

St James', Wulfstan Way, Cambridge

The Weekly Sheet

22 March 2020

Mothers' Sunday

Our building may now be closed to regular worship now that all church services, meetings and gatherings have been suspended, but we intend to carry on praying, caring and serving the local community as best we can. We will be providing a variety of resources for creative worship, prayers and learning over the coming weeks so please keep visiting the website for more details and regular updates. And our Weekly Sheet will be looking a bit different as well!

There are plans to open the church for private prayer and quiet reflection so if you find the front door unlocked, do come in. And on Mothers' Sunday, if you walk past the church on Sunday morning, please feel free to collect a small bunch of flowers which we are making available, for you to give to someone special - maybe a mum, another parent-figure or another carer. But please remember to first wash your hands! If you pick up any leaflets please take them away with you rather than put them back (for hygienic reasons). And if someone else is in the church please allow a healthy distance between you - the recommendation is 2 metres. Thank you.

Collect for today

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Today's readings are: 1 Samuel 1.20-end; Psalm 34.11-20; 2 Corinthians 1.3-7; Luke 2.33-35.

1 Samuel 1.20-end

In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the LORD.'

The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the LORD, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the LORD establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence,

praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD.'

She left him there for the LORD.

Psalm 34.11-20

C. Hubert H. Parry



Come, my children, and / listen to / me; ♦
I will / teach you the / fear of the / Lord.
Who is there who de/lights in / life ♦
and longs for / days to en/joy good / things?
Keep your / tongue from / evil ♦
and your / lips from / lying / words.
Turn from evil / and do / good; ♦
seek / peace / and pur/sue it.
The eyes of the Lord are up/on the / righteous ♦
and his ears are / open / to their / cry.
The face of the Lord is against / those who do / evil, ♦
to root out the re/membrance of them / from the / earth.
The righteous cry and the / Lord / hears them ♦
and delivers them / out of / all their / troubles.
The Lord is near to the / broken/hearted ♦
and will save / those who are / crushed in / spirit.
Many are the / troubles of the / righteous; ♦
from them / all will the / Lord de/liver them.
He keeps / all their / bones, ♦
so that not / one of / them is / broken.

2 Corinthians 1.3-7

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, ⁴who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. ⁵For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. ⁶If we are being afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is for your consolation, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we are also suffering.

⁷Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

John 19.25b-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Readings for Next Sunday (29 March) are:

Ezekiel 37.1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8.6-11; John 11.1-45.

Reflection by Rev'd Anne Strauss

“...he said to his mother, ‘Woman, here is your son’. Then he said to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother’”

John 19: 26-27

I was due to preach this Sunday. I fully intended to look through all the readings on Monday, to mull them over during the week. I was going to listen to how God spoke through them and through the people and places I visited. I was going to take time to look at what scholars have made of our readings. And then write a sermon to deliver in church.

But, of course, this week has been different. At St James's and in every other place in our parish and beyond we're having to put aside the way we usually do things, and learn new ways....fast!

There have been practical things to do. For example we've worked with the Queen Edith Community Forum and our sister parish of St John's to produce the 'Happy to Help leaflets' that may have already dropped through your letter box. A simple idea that can give us the courage to talk safely to our neighbours, and to find out what they need from us. But that can also encourage us to receive from help from them.

“...he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.

'Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'

I've also been visiting our local shops in Wulfstan Way. Buying a bag of prawn crackers from the fish and chip shop, and some string from the shop next door to it. Having a coffee and cake outside at the Coffee House, getting my lunch from the Express Store next to the chemists, even though I usually bring lunch in from home. Finding out how things are going for them.

And I've been doing a lot of admin too: putting together our Parish Continuity Plan, requested by the Diocese for example. So I only looked at the readings for Mothering

Sunday the night before I started to write this. And I was so surprised to find that through them I felt God speaking so profoundly into my experiences this week.

The image of Hannah 'lending' her so longed for child, Samuel, to God. And then Paul's advice to the church in Corinth that God's consoling love is the force that empowers us to console each other. And of course Jesus's commending of his mother to the Beloved Disciple, and him to her. Passages that help me to see that God's intention is for love and care to spill out from the lives we live now and to permeate the whole of our world and all our relationships.

When I went to buy my sandwich at the Express Stores on Wednesday, I had a chat with the lovely man who runs the shop. He told me about what he's doing to try to help some of his older or more frail customers whilst others are emptying his shelves of toilet roll, pasta and flour.

'You see, I am a Sikh' he said, 'And for us, every woman is our mother or our daughter and every man our father or son. So I must help them.':

“...he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.
'Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'

Intercessions

Let us pray to the Lord,
who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of our nation,
that all who are fearful and anxious
may be at peace and free from worry:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For the isolated and housebound,
that we may be alert to their needs,
and care for them in their vulnerability:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For our homes and families,
our schools and young people,
and all in any kind of need or distress:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

For a blessing on our local community,
that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship,
where all are known and cared for:
Lord, hear us,
Lord, graciously hear us.

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.
Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Following government advice to now work at home where possible, **Caroline will be working from home** starting this week. Her working mornings will be as usual, please continue to email or phone as you would normally. Caroline can access both the internet and the church office phone from home.

Each Sunday there will be an **updated weekly sheet available, with a reflection** written by a minister connected to St James, **and some prayers**. These will also be available to pick up from the church foyer.

Prayer for Friends and Congregation of St James'

Sunday	Judith and Jonathan Pinhey and family
Monday	Eleanor Pippard
Tuesday	Margaret Revell and family
Wednesday	Daphne Ridge
Thursday	Dawn and Steven Ridley
Friday	Tracey Roberts
Saturday	Steve and Emma Rothwell, Isaac and Leo

Contacts

Priest-in-charge	Rev'd Steve Rothwell 246419 s.rothwell3@btinternet.com
Curate	Rev'd Anne Strauss stjamescurate@gmail.com
Churchwardens	Pam Butler, 07745 591235 pambutler27@hotmail.com Michael Smale, (01223) 478650 michaelsmale05@gmail.com
Pastoral Assistants	Mary Calladine, (01223) 246742 Rosemary Monk, (01223) 246421
Director of Music	position vacant
The Music Group	Grae Worster, 846295 mgw1@cam.ac.uk
Safeguarding Officer	Jill Bradley, 07971 013645 happybeadsuk@gmail.com
Church Office:	246419 (Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 9.15 am -1.15 pm)
e-mail:	stjameschurchcambridge@yahoo.co.uk
Website:	stjamescambridge.org.uk

Weekly Church Activities – *currently suspended*

Junior Choir Practice	Sundays, 11.15 am – 12 noon
Choir Practice	Mondays 6.30 pm—7.30 pm
Meditation Group	Fridays 1.30 pm—2.00 pm

Community Activities – *currently suspended*

Beavers (6-8 yrs)	16thcambridgebeavers@gmail.com
Cubs (8-11 yrs, QE Schl)	Stephen Harrison, 07548 765421
Scouts (10½ - 14 yrs, QE Schl)	16thcambridgescouts@gmail.com

Our parish magazine **Crosspiece** is available on the website.

If you are ordering goods from **Amazon**, please remember to use the Amazon link on the St James' website fundraising page. It doesn't cost you any more but gives St James a percentage of the price you pay.