

The Parish of
STONY STRATFORD
 with
CALVERTON



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
EASTER DAY
SUNDAY 27th March AD 2016

"I rose up and am still with Thee." After His labours and His humiliations, Christ finds rest with His Father. "I am still with Thee." This is perfect beatitude. Through His cross He entered into the possession of eternal glory. Christ has gained the crown of victory; through Christ men also win their crowns of victory. Humanity was under a curse and subject to the wrath of God. Now that they have risen with Christ, their guilt has been destroyed. "I rose up and am still with Thee." The liturgy places these words in the mouth of the Church that she may pray them with Christ.

"The earth trembled and was still when God arose in judgment." The resurrection of Christ is the judgment and condemnation of those who have turned away from God. This judgment was prefigured by the angel who passed through the land of Egypt destroying the first-born of the Egyptians. The Israelites marked the doors of their houses with the blood of the paschal lamb. We are the new Israel, and "Christ our Pasch is sacrificed." We mark ourselves with His blood, which we enjoy in the Holy Eucharist. We have been pardoned, we are saved, we shall live.

"He is risen." The resurrection of Christ is a pledge of our own resurrection. It is the foundation upon which our faith rests. It is the guarantee of our redemption and God's assurance that our sins are forgiven and that we are called to eternal life. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us be glad and rejoice therein. Give praise to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever. Alleluia." "Christ our Pasch is sacrificed. . . . The Lamb redeems the sheep. Christ, the innocent One, hath reconciled sinners to the Father."



Please pray for the Sick: Wendy, Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Maggie Baker, Mary Barry, Henry Blake, Peter Brazell, Richard Coley, Richard D'Souza, Gill Edwards, Sue Gower, Eileen Haseldine, Russell Herbert, Paul, Rebecca, Magnus John, Ray Lewis, Kay Lucas, Isaac Lyon, Sue Maton, Cyril Millward, Joyce Samuels, Shirley Scrutton, Alma Steinmetz, Fr Edmund, June Wilde, Janis Williams, Marian Wright

Please pray for the dead: Mick Lang, Capt John Richards CA, Norman Stokes, Sylvia Storer, Glyn Wyatt...and for those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...**27th** Harry Prendergast, Charles Britton, Owen Bull, William King; **28th** Kathleen Saggars, David Eales, Dorothy Gillman; **29th** Frederick Taylor, Rose-Marie Gaskin; **30th** Stan Jones; **31st** Eva Fowler, Louis Foolkes, Alice Halliwell, George Griffith, Francis Pratt, Joan Luckett; **1st April** Joan Zastawny, Frances Poulter; **2nd** John Ranson, Tony Doolan, Ruth Neal...

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

TODAY: EASTER DAY
9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
11:00Am FAMILY MASS at All Saints
 Pray for: Our Parish

Tuesday: Easter Tuesday
10:30am Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'
 Pray that: we may remain faithful to Christ

Wednesday Easter Wednesday
7:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: For the Bishop & his Priests

Friday: Easter Friday
 7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
 Pray that: We may not flee

Saturday: Easter Saturday
 10:00am Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall
 (In aid of SMSG Restoration Fund)
 Pray for: For Faith in times of darkness

Next Sunday: 2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER
(Divine Mercy Sunday)
9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles
11:00Am FAMILY MASS at All Saints
 Pray for: Our Parish

READINGS NEXT SUNDAY 2nd Sunday of Easter
 1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 5:12-16
 Psalm: 118 (part)
 2nd Reading: Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
 Gospel: John 20:19-31

This Week:
 Sidesmen
 Team 4

Altar Servers
 Team 4

Offertory
 Marilyn Hopkins

Cleaning
 Team 4

Gardening
 Team 4



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PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

THIS WEDNESDAY - Children's Activity Morning: We are offering a children's Activity Morning on Wednesday, 30th March from 9.30am - 1.30pm. This will be a fun time of learning, playing and eating together in the Parish Hall during the Easter holiday. Please see Jenny, Ray, Andrea or Richard as soon as possible to them know your children would like to come.

TOMORROW - Passenham Church Open Day: Our friends at St Guthlac's, Passenham are holding an Open Day on Easter Monday, 28th March, from 11:00 am until 4:00pm. On the 23rd and 24th April they are also holding a Flower Festival to mark Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday with the church opening on both days from 11:00 am until 4:00pm.

'The Servant Queen and the King she serves' if you weren't able to obtain a copy last week there should be some left. These are available on a no profit basis and we are encouraged to donate the cost (£1.08 - the 8p being p&p) and to donate the cost of a second or more to give to friends and especially those who have lapsed or who you think might like to know more about the Christian Faith through the witness of what Her Majesty has said over the year. So far the book has proved very popular and if we need to order more we can do so.

Student Cross: Thank you to everyone who welcomed and provided food for Student Cross on their journey from Oxford to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Lent Appeal for the 'Barnabas Fund' Please return your Lent Boxes by the end of April and it would be really helpful 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. Thank you.

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.*

Parochial Church Council News: At its meeting on Tuesday 15th March the PCC discussed the following matters:

The Organ Blower is the final item to be repaired as part of the refurbishment works to the organ, but this did not form part of the contract with our organ builders as they do not deal with organ blowers. There is only one company that deals with such repairs and the PCC has authorised the process of completing this work.

The Faculty Application for the replacement heating system at All Saints was to be submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches during Holy Week.

Following the Rector's report to everyone on the trees in the churchyard the PCC approved the engagement of an

Arboriculture consultant, to obtain Local Authority Consent for works to trees, and to apply for a Faculty in respect of any trees needing to be felled in St Mary & St Giles Churchyard.

'Greater Access Project' (GAP): this is the working title of the Group seeking to raise funds for the disabled access and other matters approved by Faculty to make St Mary & St Giles more accessible to all users, to greater numbers and to improve comfort through insulation, redecoration and new seating. The first priority of the group is to obtain funds for phases one and two: the disabled access and gallery extension respectively. The group currently comprises the Rector, the Churchwardens at SMSG, Geoff Ambrose, Jane Wolfson & Sir Neil Chalmers. The PCC is hoping that one or two people with some idea of finance might be willing to join the group to be trained by Sir Neil in the art of making bids for grants to charitable funds and grant making bodies. (Please see the Churchwardens if you are interested - and N.B. it may be that someone from All Saints would like to be trained as well).

The PCC received a report on the current financial situation - receipts, especially cash donations, are down on last year, but with illness and some on long-term holidays it hopes that we shall see a recovery in levels soon. The Annual Report and Accounts for 2015 was received by the PCC and signed by the Rector as Chairman of the PCC.

The Visiting Teams are still hard at work welcoming new residents to the Parish whether in existing or new housing stock. The Welcome Packs are being very well received. There could be up to 500 new homes built this year within the parish. Mr Salter reported on the impact on school applications where there are now almost 2 applicants for every school place at St Mary & St Giles School. And while one new school is opening in Whitehouse Park this September the new primary school on Fairfields is not due to open until September 2017. Even then admissions are kept down to 10 per year group with classes of two year groups for the first few years. Obtaining a school place is one of the greatest areas of concern, along with health-care provision in the new housing areas.

The PCC received its usual reports on Children's and Young Peoples activities, safeguarding matters and the School Report. It was agreed that a further training session on safeguarding should take place later this year in view of both our commitment to ongoing training for those working voluntarily with children and young people in our Parish, and because we now regularly have children attending All Saints.

The PCC agreed to appoint Dr Chambers as a Trustee of the Whitnells, Collins & Parratts Charity.

The Rector reported that his sabbatical, which had been due last year, would now hopefully take place in 2017.

The Vestry Meeting's in each church elect the Churchwardens. These will take place during the notices at each Parish Churches Mass on Sunday 17th April. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Thursday 21st April at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall. The Agenda, Minutes of the 2015 Meeting and the Annual Report including the 2015 Accounts are now available at the back of each church.