

Prom Praise at the Albert Hall May 5th 2018. If there is enough interest from St Mary's congregation and friends, I am happy to book and organise a coach as in previous years. Please contact me, either in church, mobile 07780918596 or email, casandclive@btinternet.com. I will need a £20 deposit per ticket before I book. Caroline Ashcroft

Tombola – Denham Fayre. Collection for the Tombola at the Denham Fayre has begun. Please place any unwanted gifts which are in good condition in the Tombola Box at the back of the church. Many thanks.

Lent Course: "Exploring the Beatitudes"
In Matthew 5 Jesus challenges his followers to live distinctive lives, marked by contemplation, compassion and courage. In this three-week course we will reflect on Jesus' words and what they mean for us today. **Thursday 8th, 15th and 22nd of March**, always 11am-12noon, St Mary's Vestry. To sign up, please contact our church office or sign up at the back.

Please pick up a #LiveLent flyer at the back of church, with all special events and services during Lent and Easter. **Who could you invite to come to church with you?** To sign up for daily #LiveLent reflections go to www.churchofengland.org/lent or download the #LiveLent app for your mobile device.

Hymn

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us all.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us all.

2. Christ, have mercy...
3. Lord, have mercy...

Monday 26th February
10.00am Lifegroup for Women.
The Rectory
10.30am Holy Communion.
Denham Garden Village
7.30pm NO Evening Prayer at St Mark's
8.00pm Start! Course. Session 4.

St Mark's
Wednesday 28th February
10.00am Little Lions Toddler Group
St Mark's

Thursday 29th February
10.00am Holy Communion. BCP.
St Mary's Vestry

Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) - Electoral Roll 2018

This year's Electoral Roll registration will be a revised version of 2017. If there are any changes to your details, please complete a new form which is available at the main entrance (by the internal post tray) of the Church or from Maurice Litchmore at maurl@btinternet.com. **Anyone who has been attending St Mary's for at least 6 months may apply to become a member of the Church** which will enable you to vote at the APCM. Completed application forms should be returned by 3 March 2018.

Exploring Confirmation

Are you interested in being confirmed (or baptised and confirmed)? Here are two opportunities:
(1) Confirmation Service at St James Gerrards Cross with Bishop John Went: Easter Sunday (1st April), 6.30pm.
(2) At Café Church (first Sunday of the month, 3.30pm, St Mark's) we are starting a new teaching series on the meaning of baptism and confirmation from March. This is an ideal preparation for a later confirmation date. Please speak to Christoph if you are interested.



PAROUSIA

Weekly News Sheet

25th February 2018

The Second Sunday of Lent

Welcome to church! If you are here for the first time or visiting, please say hello to the service leader or a member of the welcome team so we can welcome you personally. During the 10.30 service there is a Sunday Club for children. If your child is under three or if you would like to help him/her settle, you are welcome to join in.
Christoph Lindner, Rector



New City Catechism - Part 1: God, Creation & Fall, Law

Question 13:

Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly?

Since the fall, no mere human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly, but consistently breaks it in thought, word, and deed.

Romans 3:23: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Commentary:

God created us to love, enjoy, glorify, and obey him, and in so doing, flourish as human beings. Why then do we struggle so much to do that? Like an incredibly sophisticated piece of machinery that's broken, we don't operate the way we were designed to because of the fall. What's the fall? God created humans with the capacity to keep his law perfectly, but that was lost when the human race, represented by Adam, chose to rebel and disobey God. The Bible describes that condition in a variety of ways—spiritual rebellion, blindness, illness, bondage, and death.

How does it affect us today? We're estranged from our Creator, from one another, and from the rest of creation. In this spiritually disabled condition, we're unable to obey God's law not only in our actions and words, but even in our thoughts, attitudes, and motivations. As the prophet Jeremiah put it, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" (17:19).

That's very discouraging, of course, to contemplate, but it's not the end of the story; it's just the beginning. It's the bad news that stands as the backdrop for the spectacularly good news of the gospel, which brings life and hope. Though we're unable to keep the law of God perfectly, there is One who kept the law perfectly for us. Jesus faithfully obeyed his Father, even to the point of death on the cross, so that we who trust alone in him might no longer live under the guilt, power, and bondage of sin but be set free. Jesus said, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). And though we fell in Adam, we have been raised with Christ. We're confident that the God who raised Jesus from the dead is lovingly at work in us and won't let us go until the day when he will bring us into his everlasting presence in glory where we will no longer struggle. (*Leo Schuster*)

Prayer: Holy God, left to our own devices, we transgress your law at every turn. We have no defence, but must plead guilty before your throne of judgment. Your law condemns us and cuts through our pretensions to righteousness, convincing us that we desperately need a Saviour. Amen.

(The complete *New City Catechism* is available as a book, a free app or at newcitycatechism.com)

Worship Today



2nd Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion *St Mary's*

Sidesman: Carlene Litchmore

Reader: Mary / Roger Gage

Readings: 1. Thess. 4.1-8

Matt. 15. 21-28

9.55-10.00 Pre-service Prayer

St Mary's, front of church

10.30am Sung Communion

St Mary's with Sunday club for children

Journey to the Cross: Trial

Sidesmen: Rosemary & Robin Doran

Readings and readers:

1 Peter 3. 13-18a

Beverley Gray

Mark 14.53-65

Robert Ash

Prayers: Carole Wadlow

Servers: Michael Carmody & Janet Allen

Sunday Club Leader: Edda Lindner

4.00pm Messy Church for Families:

Jesus, the teacher

St Mark's Denham Green

Collect

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord

Post Communion

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Before the throne of God above

I have a strong and perfect plea
A great High Priest whose name is Love
Who ever lives and pleads for me
My name is graven on His hands
My name is written on His heart
I know that while in heav'n He stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart
No tongue can bid me thence depart

When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin
Because the sinless Saviour died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me
To look on Him and pardon me

Behold Him there the risen Lamb
My perfect spotless righteousness
The great unchangeable I Am
The King of glory and of grace
One with my Lord I cannot die
My soul is purchased by His blood
My life is hid with Christ on high
With Christ my Saviour and my God
With Christ my Saviour and my God

1 Peter 3. 13-18a

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. >>

<< For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

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Mark 14.53-65

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'" Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" The guards also took him over and beat him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sunday 4th March 3rd Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion *St Mary's*

Sidesman: Philip Constable

Reader: Alison Barrett

Readings: Ephes. 5.1-14

Luke 11. 14-28

9.55-10.00 Pre-service Prayer

St Mary's, front of church

10.30am Morning Worship

St Mary's with Sunday club for children

Journey to the Cross: Denial

Sidesmen: Sam Carter & Victoria Lucas

Readings and readers:

1 Cor 1. 18-25

Harry Williams

Mark 14.66-72

Freddie Hoare

Prayers: Ann Collins

Sunday Club Leader: Edda Lindner

3.30pm Café Church:

Exploring the meaning of baptism and confirmation.

Part 1: "Do you turn to Christ?"

St Mark's Denham Green

In your prayers this week, please remember **Ethel White, Thelma Mann, Peggy Wasley and Christine Willson.**

Also anyone known to us who is sick or suffering the pain of bereavement at this time especially the family of **Barry Hinton, Nicholas Quinton, Muriel Senior and Ernest Smith.**

