

The Grapevine

COVERING THE CHURCHES OF
GREAT & LITTLE CHESTERFORD, LITTLEBURY WITH
LITTLEBURY GREEN, & WENDENS AMBO

Mothering Sunday

Collect

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 1.3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who 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. For just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so also our consolation is abundant through Christ. If 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. Our hope for you is unshaken; for we know that as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

Gospel: Luke 2.33-35

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Those who are unwell:

Margaret Reed (Great Chesterford)

Those who need our support:

Betty Dowsett (Littlebury Green)

Lucy Maskell (Great Chesterford)

Kylie Moore-Gilbert (in prison in Iran)

Friends and families of those who have died:

Those whose anniversaries fall this week

Other topics for your prayers:

- Those affected by the coronavirus and those caring for them in hospitals
- Our Team Ministry during the Team Rector vacancy and the appointment process
- The Rev Dr Caroline Curren as she is appointed Team Vicar with responsibility for Ashdon
- The world's resources and our stewardship of them
- Those missing loved ones who have died

TODAY Sunday 22nd March is a national day of prayer organised by The Churches Together in England. All are encouraged to pray wherever you are. You are invited to light a candle at 7pm and display it in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

THE TEAM RECTOR AND AREA DEAN VACANCY

The advertisement and profile are now on St Mary's website at www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/teamrectorvacancy. Denis

VICAR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

In these extraordinary times, when we are no longer meeting together, we have a new opportunity to learn what it means for us to be the Church in a different way. Church is not dead because we cannot meet together. We are still the Body of Christ.

In their letter, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York encourage us: "*We urge you sisters and brothers to become a different sort of church in these coming months: hopeful and rooted in the offering of prayer and praise and overflowing in service to the world.*"

We are people of hope. Let us turn to God at this time and take comfort from the words of Psalm 46.1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

When all around us seems to be crumbling, let us turn to God with renewed faith and pray for the needs of the world. Please do keep an eye on our website camvillages.org.uk and Facebook page www.facebook.com/saintmaryschurchsaffronwalden during this time as we post resources for prayer and worship, and please do offer practical and prayer support where possible. All our churches will try to remain open as much as possible for personal prayer and reflection.

On a more personal note, during this time I will be praying each day at 11 am at All Saints, Great Chesterford. Please pray with me either at home or by coming to the church and sitting at a safe distance apart. You can reach me in the usual ways of email (vicar.camvillages@gmail.com) or by phone and please let me know how I can be praying for you in this time.

With love and prayers, Alex

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday Worship for the 5 Churches

via our website

www.camvillages.org.uk

from there go to
resources for church at home

and from there to
online services

And you're there!

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER

Great Chesterford's

Good Neighbours Action Group

Residents of Great Chesterford should have already received a flyer with details of support that can be offered by the Group's volunteers and others. For those who may have other needs there are also details of how to get in touch with the Action Group.

PARISH OFFICE From Monday 23rd March, Dawn will be working from home. She will be accessing telephone and email messages as usual but the office itself will not be open. There is lots of useful information on the church websites www.camvillages.org.uk and www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org

CHURCHES OPEN DURING THE DAY

These churches will be open for personal prayer

All Saints, Great Chesterford

Holy Trinity, Littlebury

St Mary the Virgin, Wendens Ambo

St Peter, Littlebury Green

PLANNED GIVING

Those who support All Saints, Great Chesterford through the weekly envelope scheme can help their giving get to the bank account by dropping their filled envelopes through the treasurer's letterbox at 3 Haggars Close.

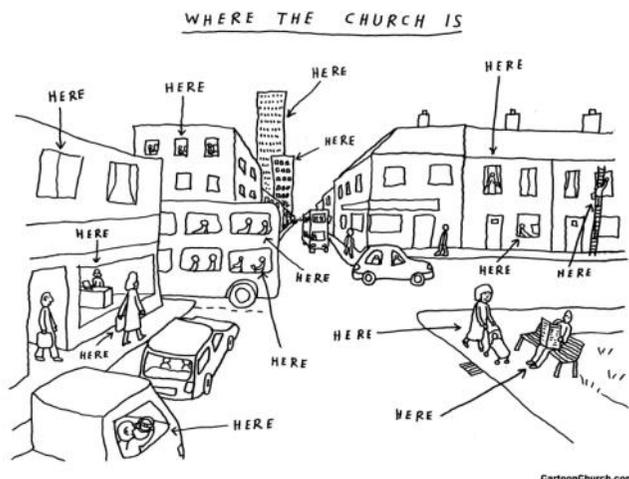
EVENTS

Please note that all events planned or previously mentioned in the Grapevine have had to be suspended as are the regular activities in our churches.

THE TRANSITION PROJECT

Whilst the Tuesday clinic is suspended on line support continues – *contact us at* www.transitionproject.co.uk

CARTOON BY DAVE WALKER



REFLECTIONS

Simeon and Anna have been waiting expectantly for hope in a world where suffering has become a way of life. The hope they have been longing for is now before them in the Christ-child... but this does not mean the end of suffering. Instead, it seems that this child of hope will deal with the suffering by sharing it himself.

Paul picks up this theme in his letter which is a moving reflection on his own recent suffering and how it has deepened his faith. He is resolute that God is the God of all consolation, offering us consolation that we can in turn offer to others. For Paul, there is no such thing as an isolated individual.

Consolation is given that it may be given away again, and the source of all comfort is God's own Self. We can take heart that there is nothing we will be asked to endure that God has not already sent Jesus to endure for us.

Going deeper

The word Paul uses for consolation is *paraklesis* which literally means a calling to one's aid.

N.T. Wright says:

"The whole idea of the word is that one person is being with another, speaking words which change their mood and situation, giving them courage, new hope, new direction, new insights which will alter the way they face the next moment, the next day, the rest of their life... It meets people where they are, and brings them right on to the point where they are strong enough to see new hope, new possibilities, new ways forward."

OUR CHURCHES' DIARY

TODAY MOTHERING SUNDAY 22nd March

NO SERVICES

Alex will be in church at 11.00 am at Great Chesterford

Tim will be in church at 9.30 am at Wendens Ambo

Tim will be in church at 11.00 am at Littlebury

THIS WEEK

Alex will be in church at 11.00 am each day

NEXT SUNDAY LENT 5 29th March

NO SERVICES

MINISTRY TEAM

Team Vicar:

Revd Alex Jeewan 01799 531153

email: vicar.camvillages@gmail.com

Revd Tim Hardingham 01799 542874

Revd John Risby

Revd Angela Want

Elizabeth Marshall 01799 530265

Cam Villages Website: www.camvillages.org.uk

Team Rector: Position vacant

Rector's Secretary:

Email: secretary@stmaryssaffronwalden.org

Parish Office

01799 506024