

**Follow Me**  
*Robert Anthony Day*

Follow Me,  
And I will make you  
Fishers of men  
The disciples didn't know  
The presence of God  
That forgives sin  
So, Follow Me,  
And I will make you  
Fishers of men

Follow Me,  
And I will make you  
Fishers of men  
Because the Spirit of the Lord  
Is upon me, Follow Me

Follow Me,  
And I will make you  
Fishers of men  
He hath anointed me  
To preach the Gospel  
And you will see, Follow Me

Follow Me,  
And I will make you  
Fishers of men  
I will preach the Gospel  
To the poor and broken hearted  
Just as the example  
That Jesus on earth had started  
Follow Me

Follow Me,  
And I will make you  
Fishers of men  
To preach deliverance  
To the captives, and  
To preach to all  
Follow Me.

Follow Me,  
And I will make you  
Fishers of men  
To recover sight to the blind  
And to daily renew all minds  
Follow me

Follow Me,  
And I will make you  
Fishers of men  
To set at liberty  
Them that are bruised  
And to save  
Them that have been  
Used and abused  
Follow Me

Follow Me,  
And I will make you  
Fishers of men  
To preach the coming  
Of the Lord  
And to carry our spiritual sword,  
To cut the devil,  
Follow Me



**Rector:** Fr Ross Northing SSC - Tel: 01908 562148  
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**Honorary Assistant Priest:** Fr Joseph Loveday SSC - Tel: 01327 351511

**Church Army Officer:** Sister Janet Northing CA - Tel: 01908 562148  
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**Arrangements for Banns, Holy Matrimony & Baptisms:**  
May be made by contacting Fr Ross on 01908 562148

**Confessions:** May be made after Masses or by appointment.

**Parish Website:** [www.parishstonystratfordcalverton.com](http://www.parishstonystratfordcalverton.com)

**To Hire the Parish Hall:** 'phone Nicola Crompton on 07979 653515



The Parish of  
**STONY  
STRATFORD**  
with  
**CALVERTON**

**St Mary & St Giles, Stony Stratford**  
*with All Saints, Calverton*

**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

22nd January AD 2017

The Gospel presents Jesus as the Light who was promised to dispel the darkness of sin and to free man from the obscurity in which he is enclosed. God manifests Himself as 'The Light' that disperses the darkness. The light illuminates, encircles, defines things, emphasises the colours and gives depth to space. The light heartens and comforts: to be in an enlightened place helps us to accept reality for what it is and makes one feel happier, more certain and protected.

God's initiative with regard to us permits us to have a renewed relationship with reality. In God's light everything assumes a new significance, its authentic and definitive meaning. A light which illuminates gives strength and permits the disclosure of the universe and man. This is why, after saying, 'those who dwell in a land of deep darkness on them has light shined' (Is 9:1), the text adds, 'you have increased its joy' (Is 9:2).....a joy and happiness that became real in Jesus' presence. He is the promised light that has come into our midst, His physical presence that expresses the definitive arrival of the Light. The light that shines brightly marks God's initiative performing His first merciful and free step towards a wounded humanity.

This dynamic is expressed through Jesus call of the first Apostles. He chooses them with an unequivocal call, 'Follow Me'. Faced with God's sudden interruption in their lives He invited them to abandon the nets and trust themselves totally to the Lord for a new 'catch', a new definitive horizon. At the Last Supper, the end of His earthly life, Jesus reminds His disciples 'you did not choose me, no, I chose you' (John 15:16). This Sunday's Gospel invites us to remember that our personal vocation is founded on God's original and absolutely free choice. His invitation towards us, therefore, is an invitation to make a final decision to let Him conquer or re-conquer us to mark a turning point in our lives.



*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)*

# 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 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 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 every £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.

**Reception of Holy Communion:** All Baptised and Confirmed Christians are encouraged to receive Holy Communion. If you are unwell or uncertain about receiving the Precious Blood please do still receive the Host. Our Chalice Assistants are not authorised to permit the intincting (dipping) of the Host.



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.

**At St Mary & St Giles this week:**

- Sidesmen Team 4
- Serving Team: Team 1
- Offertory bearers: Shirley Archer & Alan Butler
- Church Gardeners: Team 3
- Church Cleaners Team 4

**Worshipping Numbers Last Sunday:** 149

**Worshipping Numbers on the weekdays prior:** 119

**Prayer Thought**

Whenever we gather together at the altar to eat this bread and drink this cup of the Eucharist we proclaim the kingdom of God, and commit ourselves to take part in the work of redemption that Jesus begins in today's Gospel.

**The Collect**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; 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. **Amen.**

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD (SIT)**

**The First Reading** Isaiah 9:1-4

Reader at SMSG: Sister Janet  
Reader at All Saints: Diane West

(Old Testament Page 587 in the Bibles) is a prophecy made long before Christ's coming, promising that at a future date light, salvation and joy would come to Galilee. We shall read in today's Gospel how this prophecy was fulfilled in Christ.

**The Responsorial Psalm** (from Psalm 27)

**R/. The Lord is my light and my help.**

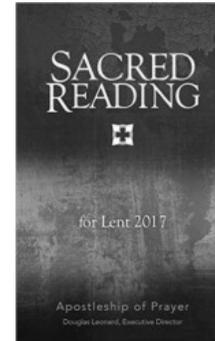
The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
before whom shall I shrink? ®

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long,  
to live in the house of the Lord,  
all the days of my life,  
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple. ®

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.  
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.  
Hope in the Lord! ®

## The Rector's recommended Lenten Companion/Book



This powerful Lenten prayer book from the Apostleship of Prayer engages and inspires readers with the Church's daily scripture readings from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, introducing Christians to the traditional spiritual devotion known as lectio divina, or "sacred reading", in a new way.

The cost per copy is £2.99, and orders may be placed with the Rector up to Sunday 5th February to ensure delivery by the beginning of Lent - Ash Wednesday is on the 1st March this year.

**Palm Crosses:** Please return your Palm Crosses to the Sacristy as soon as possible in order that our Sacristan John can burn them to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

**A Journey to the Cross:** On Wednesday evenings during Lent the Mass will begin in the Parish Hall with a DVD presentation of one of a series of images of Christ's journey to the Cross. Each one includes reflective words, scripture references, a short prayer and concludes with one verse of a hymn. Mass will then follow church. The same pattern will be followed with the evening Masses on the first three days of Holy Week.

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

**Today:**  
**3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**  
**11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints**  
*Intention: Our Parishes at the beginning of 2017*

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

**Tuesday: St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor**  
**10:30am Mass + Elevenses at All Saints**  
7:30pm 150th Anniversary Mass at  
7:30pm Illustrated Talk - Parish Hall  
*Intention: Fr Bernard & the Faithful at St Francis de Sales, Wolverton*

**Wednesday: Conversion of St Paul, Apostle**  
6:00pm Rector available in Parish Office for the arrangement of the Occasional Offices

**7:30pm Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
*Intention: Parishes under the patronage of St Paul*

**Thursday: Ss Timothy & Titus, Bishops**  
**10:30am Mass at St Mary & St Giles**  
7:30pm Illustrated Talk - Parish Hall  
7:30pm Mission Visitors' at Rectory  
*Intention: For the House of Bishops*

**Friday: Feria**  
**8:00am Mass at SMSG Sch (North Site)**  
7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal  
*Intention: For the terminally ill*

**Saturday: St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor**  
3:00pm MK:50 Gala Concert in SMSG  
*Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches*

**Next Sunday:**  
**4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**9:30am PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**  
**11:00am FAMILY MASS at All Saints**  
*Intention: Our Parishes*

**Readings next Sunday**  
**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
1st Reading: Zephaniah 2:3; 3: 12-13  
Psalm: 145 (part)  
2nd Reading: 1 Cor 1: 26-31  
Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12



The condition of the exterior noticeboard had been discussed previously and the Rectors request of MK Planning Officers that they recommend a material that would last longer than wood had been promised, but not forthcoming. The Rector agreed to approach the planning officers once more, and at the same time to seek agreement for the introduction of a noticeboard at All Saints.

The Rector reported on meetings with the Deanery Pastoral Committee and the Archdeacon with regard to a Mission Priest being appointed. While finance for the post was an issue both the Archdeacon and he had agreed that for the CofE not to make an appointment would show the Diocese in a poor light, given that we have the largest single development within the UK being built entirely within the boundaries of the parish.

Mr Salter regularly keeps the PCC updated on the work of our Church School. His report this time concentrated on the way in which the expansion of the school onto two sites was progressing now that it had become a reality. He asks the prayers of everyone for the successful future of the whole school. It was agreed that the next meeting of the PC would be held in the south site of the School (Galley Hill).

The Rector reported on the situation regarding 'Rough Sleepers.' Contrary to certain reports on social media, no one was actually sleeping in the lychgate overnight at the moment. Bedding has been observed under one of the benches, but this appears to have been used in the earlier parts of the evenings as an opportunity to elicit sympathy from others who might offer cash. The Rector, Churchwardens and PCC Members all agreed that they wished that people would not give rough sleepers money as it only helps to foster the addictions that they so often have.

Mr Williams had kindly installed

some coat hooks in the Parish Hall, which were very generously paid for by the Fellowship. The PCC agreed that it would be very useful to have a similar set of coat hooks on the wall opposite the toilets in the lobby area.

While the Rector's sabbatical had been delayed until 2018, the PCC were pleased to learn that the Bishops had encouraged the Rector to take four weeks leave this year for a period of concentrated study. He anticipates that this will not take place until after Pentecost.

The Rector was delighted to conclude the meeting by reporting on a meeting he had had that morning which was a follow up meeting to a meeting held last year with regard to the expansion of almshouses in the parish with an Officer of MK Council. On the western expansion area there are a number of sites which are 'reserved' for social use and two of these areas have been identified as being used for 'supported housing.' The Calverton Almshouses Association has been encouraged to look to expand its provision of properties, and so the Rector had approached the Council about these two areas of land in 2015. Following that he had compiled a comprehensive report to the Council identifying how the Almshouses Association might fulfil the Council's criteria and qualify as the housing provider on the land. At Thursday's meeting the Council's Officer had confirmed that the proposals 'had traction' with the Council and that we should now progress to the next stage of the charity seeking funds from the various agencies that will provide loans (the rental income would repay the loans), and the Council will begin to liaise with developers on the release of two plots of land and draw up some initial designs. The PCC was thrilled to learn that, when realised, this will provide 30 new Almshouses - all of which are not subject to the 'Right to Buy' legislation, and therefore remain social housing.

### **The Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17

Reader at SMSG: Peter Eales

*(New Testament Page 138 in the Bibles) we learn that division had arisen within the early Christian community at Corinth. Paul reminds the Corinthian Church that unity should be the outstanding characteristic of the Church, a unity centred on Christ.*

### **Gospel Acclamation**

#### **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Jesus was preaching the Gospel of the kingdom / and healing every infirmity among the people.

#### **Alleluia!**

### **The Gospel** Matthew 4:12-23

*(New Testament Page 3 in the Bibles) narrates the beginning of Christ's public life in Galilee. He chooses his first disciples to continue his work of redemption.*

### **The Prayer of the Faithful**

(Intercessor: Sister Janet)

*Priest:* My brothers and sisters let us pray to our gracious God who is the fountain of all wisdom.

*Intercessor:* We pray for all Christian people; for *Jonathan*, our Bishop, and for all who teach and guard the faith.. May the message of Christ dwell richly in our hearts, and knit us together in the bond of your love.

V/. Lord, hear us.

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

We pray for the leaders of the nations, and for those in authority under them..... Give them the gift of your wisdom, and a right discernment in all things.

We pray for our Parish and the wider community in which we are set; for those who live and work here, and for those who visit this place.....Speak your word of peace in our midst, and help us to serve one another as Christ has served us.

We pray for those who do not believe,

for those who long for your love and forgiveness..... Open their ears to hear your voice, and open their hearts to the knowledge of your love in Christ.

We pray for those bowed down with grief, fear or sickness...Fiddy Abraham, Anna Archer, Shirley Brown, Steve Cooper, Larry Francis, Jane Holman, Terry Mason, Sue Maton, Pete, Tony Oakley, Wendy... May Christ bring comfort and healing to all those in need.

We pray for the souls of those who have died...Henry Blake, Muriel Francis, Eileen Haseldine, William Leese, Ronald Sefton, Jeremy Tapper and of those whose anniversaries of death occur during this week...**22<sup>nd</sup>** Edith Foddy, Margaret Yates, Frederick Brown, Caroline Marsh, John Taylor, Brian Denton; **23<sup>rd</sup>** Bert Holland, Ethel Meakins, Thomas Downing; **24<sup>th</sup>** Ted Goodman, Edith Edwards; **25<sup>th</sup>** Eileen Froggatt; **26<sup>th</sup>** Cheyenne Lucy, William Tapp; **27<sup>th</sup>** Lilian Quick, George Taylor; **28<sup>th</sup>** Katrina Zehothofer, Mary Beevor, Francis Syrratt... May they may enjoy the radiant dawn of eternal life.

✠ Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord.

**And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*In silence we pray for our needs and concerns*

*Priest:* Father all-powerful, we bring our needs before you, and pray confidently for your help and mercy, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Communion Reflection:**

Lord Jesus you broke the bread of your Body, you poured out the wine of your love so that we might share in your divine life. This Holy Communion makes union between you and us; you are now the one principle of our life, the life we all must live as one so that your body may not be broken again. Make us truly and totally one with you so that we may be at one with all your People, so that the unity of your body on earth may reflect the unity of the Holy Trinity in heaven. Amen.

# PARISH NEWS & NOTICES

## **Parish Weekend Pilgrimage to The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham 2017:**

Thank you to all those who have booked places so far. Please could all completed booking forms along with deposits of £30 per person be given to Fr Ross as soon as possible, so that we can give the Shrine an early indication of numbers and secure rooms. If you have not been to Walsingham before this is an ideal introduction to the wonderful ministry of the Shrine. Fr Ross or any previous pilgrims will be only too pleased to tell you more.

## **Arrangements for the Parish Mass of Confirmation:**

The Bishop will be Confirming at All Saints when we observe Candlemass, at 7:30pm on 1st February 2017.

We have four adults and two young people preparing for Confirmation. This will be a really special occasion for them and I hope that as many of us as possible will make every effort to support them with our presence at Mass in All Saints on this day.

This is also the first Confirmation to have been held in All Saints for at least 55 years, and is a real sign of the recent growth in the worshipping community.

As is our custom there will be a reception held afterwards in church and Diane West, Ann Westley and Joyce Todd amongst others would be very grateful to receive offers of savoury and sweet finger food.

**Advent Boxes:** If you have forgotten to return your box today, please do by the end of January. This enables our Treasurer to send in the amount raised to the Winter Night Shelter as soon as possible.

**Looking ahead:** Lent begins with Ash Wednesday which, this year, is observed on 1st March. Easter Day is observed on

16th April. In the last few years trying to hold a Lent Course on a weekday evening has proved not to be a good time to get a sufficient number of people to attend; and yet there is a clear need for such a Course. Fr Ross would be grateful to hear from people as to what day/time of the week would be possible for a goodly number of people to participate.

**St Frances de Sales, Wolverton:** on the 24th January Fr Bernard Barrett and the Faithful at St Francis de Sales will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Church. The Rector has been invited to attend the Mass to mark the occasion in the evening. Please pray for Fr Bernard and all his people.

**Two Illustrated Talks:** by Ray & Jenny Rowlson - Part of StonyWords! 2017 & MK 50 celebrations.

1. *'Three Years that Changed the World'* - The true story of Jesus Christ in pictures from the HOLY LAND. Tuesday 24th Jan 2017 at 7.30pm in The Parish Hall. Free entry.

2. *'Capernaum'* - A pictorial tour of the town where Jesus taught and healed on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Thursday 26th Jan 2017 at 7.30pm in The Parish Hall. Free entry

**Mission Visitors Meeting:** On Thursday 26th January at 7:30pm a meeting will be held at the Rectory for all those involved in visiting new residents in their homes. Please see Sister Janet for further details or if you wish to part of this important mission initiative.

**Saturday 28 January 3pm MK:50 Gala Concert:** We will be celebrating 50 years of Milton Keynes and 50 years of the Father Willis pipe organ in the Church at SMSG. Come and hear the organ played as part of this FREE golden celebration concert, performed by local musicians, choirs and school children. A glorious

afternoon of musical fun for all ages, featuring a song with original words for the occasion!

**Next Coffee Morning:** will be held at 10:00am in St Mary & St Giles on Saturday 4th February in aid of our Organ Appeal

**Next Lunchtime Concert:** will be performed at 12:30pm in St Mary & St Giles Church on Thursday 16th February. All are very welcome to this free concert. Hot drinks are provided and everyone is free to bring a packed lunch if they wish to do so.

**Parochial Church Council News:** the PCC met on Thursday evening of last week. Amongst the matters discussed and decided were:

To apply for a faculty for ventilation in the wood panelling in the Church at All Saints to help prevent damp, and to install a 'French Drain' on the south side of the church.

At SMSG to replace the flood-lighting (as the current system is not working and exorbitant to run even if repaired) hoping that funding might come in through grants and donations.

The PCC was delighted with the works undertaken to the trees at SMSG, and agreed to submit the application for the next round of agreed works which will include the removal of remaining limes and 10% crown reduction of most of the remaining trees. Concern was expressed as to potential of damage to the tower in the medium to long term by the close proximity of the Wellingtonia.

It was agreed that to have made a profit of almost £1000 on the Grand Draw given the short space of time to sell tickets was a tribute to those who had worked so hard to sell tickets. It was further agreed that in future there would be one Grand Draw per annum with tick-

ets on sale from June 1st through to the draw in December, thus increasing the potential for greater profit and a less frenetic pressure to sell tickets.

The Rector reported on the handover meeting between Mr Limentani, our former architect (who has now retired) and Mrs Finlay who has been appointed by the PCC. The meeting took place at the Rectory with all files and drawings being transferred to Mrs Finlay.

The PCC agreed that as well as each Parish Church having a 'Scrubology Day' each year, it would be very helpful to have a working party once a year for each church to help with general maintenance works with regard to the exterior of our churches and the churchyards. Churchwardens will set dates in agreement with others who are involved in practical ways.

The Treasurer went through the end of year financial position and the 'draft' accounts for 2016. There was a shortfall on budgeted 'Planned Giving' of £700, but he was pleased that this was less of a shortfall than in 2015, and was able to report that we were able to pay £35,000 in Parish Share in 2016 - an increase of £1000 on the previous year. Considerable discussion took place about the Parish Share, Diocesan and Deanery requests for greater levels of giving, Gift Aid along with how we might usefully use the 'Giving in Grace' initiative. The matter of the real risk of not having a full-time priest in the future, should be the Parish Share not be paid in full, was raised and acknowledged. It was stressed that we never refuse to pay in full but are unable to at present. The 2017 Parish Share has been set by the Deanery as £60,000 for our Parish.

A report of the work of the Mission Visiting Teams and the next round of visits was made.