

St Giles' Church, Exhall

TODAY is **MOTHERING SUNDAY**, when we give thanks for our mothers.

Next Sunday, 2nd April, we're holding our **Church Annual Meeting**, at the 9.30 service. We will begin with a short time of worship, then get on with the APCM business, which includes electing 5 new PCC members. The Agenda, Reports and 2016 Accounts are all available in church TODAY, if you'd like to read up ahead of the meeting. Also nomination papers for the PCC, wardens, and Deanery Synod members.

All other services will run as normal. April's Magazine is available today, and the next **ROTA** will be out next week.

PRAYER PAGE PRAYERS and VISITING

Someone's name to add to the prayer list? Someone in hospital who would like a visit? Please contact Chris in the church office 7636 8008.

The PRAYER CHAIN

If you need prayer urgently or in an emergency, call Sheila on 7649 1093 who will pass your request through the chain and praying for you will begin. Or if you know someone else who does ...

Pray for God's healing and peace for ...

Emily Good (now back at work), Jackie West (broken wrist), Jan Lievers, Stephen (now in rehab), Annette Busby (breast cancer), John Rhodes, Amy, Norma Collier, Elliott Cox, Julie Haynes, David Martin (having chemotherapy)

Those who mourn for

Philip Burton, Janet Wood, Joseph Bradbury, Joan Beechey, and for the ministry of the Bereavement Team

This week ..

- As we listen to today's gospel, and reflect on Wednesday's violent attack in Westminster, we need to pray against the blindness caused by extremist propaganda and false ideologies; for clearer sight and greater alertness to the potential dangers around; for courage never to be cowed by terrorism; and of course for healing and comfort for all affected by the attack.
- Today we give thanks for our mothers, so often the glue at the centre of family life; well aware that not all are in happy settings, we pray for all homes where relationships are difficult or strained.
- Around us there are those who would like to be mothers, but have never had that opportunity: pray for them.
- In many places of the world many mothers can only watch while their children starve or suffer; and children have lost mothers due to disease or conflict. Pray for generous and speedy responses to today's appeals for famine relief.
- The council's development plans are not popular at all: pray for constructive listening and good dialogue going forwards.
- "We are the body of Christ": pray for grace and healing whenever relationships within the church are difficult.

Collect for 4th Sunday of Lent

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Collect for Mothering Sunday

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

This week ...

SUNDAY 26th March 2017 - Mothering Sunday

8am Holy Communion
9.30am Sung Communion with Sunday School
11.30am All Age Worship
5.30pm Evening Prayer

MONDAY 27th

7.30pm Lent Home Group 103 Coventry Road
7.30pm Lent Home Group 3 Deans Way
7.30pm Lent Home Group 63 Mavor Drive
7.30pm Lent Home Group 49 Nunts Lane, Holbrooks

TUESDAY 28th

10-12pm Foodbank open at Bedworth Baptist Church
1pm Over 50's Club chat, sing song, quiz - Main Hall
7pm Cross Stitch Group - Small Hall
7.30pm Lent Home Group at Vicarage

WEDNESDAY 29th

9.30am Parent and Toddler Group - Main Hall
10am Holy Communion

THURSDAY 30th

9.30am Parent and Toddler Group - Main Hall
12.30-2.30pm Foodbank open at The Little Chapel, Bulkington Road

FRIDAY 31st

12-2pm Foodbank open at Bedworth Heath Comm'y Centre, Smorral La
7pm Choir Practice

SUNDAY 2nd April

8am Holy Communion (from the Prayer Book)
9.30am Annual Church Meeting (APCM)
11.30am All Age Worship 5.30pm Evening Communion

Today's Readings

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|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 8am | 1 Samuel 16. 1-13 Phil Jones | John 9 | Sharon Neale |
| 9.30am | 1 Samuel 16. 1-13 Pat Richardson | John 9 | Dot Tedds |
| 11.30am | | Luke 2. 33-35 | Emma Flint |
| 5.30pm | 1 Samuel 16. 1-13 Jean Hollis | John 9 | Eddie Lanteri |

1 Samuel 16. 1-13

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king." But Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me." The LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these."

So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is

tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David.

Samuel then went to Ramah.

John 9

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

His neighbours and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man." "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed,

CHURCH NOTICES - this week

Easter Flowers: donations towards flowers to decorate the church at Easter will be very much appreciated. Please give them to Irene or one of the churchwardens. **Thank you!**
IRENE PRIDEAUX

Work Party on 15th April: come and help decorate the church and tidy around outside on Easter Saturday, from 9.30am. Sign up today!

and then I could see." "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said.

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't

know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."