509 for further information.

Saturday 5th March 2016 9:30 - 10:30 am, St. Nicholas', Chearsley: As we continue the process of finding a new Vicar for our Benefice, come together to pray for faith and vision for our churches, for those involved in preparing the way for the new Vicar, and for our Lent Groups and Home Groups and services. Ray Copping and Geoff Hogbin

Saturday 12th March at 7.30 at St Mary's, the Witchert Chorale, "Remembering the Golden Age". Tickets £10 each (children £5) from Friends@FSMLongCrendon.org or call Geoff Smith on 01844 208205. Refreshments will be offered.

21st-25th March 2016 - Services during Holy Week:

Monday 21 st	NW	7:30 pm	Compline
Tuesday 22 nd	Ch	7:30 pm	Compline
Wednesday 23 rd	LC	7:30 pm	Compline
Maundy Thursday 24 th	Ch	7:30 pm	United Benefice Communion
Good Friday 25 th	Ch	10:00 am	Good Friday Service
	NW	11:00 am	Good Friday Family Service
	LC	2:00 pm	Devotional Service

Services in the United Benefice

Services Sunday 28th February 2016 – The Third Sunday of Lent

10.00 am	Family Service	Ch	Derek Witchell
10.30 am	Holy Communion with choir	LC	Ian Ogilvie
5:00 pm	Evensong	NW	Robert Hutton

Services Sunday 6th March 2016 – Mothering Sunday, The Fourth Sunday of Lent

9.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	LC	Steve and Rose Williams
10.00 am	Café Sunday	LC	Ray Copping
10:00 am	Family Communion	Ch	Steve and Rose Williams
10:00 am	Family Service	NW	Ian Ogilvie
6:00 to 7:30 pm	Rock Solid Youth Group		

Services Sunday 13th March 2016 – The Fifth Sunday of Lent Passion Sunday

10:00 am	Morning Celebration	Ch	Lay Led
10:00 am	Matins	NW	Robert Spencer Bernard
10:30 am	Holy Communion	LC	Gordon Kuhrt
4:00 pm	God@4	NW	Lay Led
6.00 pm	Evensong	Ch	John Scholefield

Services Sunday 20th March 2016 – Palm Sunday

9.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Ch	Derek Witchell
10.00 am	Family Service	NW	Derek Witchell
10:30 am	Family Service	LC	Ray Copping
6:00 pm	Devotional Service	LC	Lay Led

Please see Diary Notes above for all Services in Holy Week

Services Sunday 27th March 2016 – Easter Day

10:00 am	Easter Garden and Holy Communion	Ch	Gordon Kuhrt
10.00 am	Family Holy Communion	NW	Steve and Rose Williams
10:30 am	Holy Communion with choir	LC	Derek Witchell

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