

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES IN CHURCH AND ONLINE

The following services are available across the team - full details on the website and email bulletin.

SUNDAY 21ST MARCH

St Mary's Saffron Walden - in Church, YouTube & Zoom
10.00am Holy Communion President: Jeremy Trew

St Botolph's Hadstock - in Church
9.30am Holy Communion President: Paula Griffiths

All Saints Ashdon - in Church
9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren

All Saints' Wimbish - Zoom
9.15am Holy Communion President: John Saxon
Preacher: Hilary Walker

Cam Villages - Zoom
10.00am Morning Prayer Leader: Alex Jeewan
Preacher: Alan Curren

TUESDAY

5.00pm Evening Prayer
Zoom Leader: Alan Curren

WEDNESDAY

9.30am Holy Communion
Zoom President: Paula Griffiths

NEXT SUNDAY 28TH MARCH PALM SUNDAY SERVICES IN CHURCH AND ONLINE (NB. Clocks go forward today)

St Mary's Saffron Walden - in Church & on YouTube/Zoom
10.00am Holy Communion + Passion Reading - *Mark*
President: Jeremy Trew
6.30pm Reflection - Words & Music - **YouTube only**

St James' Swards End - Zoom
9.30am Simple Communion President: Chris Bishop

St Botolph's Hadstock - in Church
9.30am Holy Communion + Passion Reading - *Mark*
President: Paula Griffiths

All Saints Ashdon - in Church
9.30am Holy Communion + Passion Reading - *Mark*
President: Caroline Curren

St Mary's Debden/All Saints' Wimbish - Zoom
9.15am Palm Sunday Service + Passion Reading - *Mark*
Leader: John Saxon

Cam Villages - Zoom (limited space Wendens Ambo Church)
10.00am Holy Communion + Passion Reading - *Mark*
President: Alex Jeewan

Full details of Holy Week and Easter Services at St Mary's SW are available on the website

See St Mary's Church, SW, website at www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org to find out more.



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The Grapevine

COVERING THE PARISHES OF SAFFRON WALDEN,
WIMBISH, DEBDEN, ASHDON AND HADSTOCK

Welcome to our services today
Fifth Sunday of Lent
21st March 2021

Collect

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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: *Hebrews 5.5-10*

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as he says also in another place, 'You are a priest for ever, according to the order of Melchizedek.' In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Gospel: *John 12.20-33*

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. 'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say – "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

In March please pray for: **Abbey Lane & Newport United Reformed Church, incorporating the Methodist Church, Dame Bradbury's School**
The family and friends of those who have died recently:
Malcolm Lee, David Simms, Mary Smallwood, Joan Cowley, Hilary Parry-Jones

REFLECTIONS

Nicholas King, in his commentary on the New Testament, begins his thoughts on Hebrews by saying, *"Hebrews is a letter that many readers tend to skip, perhaps fearful of what seems like difficult argumentation..... Try to think of it as telling its readers that 'Jesus is the real thing'.* That is a good place to start and it is summed up in the words we read, *'having been made perfect' (v9)."*

It has always helped me, when thinking of Jesus, to think of the word 'maturity' for, as mature man, that is how we should measure ourselves up against him, as his followers. When we do that, we can honestly see ourselves more as argumentative adolescents with all the mixed up feelings that come with growing up. With the message of this letter to the Hebrews ringing in our ears, especially the image of Melchisedek, what we are told is, 'that Jesus is superior to what has gone before - the radical novelty of what God has done in Jesus'.

What I love about the passage from John is the way the drama that's unfolding, in the words Jesus is saying, is introduced by a very pedestrian passage about some Greeks who would like to be introduced to Jesus. This, we read, is done through the mediation of, first, Philip then Andrew and, then, both Andrew and Philip tell Jesus he has visitors. I wonder what message, what good news, those Greeks took home with them and whether they, too, became 'disciples' in a new land?

With love and prayers in these different times,
Chris Bishop

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

'Teach me, my God and King, in all things thee to see,
and what I do in anything, to do it as for thee.'
(George Herbert)

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 22nd	Morning Psalm 73 & John 11:28-44 Evening Psalm 26
Tue 23rd	Morning Psalm 35 & John 11:45-end Evening Psalm 61 & Hebrews 11:32-12.2
Wed 24th	Morning Psalm 55 & John 12:1-11 Evening Psalm 85
Thurs 25th	Morning Psalm 86 & Romans 5:12-end Evening Psalm 131
Fri 26th	Morning Psalm 22 & John 12:20-36a Evening Psalm 31
Sat 27th	Morning Psalm 23 & John 12:36b-end Evening Psalm 130

NEWS

REOPENING OUR CHURCHES St Mary's, Saffron Walden and some of the village churches are now open for restricted congregations at Sunday services. Please check the table of services for details. If you wish to attend St Mary's in person, please book your place in advance by telephoning the Parish Office by noon on Friday or by booking online using the bulletin link.

PRIVATE PRAYER St Mary's, Saffron Walden is open on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons from 2pm - 4pm. Ashdon is open every day and Hadstock is open by appointment.

SERVICES AVAILABLE ONLINE are listed on the back page and in the weekly bulletin. Zoom services can be accessed by telephone - please contact the Parish Office for further details.

ELECTORAL ROLL Now would be a very good time to join the electoral roll **if you are not already enrolled**. The roll is being revised between 28th March and 10th April 2021 before the annual meetings on 25th April 2021. As well as a confirmation of your commitment to the church community, membership enables you to vote and stand for election at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Application forms are available from, and should be returned to, electoralroll@stmaryssaffronwalden.org or the Parish Office or can be downloaded from www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/electoralroll. No additions can be made to the roll between the completion of the revision and the end of the annual meetings. *Clifford Want*

WEEKEND AWAY - BELSEY BRIDGE Our Weekend Away in July has had to be cancelled as Belsey Bridge is not reopening until August. However, it has been rebooked for **27 - 29 May 2022**. Please go to St Mary's website www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/WA22 or telephone me for more details. *Sarah (01799 584617)*

PARISH OFFICE HOURS The Parish Administrator is available by phone or email on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am - 12 noon. The office is not currently open to personal callers.

Please send items for the **GRAPEVINE** to secretary.swrectory@ntlworld.com by 9.00am on Wednesday.

MINISTRY TEAM

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Revd Paula Griffiths	01799 599141
Revd Alex Jeewan	01799 531153
Revd John Saxon	01799 541619
Revd Dr Caroline Curren	01799 584839