

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS :

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	10.00am – 1.00 pm
Thursday	CLOSED

For Your Thoughts and Prayers:

- For all mothers with the joys and challenges of their role
- For our Mother Church, Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford
- For all affected throughout the world by the coronavirus and those responsible for finding ways of containing its effect and for those many devoted medics caring for the victims of this disease and for families who have lost loved-ones
- For all of us, as we continue to keep the season of Lent and look forward to Holy Week and Easter, however and wherever we may be keeping that time.

For intercessory prayer requests contact clairebolton@googlemail.com.

Please pray for the residents of Abbey Close, Abbott Road, Andersey Way, Anna Pavlova Close.

For health and wellbeing: Connie Tait, Barbara Mazey, Janet and Ken Chapman, Anne Benad, Janet Perry, Margaret Brooks, Linda Cole, Mary Barton, Sue Hartley, Chris Bayliss, Bill & Mairi Burnett, Gina Bruce, Sue Phipps, Angela Smith, Alan Dominey.

Next Week's Readings: Romans 8:6-11, John 11:1-45

Team Rector	The Revd Dr Charles Miller
Team Vicar	The Revd Paul Smith
Associate Priests	The Revd Jennifer Brown The Revd Canon Charles Masheder
Licensed Lay Minister	Mrs Gwen Bevington
Wardens	Dr Geoff Meen and Mrs Linda Hobbs
Director of Music	Dr Peter Foster
Assistant Organist	Mr Andrew Shouler
Parish Administrator	Mrs Jenny Balshaw
Caretaker	Mr Philip Atkinson

Parish Office 01235 520144

E-mail: administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk

<http://www.sthelens-abingdon.org.uk>

A copy of this Newsletter is posted regularly on our website.



St HELEN'S CHURCH

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

22nd March 2020

Lent 4 / Mothering Sunday

This Sunday has Many Names! It is Mid-Lent Sunday and, as we can, if we wish, take a break from the fasting aspects of our Lenten resolutions, it is sometimes called Refreshment Sunday. It is occasionally referred to as Laetare Sunday, taken from the opening word of the Introit in Latin, meaning Rejoice! It can be designated Rose Sunday if the church owns vestments of that colour to be worn to break the routine of purple for Lent. In some places it is described as Simnel Sunday as the cake of that name can be baked at this point rather than at Easter.

For most people it will be called Mothering Sunday. Possibly deriving from the ancient Epistle (Galatians 4) for the day, and when people were encouraged to attend worship in their 'Mother Church' that is the Cathedral. Later, it became a chance for children 'in service' and elsewhere to go back to their homes and see their mothers. As they walked, they would have often picked violets, primroses or other wild flowers to take to express their gratitude and their love of their mums.

Mothering Sunday (or Mother's Day) can be a day of vastly differing emotions. For many of us, our mothers are no longer with us on earth but this *can* be a day of warm memories. For some their memories may be far from good and this may be a day recalling painful childhood times and they may want to avoid it. It can be hard for those too whose children have caused their mothers much hardship when their love has been rejected. It must also be a hard day for those who would love to be mothers but for one reason or another cannot be. For any of you in any of these or other situations, we send you our love on this day.

However much our love and concern is rightly for those for whom it is a challenging day, there are many children (even if they may be middle-aged) for whom this is a day to thank mothers for their love, support and help through the years. We may remember the love and significant role that Mary had in the life of Jesus. We naturally think of her giving birth at Christmas but she was also there for him as he grew up and in his ministry.

Let us in the words of St Paul 'rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep' (Romans 12:15).

The Revd Canon Charles Masheder, *Associate Priest*

FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP

Readings: Exodus 2: 1-10;
Colossians 3: 12-17;
John 19: 25-27

Collect:

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 34

Response: O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy the man who hides in him.

Come my children listen to me. I will teach you the fear of the Lord. Keep your tongue from evil and your tongue from telling lies.

Response

Turn from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of God are on the righteous and his ears towards their cry.

Response

THIS COMING WEEK AT ST HELEN'S

Given the current situation with COVID-19 and the recommendations by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York public church services are cancelled until further notice.

There will be a short 20 minute service available on the St Helen's website each Sunday so please keep checking the website.

NOTICES

LENT LECTURES 2020 have now been cancelled.

ST HELEN'S ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING has been postponed. A copy of the Reports from Groups & Organisations is available on the website. Hard copies are available on the Welcome Desk.

MOTHERS' UNION. There will be no further Mother's Union meetings until further notice.

ST HELEN'S BABIES & TODDLERS has been cancelled in the meantime.

DONATIONS for Easter flowers in church in memory of loved ones. Please put money in an envelope and leave at the Parish Office.

STEWARDSHIP at St Helen's Church begins again at Easter. As part of our outreach to the wider community we strive to keep the church open every day, from 11 am to 1 pm, from Easter until mid-September. If you are now unexpectedly available and would like to help please contact Elizabeth Simpson simpsonem123@gmail.com, tel: 01235 524978, or contact the Parish office: administrator@sthelens-abingdon.org.uk. We would love to hear from you.

Sue Austin. The funeral on 31 March will be family only. A Memorial Service will be planned later in the year.

CORONA VIRUS. Possible challenging times ahead! If you are concerned about a time which might come when you will have to self-isolate and wonder how you will manage, then help may be at hand. We are compiling a list of those who may need help (with shopping etc.) or just to keep in contact. If you would like to be on such a list, please let the Office know (01235-520144). We just want to be prepared!

PRAYER IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious. Be with those who care for the sick and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Keep well and safe.