

Welcome to St. Mary's and St Martin's Email Newsheet

A Church in the heart of the community, with a heart for Jesus, the community and each other'

Rector: Revd Jim Pye

Church Administrator: Penny Paton (313241)

www.knebworthparishchurch.co.uk

Email: knebworthparishchurch@gmail.com

22 MARCH 2020

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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

SUNDAY'S READINGS

St. Mary's	2020	St. Martin's
Psalm 31; 1-16 Micah ch 7 John 3.14-21	22 March Mothering Sunday	Luke 2.33-35



We are facing an unprecedented time in our nation. The Coronavirus outbreak has created an atmosphere of fear. Many people are anxious for family members, friends and the many jobs at risk as an economic crisis looms. Meanwhile, the necessary rules around social distancing are creating isolation just at the time we need to be more united than ever.

But God has a secret weapon in times like this: his Church. *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."* (1 Tim 1:7)

The church has been used to meeting together in times of crisis. For now, that is not possible, and so we need to find creative ways of being the church online and through the airwaves. There are TV channels and Christian Radio that you can tune into, live streams and a lot more coming online as this progresses. The following are just a few things to get you started.

- This Sunday, churches of all denominations across the country will be joining remotely in a **National Day of Prayer and Action**. Everyone is encouraged to **light a candle and place it in the front window of their house at 7.00pm this and every Sunday**, as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.
- There are daily service outlines on the Church of England site from Morning Prayer to Evening Prayer that you can just read for yourself, follow this link for these and more. <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

- Live broadcast from the Archbishop of Canterbury's will be on BBC local radio at 8am on Sunday and then later on BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship.
- Live streaming on Tuesday's at 1.10pm from St Helens London. (*William went here when working in London and recommends the sermons*)
Visit www.st-helens.org.uk/pages/live-stream/



MOTHERING SUNDAY was traditionally a day when servant girls who were working at large houses, a long way from their family homes; were allowed to go back to their families for the day. As they walked home they would pick wild flowers along the way to give to their mothers. So it became known as Mothering Sunday.

Mothering Sunday is also halfway through Lent and has become a day of relief from our Lenten disciplines, yippee!!

It can be a day of sorrow for some, recalling sad memories of loss and grief and our love and prayers go out to them especially on this day.

This year will be very different for all of us. The possibility of a family lunch or tea has vanished so suddenly that we all feel rather shell shocked. Doing the 'right thing' comes at a personal cost, it disrupts our plans and it hurts all of us in various ways. We must stay safe and as well as possible, but our original plans can be changed into new ones. We can care and support each other by telephone chats, social media, helping with shopping etc: but most of all by prayer. When we feel all 'at sea' knowing that people are praying for you isn't merely a life raft! Knowing people are praying for you helps you feel as secure as a beautiful ship powering its way through the storm, not necessarily calming the waters, but enabling us to feel safe as we move through them. So let's remember all those around us, hold them in our love and our prayers and do whatever we are able to do to help them through this current storm. May God Bless all of us this day and always. **Revd Karen Turner**



PRAYER (This is for the National Day of Prayer and Action)



Come, O Spirit of God, and make within us your dwelling place and home. May our darkness be dispelled by your light, and our troubles calmed by your peace; may all evil be redeemed by your love, all pain transformed through the suffering of Christ, and all dying glorified in his risen life. **Amen**

You may like to sing this first verse of this Hymn

**Guide me, O thou great redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me now and evermore,
Feed me now and evermore.**



Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow. The same Everlasting Father Who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering; or he will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace then, put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations, and say continually, 'The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart hath trusted in Him and I am helped' He is not only with me but in me and I in Him. What can a child fear, surrounded by such a Father's arms? **Amen**



Please pray for: All those known to us who are in need of healing at this time, especially young Ben; Sue Boorman; Jane Gilbert; Orla & her family; Sarjon Toma & his family; Mick & Sue Willis; Jane Ker-Reid; Linda (friend of Julia); Jim Pye; Penny Paton; Joyce Burrows; Diana Knight (friend of Kath Meredith).

Please pray for: the family and friends of all those who are bereaved.

Also please pray for:

- The Diocese of St Albans, Bishop Alan; The Bishop of Hertford, Rt. Rev'd Dr Michael Beasley; Rev'd Jim Pye & their families.
- Peace in Syria, Iraq, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Mali, Central African Republic, Nigeria, Palestine/Israel, Turkey, Yemen, Myanmar and South Sudan.
- Christians who are persecuted; for Open Doors and the Barnabas Fund ministering to persecuted Christians and their neighbours.
- The Coronavirus



WATER AID: Please continue your support for Water Aid. KFC seeks to raise funds over lent using the jars of change into which a small donation is placed each time water is used over lent. Contact me Penny (313241) when you are ready to return your jar and I will let you know of the arrangements, if possible by Easter Sunday.

LENT: Those of you doing the collecting of small items that can **be used by a homeless person at the Haven Hostel** please continue to fill your bag. When you are ready to return it please contact me and we can make arrangements.

ANNUAL MEETINGS: The annual church meetings scheduled to take place at the end of April have now been postponed, we have made a provisional date of 18th October.

SACRISTAN HELP: We need one or two more sacristans to ensure we have enough cover when we are able to hold services again. The sacristans prepare communion materials and photocopy the new-sheet, which can be done any time after the news-sheet has been issued and before 5pm on Saturday. If this is something you can help with, please contact Penny or if you would like to know more before volunteering.

If you know of anyone not on email please print a copy for them or if you know someone who would like this by email, that did not receive it, please let me know.

Please email any contributions for this e-leaflet by 12pm on Thursday