

www.goodshepherdfourmarks.org.uk

Our church diary is available to view on the website

15th March 2020

APCM

Please note that our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 21st April**, gathering for coffee and prayer at 7pm, then beginning the meeting at 7.30pm. We encourage all who are able to be there.

To take part fully in the meeting, you need to be registered on our electoral roll. Forms are available in the porch. If you're not sure whether you are on the roll, please contact Matt who can confirm either way.

At the meeting we will seek to elect 2 Churchwardens, 3 PCC members, and 3 Deanery Synod members. If you think you may be being called to serve the church in these roles, do speak to those currently in them to find out more.

Easter Holiday@ Home: It is with great regret that we have had to Cancel our Easter event due to the emerging Corvid - 19 situation, together with concerns that our guests may be susceptible to infection. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Procedures during Services

On Tuesday 10th March the Archbishops of Canterbury and York wrote to all Clergy, in the light of the continued increase of Covid-19 cases in the United Kingdom, stating that it is now necessary to suspend the administration of the chalice as well as physical contact during the sharing of the peace, blessing or "laying on of hands". Accordingly and until further notice

- Communion will be administered in one kind only to all communicants, i.e. the consecrated bread/wafer, with the priest alone taking the wine;
- There should be no handshaking or other direct physical contact during the sharing of the peace;
- There should be no direct physical contact as part of a blessing or 'laying on of hands' (including in Prayer Ministry).

We also recommend you read the wider advice from the Church of England and Public Health England, on the CofE website, especially re taking sensible precautions if you feel unwell.

Please wash your hands regularly (paying attention also to your thumbs!) and use the hand sanitisers which are inside the church door

The Week Ahead

Sunday 15th March Gifted | Faithful Stewards 1 Peter 4:7-11 & Matthew 19:23-30

8am - Said Communion 9.30am - All Age Communion Service 7pm - Celebration Service with communion

Monday 16th March

10am - Bumps & Babies in the church hall 7pm - Discipleship Explored in upper room

Tuesday 17th March

7am - Early Morning Prayer in chapel 7.30pm - Ministry Leaders in upper room

Wednesday 18th March

2pm - Tea & Chat in church hall 2pm - Tea & Bowls in the church 7pm - COGS Youth Wednesdays in church hall

Thursday 19th March

9.45am - Ladies Small Group in church hall/upper room
12.30pm - Toddler Lunch in church hall

Saturday 21st March

10am - Litter Picking at Oak Green 3pm - Ladies Afternoon Tea in church

Sunday 22nd March | Mothering Sunday Heading to Easter | Mothering Sunday Colossians 3:12-17 & Luke 2:33-35

8am - Said Communion 9.30am - All Age Communion Service 7pm - Celebration Service

Caring in Prayer

New/Updated

Events – Pray for Ladies Afternoon Tea, Holiday at Home, and People at the Pub. Pray that we can share Jesus with those outside of the church and pray for the preparation.

Malawi – Pray for Ali as she prepares to return to Malawi on 23rd March. Pray for the work she is preparing and for the logistics of her return.

Continuing

Prayer Spaces – Pray for the children of Four Marks School visiting their prayer space next week. Pray for encounters with God through prayer.

Liesbeth – Liesbeth Chambers has passed away. Please hold her family and friends in your prayers as they grieve.

Young Couple – Pray for peace and comfort for a a young couple who have had to terminate a pregnancy due to the baby's heart condition.

J – Pray for strength, support and healing for J, who has liver cancer. Pray for any treatment she may be able to undergo..

Church Finances – Pray for our church finances and the projected deficit. Pray for the PCC to be good stewards of the resources God has given us. Pray that we can be faithful to God's calling even where we see challenges.

Howard's Study Leave — Pray for a fruitful and restorative time for Howard. Pray for the church leaders and the congregation in his absence, for our growth (in faith and in mission).

Carmen – Has finished her course of chemotherapy and has now begun radiotherapy. Pray the cancer will be killed and pray for Carmen and her family.



Easter COGS Club will be on Saturday 4th April this year! Please save the date and speak to Lorna if you would like to be on team We do not take offerings at our services. Our preferred method of financial giving to continue the excellent work of Church is via Standing Order. Please contact the Church Office or our Treasurer,

Giving

David Craigen (01420 564152 or cogstreasurer@gmail.com) for more details or pick up a Standing Order Mandate at the back of the church. If you wish to make cash or cheque donations, please place in the receptacle. If you wish to donate online, these are our account details:

Acc No: 60003685. Sort Code: 60-01-13. Many thanks for your generosity.

Easter Holiday@Home Are you 'Over 60's and young at heart'?

We invite you join our Easter Holiday at Home, our free day on Tuesday, 24th March, 10.30 to 3.00, including a lunch.

Invitations cards are now available at COGS or for more information call 01420 560622.

Easter Holiday@Home

Due to Holidays and other commitments we are need helpers on Tuesday, 24th March 10.30 – 3.00. If you would like to join our enthusiastic Team, please contact Frank Maloney. frankjmaloney@hotmail.com

Come And Meet Each Other



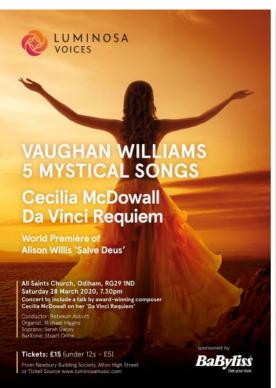
Ladies of all ages are invited to join with us for a special AFTERNOON TEA

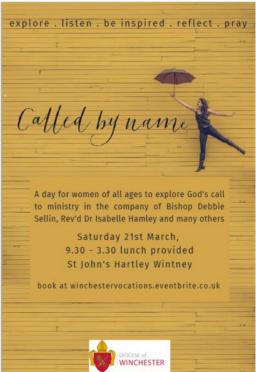
on
Saturday 21st March
3.00-5.00PM

Please Invite Your Friends and Neighbours!

Extra-articles Edition of Parish Magazine on the Website and Contributions Please for the Next Magazine. The magazine with extra pages is on the website and I encourage you to view it there.

Your contribution to the next magazine is invited and should reach Robert Parker (parker305@btinternet.com) not later than the 15th of the month. Thank you.







Audibility of Services

Do you have difficulty sometimes with the audibility of parts of our services? It's not a matter of loudness or of forgetting to wear your hearing aid, but of being able to distinguish the individual words. There have been enough comments for us to find out how widespread the problem is. If this means something to you please speak, in confidence, to one of us or email Chris at

c.kingsmith@btinternet.comLynn and Chris, Churchwardens

This is for you to bring along someone who wouldn't normally come to church



Holiday at Home

Please will you save the clear plastic, roundended 1 litre ice cream carton lids to be used as bases for small Easter gardens. Leave in the porch, or give to me. Thank you. **Elaine King-Smith**





Seeking willing Audio/Visual volunteers!

Our Sunday services couldn't happen without the amazing team of volunteers on the audio/visual desk. For some time now we have been shorthanded, and those on the rota have worked extra hard to ensure the roles are filled. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who feels they could help out in this area at the 9.30 or 7pm services. If this is something you would be interested to learn more about, please speak to Chris McGrath, Mark Hughes, or anyone on the desk. No previous experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn! Thank You

Chris McGrath.

07754 804786 chrismcgrath175@gmail.com 01420 564418

Message from Ali Beckett

I will be returning to Malawi on Monday 23rd March. Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support. Please pray for safe travel with Ethiopian Airlines.

Love Ali

PS - If you are able to donate any resources (a list of needed items was in last week's news sheet), please bring them to church. They will be sent in the next container. Thank you.

Easter Tea & Praise - Can you help?

Offers of cake, savouries, and help serving on the day would be welcomed.

Please speak to Anne Shaw.

If you are able to join our team of drivers, offering lifts to those who would otherwise not be able to make it along, please speak to John Yeadon.



Festivals this summer

For more information search online, or speak to Jane



Small Group Notes – 15th March 2020 | Gifted – Faithful Stewards

1 Peter 4:7-11 Matthew 19:23-30

Our western culture tends to equate money with love and happiness, but whilst love and happiness might go together, money won't buy you love nor will money necessarily make you happy. Do you agree? Does money create a (false) dependence? Might materialism be a factor in society's apparent lack of need of, belief in, God?

Peter writes as he does because we are in the end times, so there is an urgency to his message – an urgency for us. Are we urgent in living our lives for God?

Have you noticed how, in 1 Peter 4, Peter writes of Spiritual Gifts — even if not to the extent of Paul in, say, 1 Cor 12 or Romans 12? He lists only two broad categories of ministry: speaking, and serving but these gifts of the spirit are to focus not on ourselves, but on God and on others. Peter would have us look to the Lord for the gifts we need to serve him, and to serve others, in his name. As you discuss spiritual gifts do you think they are given to serve the purpose of God and his church — or for your own purpose, self-fulfilment, your own relationship with God, your standing in the church? Peter's message is that gifts are given for the service of God and to bring glory to God.

The Christian is to grow in Christ, in knowledge of God, and in so doing discover more how God's love can transform your life and the lives of those around you. Isn't that, after all, what we're here for? Do we really grasp the enormity of God's love, the power of his love to transform?

Read Eph 3: 16-19 and reflect on how wide is that love of God, who is love. Turn to 1 Cor 13: 4-8. Read it as written - 'Love is' Then read it again but substituting 'Jesus is' Jesus commands us to love as he loves. Now read that passage again substituting 'I am.....' etc. Is that easy?

Love covers a multitude of sins. Read the Lord's Prayer. 'Forgive us ... as we forgive ...' Do we gain our forgiveness by forgiving others? Or is our forgiving the result of our being forgiven? Can our love imitate the mercy of God, can our love forgive?

Serving. Jesus' portrayed his love, his service, when he washed feet. Might we offer this service to one another on Maundy Thursday? How humbling might that be?

Our lives are brief – and Peter reminds us the end of all things is near. This world won't last forever. Can we say we use our time well, offering hospitality without grumbling, using the gifts of his Holy Spirit, in the power of the Spirit, for the praise of God through Jesus Christ?

The asset manager's advert: 'Love is pointless. Love will not make you much money.' What might you say to someone who is standing next to you as you read that advert?

PRAYER and PASTORAL REQUESTS

If you have any prayer requests for the prayer chain, please email or ring the Church Office on 01420 560622, Alan Thain (01420 85185), or Howard Wright on 01420 563344.

If it would be helpful for a member of the pastoral visiting team to call on you, please contact Howard, Debbie Norgate (01420 84534) or Gilly Cobb (01420 544404).



Ministers: All of Us Together

Vicar: Howard Wright (on study leave until 4th May)

Contact our Church Wardens

Dr Chris King-Smith: c.kingsmith@btinternet.com

Mrs Lynn Vine: lynn.vine@live.co.uk

Youth & Children's Worker: Lorna Littlewood

Tel: 07914 519998

Email: lorna.cogs@gmail.com

Family Worker: Jane Hughes

Tel: 07711 407831 Email: Jane COGS@btinternet.com

Church Office: Matt Senior Tel: 01420 560622

Email: cogsoffice@googlemail.com

Send Sunday Sheet items to the church office before end of day on Wednesday



Everyone is welcome to join us for a chat and tea/coffee between morning services or before the 7pm service For communion, gluten-free wafers are available and there is a chalice with non-alcoholic wine. Please ask when you come forward if you would like to take these.

MISSION OF THE MONTH - March

Tearfund

"Tearfund believes that everyone has an amazing God-given potential to create change. We show people around the world how to unlock these gifts and put them to use escaping poverty."

www.tearfund.org

