

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” STARTS THIS WEEK!

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.

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 **TODAY**. This is an ideal preparation for a later confirmation date. Please speak to Christoph if you are interested in being baptised or confirmed.

Monday 5th March

10.00am Lifegroup for Women.
The Rectory

7.30pm **NO Evening Prayer** at St Mark’s

8.00pm Start! Course. Session 5.
St Mark’s

Tuesday 6th March

10.00am Service with Discussion Group
St Francis Chapel

7.45pm PCC Meeting *St Francis Chapel*

Wednesday 7th March

10.00am Little Lions Toddler Group
St Mark’s

Thursday 8th March

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 ASAP.

VISION RESPONSE

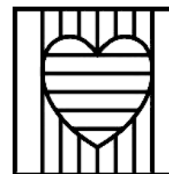
What are your thoughts about our vision to pray, welcome and share like Jesus? Which one step could you take? There is still time to fill in a vision response form. They are available at the back. When you are done, post it in the ‘letterbox’ in the entrance area or send it to our church office.



PAROUSIA
Weekly News Sheet
4th March 2018
The Third 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 15:

Since no one can keep the law, what is its purpose?

That we may know the holy nature of God, and the sinful nature of our hearts; and thus our need of a Saviour.

The law also teaches and exhorts us to live a life worthy of our Saviour.

Romans 3.20

For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Commentary:

The law of God helps us to know God, know ourselves, know our need. *It helps us to know God* because it specifically reveals his character and his attributes, his holy will, what he’s like. Paul tells us in Romans 1 that everyone knows right and wrong. But the law of God very specifically reveals to us God’s character and his own moral qualities. Morality is not arbitrary. All morality is rooted in God’s character. And when we study the law, we see a display of God’s character. *God’s law also reveals to us ourselves*, especially our sinful nature, our inclination to sin. When Jesus is talking to the rich young ruler, he says, “Go, sell what you possess, and give to the poor” (Matt. 19:21). And the rich young ruler essentially says to Jesus, “I can’t.” And he walks away sadly. The first commandment is to “have no other gods before me.” And Jesus is saying to the rich young ruler, “What’s it going to be? Your money, your possessions, or me, God?” *Thirdly, the law helps us to understand our need.* When we know who God is, and we know that we don’t measure up to his morality and character, when we know who we are, and we know the sinful inclinations of our hearts, it presses us to Jesus, because we know that we have need of a Saviour. And the Saviour has fulfilled that law. He’s obeyed it perfectly. (*Ligon Duncan*)

Prayer: Giver of All Good Gifts, your law reveals to us what is just. Though it condemns us, through it we know how great is your holiness and how perfect is your Son. Though we fall short, may we always give you thanks and praise for your law and rejoice that we have a Saviour. Amen.

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

Worship Today



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 Family Service

St Mary's with Sunday club for children

Journey to the Cross: Denial

Sidesmen: Sam Carter & Maurice Litchmore

Readings and readers:

1 Cor 1. 18-25 Harry Williams

Mark 14.66-72 Freddie Hoare

Prayers: Clergy

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

Collect

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Cor 1. 18-25

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Mark 14.66-72

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by.

⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, 'You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.' ⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, 'I do not know or understand what you are talking about.' And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. ⁶⁹And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, 'This man is one of them.'

⁷⁰But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, 'Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.'

⁷¹But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know this man you are talking about.'

⁷²At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Thanksgiving of Addiena and Gwilym

God our creator, we thank you for the wonder of new life (...)

We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

When both the children have been prayed for:

All: May they learn to love all that is true, grow in wisdom and strength and, in due time, come through faith and baptism to the fullness of your grace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Will you do all that you can to help and support this family?

All: With the help of God, we will.

God our creator, we thank you for the gift of these children, entrusted to our care.

May we be patient and understanding, ready to guide and to forgive, so that through our love they may come to know your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grace unmeasured vast and free

That knew me from eternity
That called me out before my birth
To bring You glory on this earth
Grace amazing pure and deep
That saw me in my misery
That took my curse and owned my blame
So I could bear Your righteous name

*Grace (grace, grace) paid for my sins,
And brought me to life*

*Grace (grace, grace) clothes me with power
To do what is right*

*Grace (grace, grace) will lead me to heaven
Where I'll see Your face*

And never cease to thank You for Your grace

Grace abounding strong and true
That makes me long to be like You
That turns me from my selfish pride
To love the cross on which You died
Grace unending all my days
You'll give me strength to run this race
And when my years on earth are through
The praise will all belong to You

Mothering Sunday 11th March 4th Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion *St Mary's*

Sidesman: Carlene Litchmore

Reader: Roger Gage

Readings: Gal. 4. 21-end

John 6. 1-14

9.55-10.00 Pre-service Prayer

St Mary's, front of church

10.30am Mothering Sunday Family Service

St Mary's with Sunday club for children

Sidesmen: Brian & Heather O'Regan

Readings and readers:

1 Samuel 3. 20-28

Rebecca Hearnden-Smith

Prayers: Ann Collins



Thank God
for Mums!

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 **Nicholas Quinton, Muriel Senior and Ernest Smith.**

