



Notices for 16th of February 2025

A warm welcome to everyone

Third Sunday before Lent

Please come into the hall for refreshments after the 09:30 service.

Collect:

Eternal God,
whose Son went among the crowds
and brought healing with his touch:
help us to show his love,
in your Church as we gather together,
and by our lives as they are transformed
into the image of Christ our Lord.

Hymns:

- 444** God is working his purpose out
- 191** O thou who camest from above
- 386** Be thou my vision
- 97** Lord Jesus think on me
- 376** And can it be that I should gain

Although there is no formal collection during the offertory hymn, please feel free to make a contribution to the work of St. Mary's either in the Treasury box at the back of church, or using the card reader, also at the back of church. Thank you.

Readings:

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

The Resurrection of the Dead

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Luke 6:17-26

Jesus Teaches and Heals

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Blessings and Woes

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

'Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

'Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to
the false prophets.

Post-communion prayer:

Merciful Father,
who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the bread of life,
that those who come to him should never hunger:
draw us to the Lord in faith and love,
that we may eat and drink with him
at his table in the kingdom,
where he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Vacancy News – Peter & Dan

Peter & Dan met with Bishop Paul, Archdeacon Martin and Revd Alex Stevens
on Weds 5th Feb and three candidates have confirmed they will come for
formal interview on Tuesday 4th March. The PCC will join an informal
gathering on Monday 3rd March to welcome and meet the candidates.

8am SERVICES will be held only once a month on the first Sunday of each
month. Any questions please talk to Dan or Peter.

Dates for your diary

Saturday 15th February is the next meeting of the **Women's Group**. There
will be a selection of board games to play, so this could be very relaxing or
very competitive! Come along and enjoy playing scrabble, dominoes, tri-
ominoes, rubicub, and many others. Coffee and cake at 10am – all are
welcome.

Thursday, 20th February at 2.30 Thursday Club. We meet this Thursday in the church hall. Our favourite guitarist is coming to entertain us and there will be refreshments. Everybody is very welcome. Any queries contact Judith via the Parish Office.

Saturday 15th March – Quiz Night

Tickets for the quiz night on Saturday 15th March are available from this Sunday. Tickets cost £10 and include a meal. The quizmaster is Mark Hodge. We would like to hold a raffle at this event, so could you please bring any donated raffle prizes and put them at the back of the Church. Many thanks.

The social committee has also planned some dates for our diaries:-

Homemade Sunday - Sunday 30th March (Mothering Sunday)

Lunch with guest singer Wendy Edwards - Saturday 7th June

Homemade Sunday - Sunday 29th June

Quiz Night on Saturday 25th October

Enquiries: Sara & Daphne

This year the **Electoral Roll for St. Mary's** needs to be fully revised and, hence, everyone currently on the Electoral Roll will need to complete a new Electoral Roll form. Electoral Roll forms, and an explanatory letter, are available for everyone on the existing Electoral Roll at the back of Church.

These should be returned by 9th March. For those who are not on the existing Roll but would wish to be included blank Electoral Roll forms are available at the back of Church. Kind Regards, Paul.

CONFIRMATION We are delighted that there are some young people and adults who have expressed a wish to be confirmed. There will be a service of confirmation at St Mary's on **Sunday 9th March at 6.30 p.m.** Conducted by Bishop Andrew to which all are welcome.