

the keys

no 212

March 2019

news from Earley St Peter's Church
Earley St Peter's Church Church Road Earley RG6 1EY



Letter from the Ministry Team



You wouldn't guess it's February, would you? This week I had to go and see my study supervisor in Durham. Despite being officially winter (and officially 'The North'!) it was so sunny and warm there that I ate fish and chips by the River Wear in my shirt sleeves. It amazes me how, each year, the world renews itself – with brighter sunshine and warmer days bringing plants and animals back to life.

Durham is of course one of the most ancient and most Christian sites in Britain. Two great saints of the early English church are buried there. St Cuthbert, who died in 687, was a holy man who was taken from a life of solitude in the monastery at Lindisfarne to be bishop of the church in Northumbria. St Bede, who died in 735, wrote the first history of Britain in the nearby monastery at Jarrow.

For over a thousand years on the top of a great hill overlooking the River Wear, men and women have sought to find solace, meaning, hope, and faith. The present Durham Cathedral, where I went to a short service of afternoon prayers after my fish and chips had been digested!, is itself built on the site of an earlier Saxon church.

This early spring trip to the surprisingly warm North reminds me how important it is to keep God at the centre of my life. The great saints of the past and generations of pilgrims to Durham found in the God of Jesus Christ, the God revealed in the Bible, the way to live and be whole.

As spring renews the earth's natural order with its warmth, so too Lent is a time of spiritual renewal. Looking to reconnect or deepen our relationship with God is traditionally one way to spend these weeks. You will find in *Keys* ways to do that through special services, chances to meet in a small group, help to reading the Bible at home. My hope and prayer, for myself and all of you, is that the warmer weather will not just cheer our spirits but perhaps prompt us to refresh our connection with God, trying to find out a bit more about him and talk a bit more with him and other Christians. So just as the sun renews the life of the physical world, may our prayer and study and reading this Lent renew our inner spiritual worlds, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

With prayers and best wishes,

Philip

Parish notes.....

Thursday @ 10

2nd & 4th Thursdays in the month at 10am in the church hall
March 14th & 28th

Mothers' Union

Next meeting in the hall March 7th

Ladies Social Group

2nd Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm for 8.00pm
March 12th; April 9th

Lent Lunches

These begin on March 8th

see note about the dates of Lent Lunches and speakers in this magazine

Prayer for St Peter's

The next Prayers for St Peter's will be on Thursday 28th March

7.45pm in the Lady Chapel, everyone very welcome to come and pray for our church and community.

For the diary..... the next date will be:

Thursday 25th April

Prayer Points for this month

At our Annual Meetings in April 2018 everyone was asked to write down one thing to thank God for and one thing to pray for. Each month prayer points appear in *the keys* for us to be praying together. There were a lot of similar suggestions, so not everyone will find their own words included, but hopefully we will cover all the ideas!

March

Give thanks for - God's faithfulness over the past year

Pray for - more people to be part of our church family, especially older children / teenagers / younger adults

The Annual Meetings take place around 11.15am on **Sunday 7th April**.

Please pray for these meetings where we elect parish officers, including Deanery Synod and PCC members. If you or someone you know might be interested in taking on a role please speak to the clergy or churchwardens – there is a lot of training and support!



Dates for your Diary

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter are coming up in March and April – a range of services, study groups, and events have been planned to help us explore our faith and the meaning of this special season. There are leaflets at the back of the church to tell you what is happening

Ash Wednesday – 6th March 2019

9.30am Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes (said)
8pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes
(with choir)

Quiet and reflective services for the beginning of Lent

On **Easter Sunday, 21st April 2019**, the Bishop of Reading will be leading our 10am Festival Communion. This is particularly special as it is Bishop Andrew's last parish engagement before he retires. Followed by drinks and an Easter egg hunt!

Lent Hunger lunches 2019

We are again having our Lent Lunches every Friday during Lent at 12.30pm in the main hall.

These are frugal lunches and will consist of soup, bread and cheese with a biscuit and tea or coffee to follow. The lunch costs £4 and after expenses have been taken out all profits will be given to charity, one local and one overseas

Each Friday a different group will be serving the lunches. There will be a short (5 to 10 minute) talk while people are drinking their tea/coffee; there will be a different speaker each week. This year the local charity is the Drop-in Centre and the overseas charity is Anna in Peru.

Supporting outside charities is an important part of our Christian Mission, please come and support the work and enjoy fellowship at the same time. There is a list at the back of the church, please sign it if you wish to come or phone the Parish Office 0118 966 8575.

The theme for this year is **Journeys**

March 8th	Elaine Watts	Journey to Bethlehem
March 15th	Revd Francis Jakeman	Who do you think you are? a journey to unearth my childhood roots
March 22nd	Revd Joan Hicks	The prodigal son
March 29th	Revd Mark Laynesmith	Abraham
April 5th	Janet Lowne	Jonah
April 12th	Revd Judith Wheatley	Journey to the Cross

The Art of Easter

Three sessions in the Church Hall during Lent to help us prepare for Easter.

Mondays 11th and 18th March and 8th April 7.30 to 9pm

Upstairs in the Fowler room

Repeated on:

Tuesdays 12th & 19th March and 9th April 10.30am to 12 noon

Downstairs in the Main Hall

In the sessions Richard Miller will be talking about Jesus' journey through Holy Week and Easter as portrayed in religious art. This will include the arrival in Jerusalem, Palm Sunday, the Trial of Jesus, Crucifixion, and resurrection.

Richard says that he has got a lot of pictures of paintings to show and anyone who was at his presentations for Thy Kingdom Come (May 2017) and Art and the first Christmas (December 2017) will know that they will be in for a treat!

Mix 'n' match..... come to some, come to all, or just one..... you can choose mornings or evenings to suit or a mixture of both. Join us to find meaning and inspiration.

It's not essential, but it would help with refreshments if you could sign the list at the back of church or phone the parish office (0118 966 8575) if you know you are coming.....but you will be very welcome even if you just turn up!

Reading a Gospel through Lent

As with previous years everyone's encouraged to read through this year's gospel – St Luke – with a little excerpt each day. This is a simple, easy way to start reading your Bible daily or pick up the habit again! Sheets with the passages for each day will be available in church and on the website from the beginning of March.

Start Groups

Our daytime *Start* group will be starting at 2pm on Thursday 14th March in the Church Hall. It is a 6 week course going over some of the basics of the Christian faith. All are welcome. For more information please speak to Phil or Elaine. There will also be an evening group, speak to Philip for details.

Wednesday Bible Study

On the first Wednesday of the month, we're holding a Bible Study from 10.30 - 11.30 am in the choir vestry. This follows on from our midweek communion (at 9.30am) but you are welcome to just come to the Bible Study. Tea/coffee will be available between communion and the Bible Study – so come a little early if you want a hot drink! Speak to Hannah or Elaine if you would like to know more. **Next Bible study will be March 6th**

Looking ahead

Sunday 12th May 2019, 3pm

A special service with the Lord Bishop of Oxford to celebrate the church's 175th anniversary followed by afternoon tea

Saturday 22nd June 2019, 11am

Our curate Phil will be ordained priest at 11am on Saturday 22nd June at Reading Minster – do come and support him on this special day.

The Ministry Team would be interested to know what members of the congregation would like to know more about! So if you have particular questions, topics, books of the Bible, etc. you would be interested in us running a talk or group about, please speak to or email one of the Ministry Team.

Work with Children and Young People – Help needed.

It's great to see our work with children and young people thriving. Last term saw the start of our Song School, with 15 young people coming to rehearsals each week, and our Sunday Children's Church continues, often seeing 20 children or more coming. Tots and Teddies (our Wednesday morning toddler group) is also growing and having lots of fun.

All of this is wonderful, but it does mean we need more adults who are able to help with this work. This might be a regular commitment (perhaps monthly on a Sunday morning, or once every six weeks) or just occasional help with our 'specials' such as Good Friday crafts. We're also going to be looking at what we can offer our slightly older children – 8 upwards – who perhaps feel a bit neglected at the moment.

If you think you can offer to help – in whatever way – please do speak to Hannah or one of the other clergy. You'd be very welcome to come and see the sorts of things we do and find out more to see if this might be an area of church life you'd like to be involved in.

And if this isn't for you, do please pray for all the children and young people who are part of our church family, for those leaders and helpers who work with them, and for more people – adults and children – to come and join us.

Hannah



New Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is a legal list of those who wish to be involved in the governance of the parish. It confers the right to vote in most parish elections (such as to the Parochial Church Council, which is the parish's trustee body). It is also used to help calculate parish share (the money we pay each year to the Diocese to cover the costs of providing clergy).

You may only be on the Roll if you are aged sixteen or over, or will turn sixteen in the coming year. You must also EITHER be resident in the parish OR, if not resident in the parish, have regularly attended public worship here for at least the last six months. (Anyone who has been unable to get to church say because of illness or disability is exempt from the attendance requirement.)

If you wish to be on the Electoral Roll you will need to fill out and sign a form, available from church from 3rd March, and return it either to the Parish Office or the box at the back of church.

To clear up some confusion we've picked up: someone does **not** need to be on the Electoral Roll simply in order to have their wedding at Earley St Peter's. A person is entitled to be married here for a range of reasons – e.g. they have lived in the parish for any six months in their lifetime; they were baptised or confirmed here; a parent has lived or worshipped in the parish for any six month period; or a parent or grandparent was married here. Please speak to the clergy if you have any questions about this.

Following changes in the law, we are not able to use Electoral Roll data for anything other than church governance – so we can't for instance use it to help provide pastoral care or communicate about other church matters. So we are also asking everyone to fill out a contact details form, including your telephone number and e-mail address. This will ask for your consent so that the ministry team or Parish Office can say ring you at home, or occasionally send an email about an upcoming event. These forms do *not* have to be completed to go on the Electoral Roll but would be a great help to us.

The Electoral Roll is a legal document which must be publicly displayed in church. All other personal data is treated sensitively, kept securely, and (except where the law requires) is never given to other people or organisations. Privacy Notices for all the data the parish holds are available on the website or on the notice board at the back of church.

Please speak to Mary Parkinson (Electoral Roll Officer) or the churchwardens if you have questions or concerns.

Do you know?!!

These are photographs of artefacts in the church.
Have a look around the church and see if you can see where they are.....
Answers over the page!



1



3



2

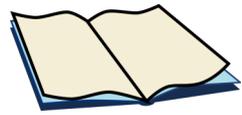


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Lectionary for March 2019



**Sunday 3rd March 2019 – Sunday next before Lent
(Quinquagesima)**

8am Holy Communion

Exodus 34.29-end; Luke 9.28-36

10am Bread & Wine

Exodus 34.29-end; Luke 9.28-36

6.30pm Evening Worship

ASH WEDNESDAY – 6th March 2019

8pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

II Corinthians 6.1-10; Psalm 51.1-18 (sung by choir); John 8.1-11

Sunday 10th March 2019 – First Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion

Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Luke 4.1-13

10am Parish Communion

Deuteronomy 26.1-11; Romans 10.8b-13; Luke 4.1-13

6.30pm Choral Evensong

Psalm 119.73-88; Jonah 3; Luke 18.9-14

Sunday 17th March 2019 – Second Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion

Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18; Luke 13.31-end

10am Parish Communion

Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18; Philippians 3.17-4.1; Luke 13.31-end

6.30pm Reflective Communion



March lectionary continued

Sunday 24th March 2019 – Third Sunday of Lent

8am Holy Communion

1 Corinthians 10.1-13; Luke 13.1-9

10am Parish Communion

Isaiah 55.1-9; 1 Corinthians 10.1-13; Luke 13.1-9

6.30pm Evensong (Eve of the Annunciation)

Psalms 85; Wisdom 9.1-12; Galatians 4.1-5

Sunday 31st March 2019 – Fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday

8am Holy Communion

Exodus 2.1-10; Luke 2.33-35

10am Parish Communion

Exodus 2.1-10; Colossians 3.12-17; Luke 2.33-35

6.30pm Compline



Answers to picture quiz:

- 1 and 4 on the board listing the Vicars of St Peter's
- 2 on the canopy above the pulpit
- 3 the top of a churchwarden's wand
- 5 corner of the Lady Chapel window

From the Registers



Baptisms

10th February Phoebe Hope Sawyer daughter of Michael and Rachel Sawyer.

Funerals

28th February Molly Chadwick 99

Food Bank

One way to contribute is to buy an extra tin or non-perishable packet of food when doing the shopping and put it in the box at the back of the church. The donations are taken to the local food bank. Even in Reading there is a need for food banks and these are practical ways in which we can help. There is a box at the back of church for your donations. Every little helps....thank you.

Funding

Many thanks to those people who have sent in donations towards the cost of the production of the magazine. The magazine costs about £30 per month to produce; it is suggested that a donation of £5 per year will help to cover the cost of production. Donations for the magazine can be sent to the Parish Office marked 'magazine'. Cheques should be made payable to *Earley St Peter's PCC*.



Quiz night: The Harry Ensemble, which I sing with, is holding a Quiz Night in our Church Hall on Saturday March 2nd, from 6pm, and we would love to see you there – we have an excellent Quizmaster!

Tickets are £15 from me, preferably by Feb 9th, and include a meal and complimentary glass of wine – you can bring your own, too! Please let me know if you are interested:

Ann Munday 0789 999 2305 mundayann1946@gmail.com



The normal pattern of services at St Peter's is as follows:

Sunday

8.00am

10.00 am

Holy Communion

1st Sunday Bread & Wine - an informal communion service for all ages followed by Tea 'n' Toast in the church hall

Other Sundays Parish Communion

6.30pm

1st Sunday Evening Worship

time for prayer and quiet using a range of different styles and traditions

2nd Sunday Choral Evensong

the choir leads much of this traditional worship from

The Book of Common Prayer

3rd Sunday Holy Communion

a simple, reflective service of communion

4th Sunday Evensong

singing and scripture using The Book of Common Prayer service

5th Sunday Compline (Night Prayer)

a brief, peaceful service to end the day

Children's Church during the 10am service (but not 1st Sunday)

(Sunday School) for children 3 to 11 years old in term-time

Children's Church is in the church hall and begins with a short Act of Worship

Wednesday

9.30am

Holy Communion

followed by coffee in church

10.15am

Tots 'n' Teddies

(during school terms) for young children

up to school age and their parents /carers

followed by tea/coffee/squash/toys in the hall

Morning Prayer is said in the Lady Chapel every Monday at 9am

and every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8.30am

Weddings and baptisms:

If you are thinking of arranging a wedding or baptism at St Peter's please contact the clergy who will be very happy to help.

Contact St Peter's

Vicarage

0118 966 6701

Revd Philip Hobday

philip.hobday@earley-stpeter.org.uk

0118 966 6701

Revd Hannah Hobday

hannah.hobday@earley-stpeter.org.uk

0118 966 6701

Revd Phil Price

earleycurate@outlook.com.

0118 376 5492

Lay Minister Elaine Watts

contact via the Parish Office

Parish office

0118 966 8575

e-mail

stpetersearley@btinternet.com

Earley St Peter's Website

<http://www.earley-stpeter.org.uk>