

COLLECT

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.

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.

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.

NEXT SUNDAY - Mothering Sunday

Readings: Exodus 2. 1-10, 2 Corinthians 1. 3-7, Luke 2. 41-51

8am President & Preacher Revd Dr Sam Gibson, 9.15am All Age Worship President Revd Dr Sam Gibson, Preacher Revd Canon Jane Kenchington, 11am President Revd Canon Jane Kenchington, Preacher The Revd Stuart Richards, 6.30pm Choral Evensong Revd Canon Jane Kenchington.

THIS WEEK PRAY FOR

Monday	Work of Christians Against Poverty
Tuesday	Those in debt
Wednesday	Those involved in parenting classes
Thursday	All fathers and those who long to be fathers
Friday	Ministry exercise on Lindisfarne
Saturday	All liturgist and precentors

PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY IN NEED

Rashi Somal, Margaret Evans, Jean Williams, Joy, Ruth, Margaret & Colin James, Valerie Powell, Irene Williams, Ann Roberts, Derek Owen, Priscilla White, Lucy, Michele, Alan, Megha, George, David Boyes, Evelyn Berry

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR

Richard Harmon, Martin Pashley, Diana Mitchell, Henry Balthazor, Louise Butt, Stephen Foster, Jenny Williams, Jonathan Mark, Stephen John, Debbie White, Helen Greenham, George Hutchinson, Barbara Abbott, Sheila Pittaway

PRAY FOR THOSE RECENTLY DEPARTED

Doris Bedford

THOSE PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE - 1st Reading of Banns

Liam Frank Hogan & Kay Lea Hickson, Kieran James Barter & Rudie Rai Ryan, Nicholas Edward Holdsworth & Georgina Ann Kenyon Stockton

BIBLE READING 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?'

BIBLE READING Romans 5. 1-11

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.

GOSPEL John 4. 5-42

Jesus 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 worshipped 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 worshippers 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 for 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.'

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

March

Wed 18th, 1.10pm, St Alphege Church, Lunctime Recital - Tom Howells. Clarinetist Tom Howells will be joined by Darius Gray also on clarinet and David Arthur on piano.

Sat 21st, 10am - 1pm, Churchyard tidy up ready for the first grass cut and Easter. Can you give an hour of your time in Lent?. Refreshments provided. Please bring gloves. Details 711 1726

Sat 21st, 10.30 am, Mothering Sunday Posies. Can you help to make posies in St Alphege Church? No experience required. Please bring scissors/secateurs. Children welcome. Decorative heather and greenery gratefully received. Refreshments provided. Let Elaine Diskin know if you can help on 705 3265 or elainediskin@hotmail.co.uk

Sun 22nd, 11am, visiting preacher - The Rev Major Stuart Richards. Army Chaplain

Wed 25th, No Lunctime Recital in St Alphege Church.

Thurs 26th, 7.45pm, St Alphege Church, Stations of the Cross.

Sat 28th, 5pm, St Helens Church. Thanksgiving Service for Solihull Urban Saints Group which closed recently after 82 years. All are welcome - do just come. If you want more information and/or would also like to come to the Barn Dance afterwards please contact Andrew Williams at arwilliams399@gmail.com.

April

Fri 3rd, Solihull Parish Youth are sleeping outside in cardboard boxes to raise money for **St Basil's**, charity for homeless young people. Please give generously. Cash or cheque to Parish Office or Just Giving Page <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/solihullparishyouth>
Any large cardboard boxes gratefully received.

NOTICES

Martin Tunncliffe. Readers of Parish News will be familiar with the articles which Martin has contributed to the 'Faith Matters' section over many years - in fact, for over 20 years! These pieces are widely appreciated and we are fortunate that Martin has now published a collected edition with selections covering the whole period. His book, entitled 'The Rough with the Smooth', is now on sale from St Alphege Bookstall; it is also available from the Parish Office, from St Michael's and St Helen's. Martin has generously offered, once initial publishing costs have been met, to devote profits from further sales to Youth work within the parish.

Solihull Methodist Church are hosting Lent breakfast talks on Saturdays until 28th March. A light Continental Breakfast available from 8.30am and the talk at 9am for around 30 minutes. A donation of £3 for each talk would be welcome to defray costs. Any profit will go to Camp Joy.

Asylum Seeker Requests - For the month of MARCH we are collecting TOILETRIES and TOWELS. Thank you so much for your support it is very much appreciated. God bless.

Recently people have shown an interest in my Lent activities - Pause 4 Lent at the Greville and until the end of March, Lent walks. Details of both are now in all of the churches for you to refer to. Thanks. Suzette.

800 Years Cook Book. Thank you to everyone who contributed recipes for the new Cook Book. We expect it to be on sale before the end of March and more details will be in the April Parish News. All proceeds to charity.

Sparkhill Food Bank: desperately needed:- Tinned fruit, 1L Juice Long life, Tinned chopped tomatoes, Rice Pudding.

Bookstall - A new selection of cards is now available on the Bookstall, including Mothering Sunday cards. All at very reasonable prices - most under £2. Do take a look!

ELECTORAL ROLL The electoral roll will shortly undergo its annual revision. You do not need to apply if you are already on the Roll. Any enquiries to the Electoral Roll Officer, Paul Medicott: email: paul.medlicott@networkrail.co.uk or via the Parish Office 705 5350. The deadline for any applications is 26 March. Forms are available from the Parish Office or at the North Door.

Thank you! Due to an overwhelming response all toilets in the OBH and one in church have now been twinned. Money donated will bring life-saving toilet twinning Sanitation projects (through Tearfund) to some of the poorest places in the world. Certificates to display will follow shortly.