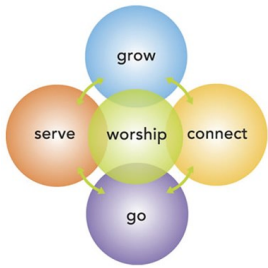


The Parish of
STONY STRATFORD
 with
CALVERTON



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
SUNDAY 17th April AD 2016



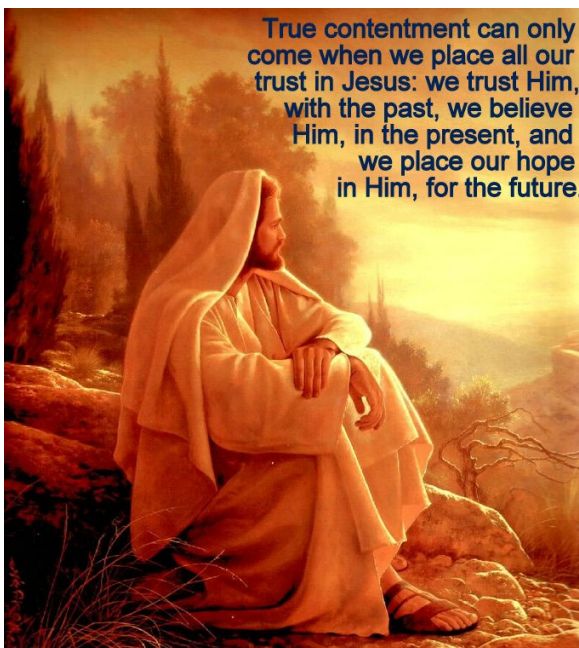
Welcome to the Parish Church where, after the example of the early church, we celebrate the Eucharist: the "apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42)

Good Shepherd Sunday

"Jesus said: 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me.'" Christ Himself is the Good Shepherd, who knows each one of His sheep, who gives His life for them and snatches them from the jaws of the marauding wolf. He is the true shepherd who fulfils Ezekiel's prophecy foretelling for Israel a shepherd from the end of time who was to deliver his people.

Christ's sheepfold is the Church. In the Church He bestows on us His life in the Sacraments, His word in the teaching that she gives us, all the riches of His grace to light up our way and uphold our steps as we go forward to our heavenly home; through her He acts as the one Shepherd of our souls. Appointed to lead the flock, Peter gave his life for those entrusted to his care, and ever since then the priestly ministry has assured the continuous presence in the Church of Him who remains the true Shepherd of our souls.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Parishes are especially encouraged to include prayers for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the general intercessions on this day.



THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
6:00pm FAMILY MASS at All Saints
The Election of Churchwardens takes place after each Mass
Pray for: Our Parish

Monday: Feria
9:30am 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall
8:00pm Bell Ringing Practice
Pray for: The Sick, Housebound & Handicapped

Tuesday: Feria
10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'
Pray for: The child victims of terrorism

Wednesday: Feria
10:00am Calverton Almshouses Charity Meeting
2:00pm The Fellowship meet in the Parish Hall
6:00pm Rector in the Parish Office
6:30pm Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School
7:15pm The Band - Practice at SMSG School
7:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles
Pray for: For our Church School

Thursday: St Anselm, Bishop & Doctor
10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
7:30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the Parish Hall
Pray for: For faith seeking understanding

Friday: Comm. of St Cyril of Jerusalem
8:00am Mass at St Mary & St Giles School
7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
Pray for: For families under stress

Saturday: St George, Martyr, Patron of England
8:00am Mass at St Mary & St Giles
10:00am Coffee Morning
1:00pm Marriage Rite at All Saints
4:00pm Confessions in St Mary & St Giles
4:30pm Evening Prayer in St Mary & St Giles
7:30pm OU Choir Concert at SMSG
Pray for: For Visitors to our Parish Churches

Next Sunday: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
6:00pm FAMILY MASS at All Saints
Pray for: Our Parish

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY 5th Sunday of Easter
 1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7
 Psalm: 22 (part)
 2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11
 Gospel: Luke 22:14 - 23:56

Sidesmen Team 3 Altar Servers Team 3
 Offertory Younger Young Christians
 Cleaning Team 3 Gardening Team 3
 Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 148

INFORMATION



The Order of Mass is on the laminated card. The references to the Scripture Readings, which may be either listened to or followed in the Bibles provided, along with the Psalm and the Prayer of the Faithful are also included in this Sheet. Hymns are unannounced but are indicated on the boards towards the front of the Nave.

AA **Large Print Orders of Service** are available at St Mary & St Giles. Please ask a Sidesman or Sideswoman for a copy.



A Loop System is in operation at St Mary & St Giles - please set hearing aids to the "T" position.



Access for the Disabled at St Mary & St Giles is via the path on the north side of the church. **At All Saints** it is via the South Porch.



Gluten-Free Hosts: if you are on a Gluten-Free diet and would like a Gluten-Free Host when you receive Holy Communion please mention this before Mass to one of the Sidesmen or women who will arrange this for you. Please make yourself known to the Parish Priest so that he is aware of your need.



Collections: for the continuing mission of Christ are taken while the altar and gifts of bread and wine are being prepared. If you are a visitor and a taxpayer and would like to make a donation please use the Gift Aid envelopes provided at the end of each row - please fill in your details. This enables us to reclaim, from the Inland Revenue, 25p for each £1 donated.



We observe a period of quiet prayer and reflection before the celebration of Mass, between the end of the Organ Voluntary and the Sacristy Bell being rung, in order that we may be better prepared to worship almighty God.



Please join us at the back of church for tea or coffee after Mass. A priest will be near the main door shortly after the end of Mass should you need to talk with one.

Please take this Service Sheet home with you and use as part of your devotions during the week.

FUTURE DIARY DATES

Thursday 21st April

7:30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the Parish Hall

Saturday 23rd April

St George's Day
8:00am Mass at SMSG
7:30pm OU Choir Concert at SMSG

Saturday 30th April

6:30pm First showing of the DVD Presentation on our Willis Organ in the Parish Hall
Followed, at 7:30pm, by an Organ Recital with Jonathan Kingston

Sunday 1st May

9:30am Pontifical Mass with the Bishop followed by a reception at St Mary & St Giles
6:00pm Evensong at All Saints

Thursday 5th May THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

7:30pm Parish Mass followed by a Bring & Share Supper at SMSG

Saturday 7th May

10:00am Coffee Morning at SMSG in aid of the Restoration Fund

Saturday 14th May

12:00noon Lunch to raise funds for the Flower Festival in the Parish Hall

Sunday 15th May THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST

9:30am Parish Mass at SMSG
11:00am Family Mass at All Saints

Wednesday 18th May

2:00pm The Fellowship Quiz Afternoon in the Parish Hall

Thursday 19th May

12:30pm Lunchtime Concert at SMSG
7:30pm Parochial Church Council at All Saints

Saturday 21st May

7:30pm 'Polymnia' Concert at SMSG

**Thursday 26th May
CORPUS ET SANGUIS CHRISTI**
7:30pm Parish Mass at SMSG

This Morning - Vestry Meetings: for the purposes of electing Churchwardens will be held during the Notices at St Mary & St Giles, and at All Saints.

Thank you: Diane West has decided, after much reflection, not to seek re-election as Churchwarden at All Saints. She has served in this role faithfully and with Eric, served the parish wholeheartedly. We are indeed indebted to her for all her hard work as Churchwarden over so many years.

Naturally, as Rector, I am incredibly grateful to all of the Churchwardens for their hard work and counsel over the past year. In such a busy parish as ours the Churchwardens find themselves involved in all manner of situations - not least as Trustees of two charities which have become more important over the last few years.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: will be held this Thursday at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall. Agendas, Minutes and Annual Reports are available at the back of church.

The Fellowship: meets this Wednesday in the Parish Hall at 2:00pm for an 'Arty/Crafty' session with Rita. For more details see Mavis Wright or any Fellowship member. New members are always welcome.

'Barnabas Fund' Boxes: It would really help the Treasurer if, before you return your box, any Gift Aid envelope could be enclosed within it with the necessary details filled in and a note upon it of the amount of monies contained in your box. Please could all boxes be returned by the end of April. Thank you.

The Visit of the Bishop: On Sunday 1st May the Bishop will be with us for the Parish Mass at 9:30am at which he will bless the refurbished Willis Pipe Organ at St Mary & St Giles. Following the Mass there will be a small gathering over a glass of Bucks Fizz and cake. If you are able to bake some small cakes or easily sliceable ones please let Hazel Wallis know as soon as possible.

Organ Inaugural Concerts: for choir with organ, organ solo and organ with orchestra. We are delighted to welcome The Open University choir back to St Mary & St Giles church to sing with the Willis organ on 23rd April for the first choral concert with organ, Jonathan Kingston a week later on 30th April for the first organ recital concert and MK Sinfonia on 2nd July for the first ever orchestral performance with this organ now that it is at concert pitch. There are posters and flyers about these concerts in the church and if you would like tickets then please see Anna Page soon, as they are selling quite quickly. You can read the press release about the 10 week organ restoration celebration on the Organ display board.

Very advanced notice! 60 seats for the pantomime Dick Whittington have been booked at Milton Keynes Theatre for Tuesday, 3rd January 2017 at 6pm. The tickets are still £18 (and free to accompanied children who are part of our congregations). Reservations can be made anytime - see Lesley Salter.

Sainsbury's 'Active Kids' Vouchers: If you shop regularly at Sainsbury's then please do collect the 'Active Kids' vouchers and hand them to Kieran or Lesley Salter as they will help our Church School obtain sports equipment. If the person in front of you in the queue declines them...please don't be shy in speaking up and saying that you know of a school that would appreciate them and asking if they mind letting you have them. *Thank you.*

PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES



Flower Festival at St Mary & St Giles to celebrate the HM Queen's 90th Birthday

As part of the whole country's celebration for HM Queen's 90th birthday we are planning to hold a Flower Festival on Friday 10th June to Sunday 12th June 2016. To enable this exciting event to take place we are requesting your help to act as Stewards throughout the weekend, to serve and make refreshments and donate funds!!! We are estimating this could cost as much as £1,200.00. This could be either by donations, sponsorship of an arrangement and/or attending a fund raising lunch on Saturday 14th May. If you would like to make a donation please address the envelope 'Flower Festival'.

Please put these important dates in you diary and see Sue Starr or Lesley Corcoran if you are able to help with this event in anyway. Many thanks in anticipation.

STOP PRESS: Tickets for the fund raising lunch for the Flower Festival on Saturday 14th May will be £6. Tickets are available from Jill Eales

Memorial Registers: The Rector will be updating the registers in both our Parish Churches at the beginning of May. If you wish names of deceased loved ones to be added to those already included please fill in one of the forms available in both churches and then pass to the Rector by the end of April. Donations in lieu of entries will be added to the Restoration Fund of the church to which Register entry pertains.

Weekly Envelope Boxes and Gift Aid: The new envelope boxes are now available soon for you to take home. If you no longer require a box, or want a box then get in touch with Clive please.

If you are a taxpayer, SMSG can claim on your behalf, and at no additional cost to you, gift aid tax - which adds an extra 25p to our funds for every pound you donate. Last year SMSG was able to claim over £11,000 Gift Aid Tax. For SMSG to claim tax on your behalf you have to complete a Gift Aid Declaration. All contributions are highly confidential and treated as such. Please get in touch with Clive for more information on 07713 164110 or emailing clive.williams@rectanglered.com.

While Fr Ross was on Retreat: what's a 'Retreat', some might be wondering? Simply, it is an extended period of time over a few days or more spent at a peaceful holy place away from home where one spends time in prayer, spiritual reading and reflection. All parish clergy are expected to have a Retreat each year. On occasions I have joined the Religious Community at Alton in Hants, but usually, I go to the Shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham and stay in the 'College' which is an enclosed area for priests. To be able to join in the daily rhythm of the Liturgies in a very holy place is in itself inspiring, but having the time just to 'be' without a feeling that one should be doing something is in itself a great spiritual benefit.

Yet Walsingham wouldn't be Walsingham without something unusual happening. So, imagine my surprise when on the Wednesday evening at Evening Prayer during the hymn, a young lady collapsed right behind me in the aisle. I spent the remainder of Evening Prayer on my knees at her side trying to comfort a very troubled person, and awaiting medical assistance - which turned out not to be needed. "We get them here in Walsingham, Father," said one of the lay staff. But no matter what the circumstances that brought the young lady to collapse, she

was clearly in some spiritual need. Prayer and Blessing seemed to give her strength and she was able to join in singing parts of the Magnificat. Unfortunately, she was not able to tell me her name - pray for her, please, as I do too.

Walsingham also often brings simpler, but altogether profound, surprises. On one late afternoon, I had hoped to see one of the clergy, but he was not available...so with about 45 minutes to spare before supper I went into the library in the 'College' and amongst the many books found an anthology of prayers by Fr, now Bishop, Martin Warner. Many of the prayers and devotional items were of unknown origin and no longer covered by copyright. One of these, in particular, stood out and I have taken the liberty of reproducing it as a bookmark for each of us. It is an invocation reminding us of what it means to be a Christian, and I hope that it will not lie forgotten in an unused Bible or Prayer Book, but form part of our daily routine for it reaches into the very depths of our souls reminding us of the high-calling we have been granted through our Baptism and Confirmation. Please keep it somewhere where you know you will read it prayerfully everyday. If you would like further copies to give to friends do ask, as I can always print more.

Our Lady is always at work in Walsingham reminding us of her Son and encouraging us to "Do whatever he tells you."

Who really wrote the books in the New Testament?

It's almost a joke that among Biblical scholars, whatever name is on a book of the New Testament is not the person they think actually wrote it. They rightly remind us that many ancient documents were put out (even knowingly) under a more famous name by that person's students or admirers. However, there is a tendency in academia that feeds a need to make novel claims to get published and make one's mark. Such arguments are rarely persuasive, more often defaulting to the traditional view about things like authorship.

We might be better asking what was the early Church's view of authorship. When it came to the question of admirers publishing letters under the name of an apostle, the early-Church Fathers did not look as kindly as scholars. In fact, many documents were rejected from inclusion in the Canon of Scripture not so much because they contained strange or false teaching, but simply because everyone knew that it was not really written by an apostle.

In 2 Thessalonians (2:2; 3:17), the Apostle Paul warned them not to be fooled by forgeries in circulation claiming to be written by him. We know that there were letters supposedly from Paul to the Laodiceans and to the Alexandrines. How did the church fathers react to these? A document of the early church called the 'Muratorian Fragment' rejected these two letters as "forgeries," insisting that such epistles "cannot be received into the catholic church, since it is not fitting that poison be mixed with honey."

The prime indicator of authentic revelation was apostolic authority. The source of the writing was the most important factor in determining a book's inclusion in the Canon of Scripture. Of course, we must remember that by including a book in the Canon of Scripture and calling it "Holy Scripture," the Church was saying that the ultimate author is God, who inspired the human author through the inner light and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

MASS TEXTS PROPER TO TODAY'S OBSERVANCE

Reflection prior to Mass

Christ's sheepfold is the Church. In the Church He bestows on us His life in the Sacraments, His word in the teaching that she gives us, all the riches of His grace to light up our way and uphold our steps as we go forward to our heavenly home; through her He acts as the one Shepherd of our souls. Appointed to lead the flock, Peter gave his life for those entrusted to his care, and ever since then the priestly ministry has assured the continuous presence in the Church of Him who remains the true Shepherd of our souls.

The Collect

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life: raise us, who trust in him, from the death of sin to the life of righteousness, that we may seek those things which are above, where he reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (SIT)

The First Reading Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43-52
SMSG Reader: Lesley Salter New Testament Page 111
All Saints Reader: Eilish Friedman

The Responsorial Psalm (from Psalm 100)
Please see the Hymn Sheet

Second Reading Revelation 7:9, 14b-17
Reader: Dai Evans New Testament Page 211

Gospel Acclamation (STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my own, and my own know me.

Alleluia!

The Gospel John 10:27-30
New Testament Pages 88

The Prayer of the Faithful (Biddings: Fr Tunji)

Priest: My brothers and sisters, as Easter draws near, let us earnestly pray to the Lord that we may share more fully in the life of Christ that he brings us in his suffering, death, and resurrection.

Intercessor: That those who will be baptised at Easter throughout the Church may grow in faith and understanding; and for all Christians during this Passiontide, that we may walk with Christ the way of the Cross....., let us pray to the Lord:

V/. Lord, hear us.

R/. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

That those who are helpless and abandoned throughout the world may be given the blessings of peace and security....., let us pray to the Lord:

That those who are afflicted and tempted may be strengthened by God's grace; amongst the sick and afflicted we are asked to pray for... Wendy, Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Maggie Baker, Mary Barry, Henry Blake, Peter Brazell, Richard Coley, Ross Dilnot, Richard D'Souza,

Gill Edwards, Sue Gower, Russell Herbert, Margaret Hooton, Paul, Rebecca, Magnus John, Bill Lees, Ray Lewis, Kay Lucas, Isaac Lyon, Harry Manistre, Sue Maton, Cyril Millward, Shirley Scrutton, Alma Steinmetz, Fr Edmund, Janis Williams, Marian Wright... let us pray to the Lord:

That the faithful departed may be unbound by the Lord and set free in the kingdom of his glory, especially.....and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...**17th** Basil Smith, Harry Wildman; **18th** Len Bourne, Elizabeth West, Irene Summers; **19th** Alice Page, Thomas Gawthorn, Robert West; **21st** Ronald Missenden; **22nd** Eileen Ratcliffe, Margaret Bellinger; **23rd** Frances Greenall, Mary Williamson, Mary Russell... let us pray to the Lord:

✕ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

That we may all learn to set our interests aside, and reach out in love to our brothers and sisters....., let us pray to the Lord:

Priest: Father, have mercy on your Church in its need, hear the prayers we offer with all our hearts, and never abandon the people who share your life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Reflection:

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O good Jesus, hear me. Within Thy wounds hide me.

Permit me not to be separated from Thee.

From the malicious enemy defend me.

In the hour of my death call me.

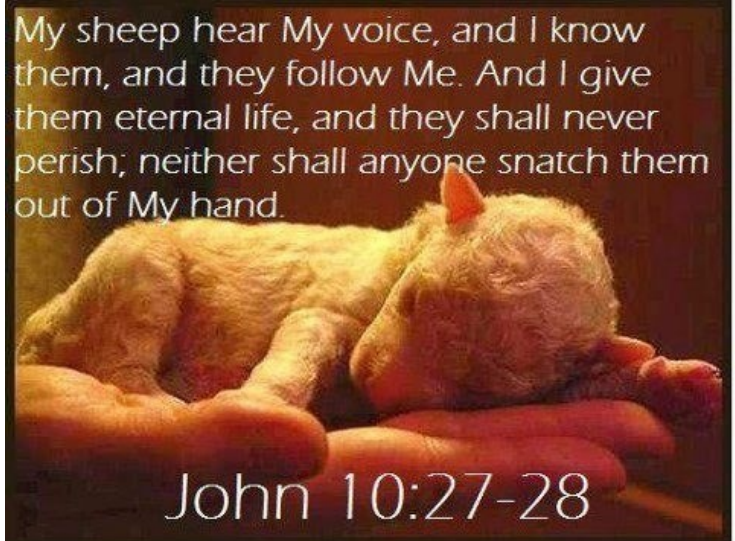
And bid me come unto Thee.

That with thy Saints I may praise Thee.

Forever and ever.

Amen.

(The Anima Christi)



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