



Newsletter



April 2020

30p

April Calendar

As a result of the restrictions announced on 23rd March, there are no services at all in church: we will try to let everyone know when services resume but we don't know when that will be. During these times, Fr Dane will celebrate Mass **each day** privately at home at 10am (only Sundays are highlighted in the calendar, below) you are welcome to say your own prayers at that time so that we are united.

5 Palm Sunday Fr Dane will celebrate Mass privately, 10am

- 6 Monday in Holy Week
- 7 Tuesday in Holy Week
- 8 Wednesday in Holy Week

THE EASTER TRIDUUM / THE GREAT THREE DAYS

- 9 MAUNDY THURSDAY
- 10 GOOD FRIDAY
- 11 HOLY SATURDAY

12 EASTER DAY Fr Dane will celebrate Mass privately, 10am

- 13 EASTER MONDAY
- 14 EASTER TUESDAY
- 15 EASTER WEDNESDAY
- 16 EASTER THURSDAY
- 17 EASTER FRIDAY
- 18 EASTER SATURDAY

19 Second Sunday of Easter

Fr Dane will celebrate Mass privately, 10am

Government restrictions may be easing by this point. Prayers ascending.....

- 23 Thu S GEORGE
- 25 Sat S Mark the Evangelist

26 Third Sunday of Easter

Fr Dane will celebrate Mass privately, 10am

- 29 Wed S Catherine of Siena

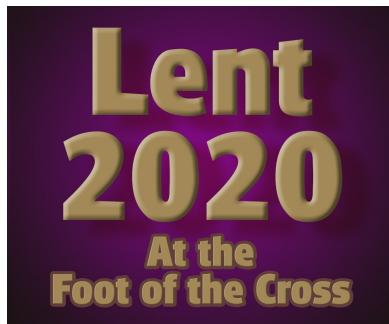
On Monday 23rd March, the UK government announced that the only reasons UK citizens could leave their homes is

- ◊ to shop for essentials,
 - ◊ to collect medicines from a pharmacy,
 - ◊ for one period of walking, cycling or running each day
- and—if necessary to society—**
- ◊ to work.

Places of worship were closed by the government.

St Mary's Church & Churchyard is a place of worship and so we are closed until further notice.

Tending graves, laying flowers, mowing grass are not included in any of the essential activities laid out in the government's national emergency guidelines so accordingly the churchyard is not available for these purposes during the emergency.



Services in church may have come to a temporary halt, but our observance of Lent doesn't stop!

This Newsletter, not having anything to publicize, includes devotional material to help you say some prayers as we prepare to celebrate the most important period of the church's year: the lead-up to Easter and then to welcome the Lord's resurrection with mind and heart renewed.

Whether or not we are in church together, the Lord's rising from the dead can still empower you to a new life in Him.

People News

Good to welcome back **Kevin & Sandra Merrick**, (from Gran Canaria) and **Janet Kitchener** (from Australia) all of whom are now self-isolating on top of all the national conditions already imposed. Our love and best wishes to them all-and our relief that they're back among us.

In our family of faith there were some birthdays in the first few days of UK-wide lockdown including, but not limited to:

Bob Jones
Joyce Waine
Yvonne Myers

RIP

Gwen Luffman

Gwen was a regular, a huge supporter of services and socials, a thoughtful and prayerful companion.

It was with huge shock that we heard she had died on Tuesday 10th March for she had been apparently healthy in the days leading up to this.

Her funeral is at 1pm on Monday 30th March at Medway Crematorium. We shall have a Requiem Mass for her as soon as we're able.

A Prayer for those celebrating birthdays

Heavenly Father
whose delight in creation is all around us
and worthy of all praise:

hear our prayers for your servant **N**
for the celebration of their birthday.

Grant them grace and love, kindness and faith
all the days of their life.

And just as you brought them safely into this life,
so let them praise you for ever in that kingdom which has no end
which we enter through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ,
through whom we make our prayer

Amen.

Vicar's Note

I don't normally write like this: partly because I write the whole Newsletter, so the whole thing could be regarded as a note but also because I'd prefer to prompt thoughts throughout, rather than address from a Newsletter as I do in a sermon.

The situation that we face is very serious. Not for a hundred years has it been the lot of a parish priest to say to his people 'many people will die and we do not yet know who they will be.' The virus is no respecter of persons nor of their importance nor of the amount those persons are loved. As I write this, more than 1,000 people had died in the UK in total, with 260 having died in the previous 24 hours.

The scientists are developing skills and tests at a furious pace, and we should be praying for them and thanking God that He has given us so many advantages compared with previous generations. We not only understand what is attacking us, we know how it is spread and what its vulnerabilities are, and how our vulnerabilities enable it to take root within us. No generation before us has ever had such an understanding of a pandemic. No generation before us has had the ability to stay in contact as we have. No generation before us has had the infrastructure within society to withstand such an overwhelming force.

Our response to the government's rules and regulations must be to put the needs of our community before our personal preferences. Deciding to ignore the rules is selfish and wholly unnecessary. Our God has given us the ability to respond to this threat and, as faithful members of the Body of Christ, we have a duty to respond properly for the benefit of all.

It can be helpful to have a regular structure of prayer and of contact with others to reduce any sense of isolation: do not be afraid to telephone friends, families and neighbours. Don't be backwards in coming forwards if you need help. Develop a daily pattern of prayer and don't be afraid of trying new prayers! With my prayers and my blessing,

Father Dane.

Prayers in the Morning

O Lord, ✕ open my lips
And my mouth shall declare
your praise.

Examination of Conscience

Prepare for this new day with a readiness to see God in others and to serve Him in them. Think of the ways that you sometimes fall into sin and ask for strength to withstand temptation. After you have done this:

Have mercy on me, O Lord.
for I have sinned against you.

Show me, O Lord, your mercy.
And grant me your salvation.

Grant, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Psalm

Psalm 95, this one or another of your choice:

O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanks-giving: and shew ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God: and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth: and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it:

and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down: and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God: and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts: as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness;

When your fathers tempted me: proved me, and saw my works.

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said: It is a people that do err in their hearts, for they have not known my ways;

Unto whom I sware in my wrath: that they should not enter into my rest.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end.

Amen.

Short Reading

Nehemiah 8: 9, 10
or another of your choice.

This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.

Reflection

As we begin our day, O Lord, so let us rejoice in your care and seek to share your love.

Gospel Canticle—Benedictus

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel! He has visited his people and redeemed them.

He has raised up for us a mighty saviour, in the house of David his servant, as he promised by the lips of holy men, those who were his prophets from of old.

A saviour who would free us from our foes, from the hands of all who hate us. So his love for our fathers is fulfilled and his holy covenant remembered.

He swore to Abraham our father to grant us, that free from fear, and saved from the hands of our foes, we might serve him in holiness and justice all the days of our life in his presence.

As for you, little child, you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High. You shall go ahead

of the Lord to prepare his ways before him, to make known to his people their salvation through forgiveness of all their sins, the loving-kindness of the heart of our God who visits us like the dawn from on high.

He will give light to those in darkness, those who dwell in the shadow of death, and guide us into the way of peace.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Private Prayers

Give God thanks and praise for the gift of this new day, ask Him to help and guide all you now commit to His care; remember to pray for those who have died.

Final Prayer

O God whose good Providence guides us: hear us, have mercy on us and keep us safe throughout this new day. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

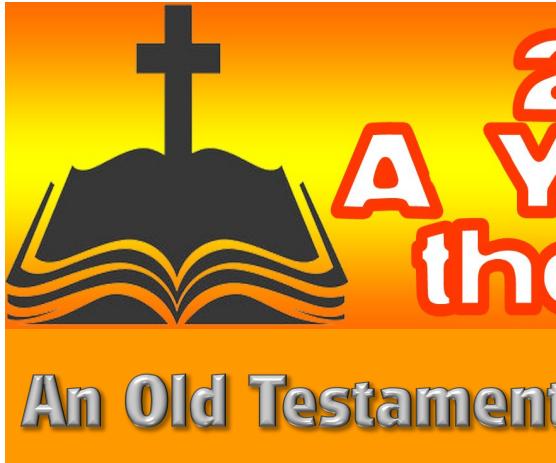
Isaiah is quite a complicated book but we hear a lot from it throughout the year, especially during Passontide - that's the period from the fifth Sunday in Lent through Holy Week until the Easter Triduum (the Great Three Days) begins.

We find Isaiah—or echoes of it—quoted all through the New Testament and although some of it is devoted to punishment for those who stray, much of it also considers the rewards for God's people who return to him after sinning and repenting of that sin.

Probably composed over the course of two or three centuries, Isaiah isn't a single prophecy with a single directing mind, but is instead a collection of texts many of which are intended to provoke a sense of absolute trust in God the Father.

It will come as little surprise to many at St Mary's to learn that Biblical scholars have some difficulty and disagreement over Isaiah.

The book seems to fall into three parts: the first (chapters 1-39) covers a set of threats to Jerusalem and the Jewish



people, but they cover quite a long period—maybe 30 or 40 years apart and two different Assyrian campaigns against the people of God. The central section, chapters 40-55, form a very coherent whole with (so scholars say) a consistent use of Hebrew. Chapters 40-48 deal with the lead up to the Babylonian exile with chapters 49-55 focussing on the triumphant return to Jerusalem. It is from this section that the Suffering Servant poems are drawn which Christians have so often identified with the sufferings of Christ.

The final section, chapters 56-66, are not a complete section but instead a series of revelations—well, complaints really—about the behaviour of God's people both before and

2020 Year for the Bible

At Example: Isaiah

after the Babylonian exile and the Jerusalem restoration. There is less of a firm narrative flavour here and these chapters are more disjointed when read carefully. But all these sections are not clear-cut and there is some ‘fuzziness’ about them.

Some scholars say that the newest chapters of the book are 24-27 and 34-35 as both sections share a lot of similarities with the apocalyptic writings which were common and popular in the five centuries before the birth of Christ. This apocalyptic literature was reflected in the Book of Revelation, or the Apocalypse as it is also called, in the New Testament.

The writing in Isaiah varies from the visions of the man

called Isaiah, through detailed descriptions of the disobedient and strong-willed people who were called to repent but repeatedly failed to do any such thing. There are strong words for those who will not draw close to the God whose only desire is to save them from themselves and the sin to which they so stubbornly cling.

There are warnings, cajolings, descriptions of terror and delighted victories.

Running all the way through is a sense of God’s frustration at human obstinacy and His constant love which wills only for us to be united with Him: body and soul in intent and for eternity.

If you decide to read the book, every now and again step back and ask yourself: where were we last chapter, and where have we moved to now? Sometimes the answer is we haven’t moved at all and sometimes we’ve moved on years. As you read it, ask yourself if Christ could have spoken the words we are hearing; often the answer is ‘yes’ and we can see why Christians have depended on Isaiah for centuries.

Prayers for the Evening

O Lord, ✕ open my lips
And my mouth shall declare
your praise.

Examination of Conscience

Look back upon the day and recognize when you have not served God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind. Think, too, of those times when you have not loved your neighbour as yourself After you have done this:

Have mercy on me, O Lord.
for I have sinned against you.
Show me, O Lord, your mercy.
And grant me your salvation.

Grant, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Psalm

*Some extracts from Psalm 91,
or one of your choice:*

Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the most High: shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say unto the Lord, Thou art my hope, and my stronghold: my God, in him will I trust.

For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter: and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under his feathers: his faith-

fulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night: nor for the arrow that flieth by day; For the pestilence that walketh in darkness: nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noon-day.

Thou, Lord, art my hope: thou hast set thine house of defence very high. There shall no evil happen unto thee: neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee: to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee in their hands: that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, there-fore will I deliver him: I will set him up, because he hath known my Name.

He shall call upon me, and I will hear him: yea, I am with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and bring him to honour. With long life will I satisfy him: and shew him my salvation.

Glory be to the Father, and to

the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end.
Amen.

Short Reading

*1 Corinthians 1:27-30
or one of your choice.*

To shame what is strong, God chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom.

Reflection

As we end our day, O Father, help us to rejoice in your presence and seek the peace, comfort and solace which can come only from you.

Gospel Canticle—Magnificat

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her lowliness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength and scatters the proud-hearted. He casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy, the mercy promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Private Prayers

Ask God to bless your friends and family and remember them by name. Bring before Him, and be thankful for, your blessings.

Final Prayer

O Father, whose profound love is a source of such comfort and blessing: watch over us all this night and every night. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Little Prayer Before Sleep

Preparation

O God come to our aid
O Lord, make haste to help us.
Glory be to the Father, and to
the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning is
now and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.

If you used the Examination of Conscience at Evening Prayer, go straight to the psalm, if not then insert that here.

The Psalm

Psalm 143, or one of your choice:

Lord, listen to my prayer:
turn your ear to my appeal.
You are faithful, you are just;
give answer.

Do not call your servant to
judgement for no one is just in
your sight. The enemy pursues
my soul; he has crushed my life
to the ground; he has made me
dwell in darkness like the dead,
long forgotten.

Therefore my spirit fails; my
heart is numb within me. I
remember the days that are
past: I ponder all your works.

I muse on what your hand has
wrought and to you I stretch out
my hands.

Like a parched land my soul
thirsts for you. Lord, make haste
and answer; for my spirit fails
within me.

Do not hide your face lest I
become like those in the grave.

In the morning let me know
your love for I put my trust in
you. Make me know the way I
should walk: to you I lift up my
soul.

Rescue me, Lord, from my
enemies; I have fled to you for
refuge. Teach me to do your will
for you, O Lord, are my God.

Let your good spirit guide me
in ways that are level and
smooth. For your name's sake,
Lord, save my life; in your
justice save my soul from
distress.

Glory be to the Father, and to
the Son and the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is
now and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen.

The Reading & Reflection

Revelation 22: 4 or one of your choice.

They will see the Lord face to
face and his name will be
written on their foreheads. It
will never be night again and
they will not need lamplight or
sunlight, because the Lord God
will be shining on them. They
will reign for ever and ever.

The Gospel Canticle— Nunc Dimittis

At last, all-powerful Master ✠ you give leave to your servant to go in peace, according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all nations, the light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, your people.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy

kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Final Prayer & Blessing

Visit, we pray you, Lord, this place and our homes driving far from us all the snares of the enemy. May your holy angels guard us in peace, and let your blessing be always upon us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord grant us a quiet night ✠ and a perfect end. Amen.

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April Anniversaries

- 1 Helen Smith, Clara Furby,
Rosemary Williams
- 2 Sarah Foster, John Pearce
- 2 Charles Nicholls
- 3 Gladys Kirkpatrick, Eric Bailey,
George Barnes, Vincent Merrick
- 4 Sarah Snell
- 5 Lil Bartlett, Agnes Wakefield
- 6 Frank Bowler, Hilda Giles,
Arthur Rosser
- 7 Edwin Lane, John Carr,
Edward Jennings
- 8 Emeline Lynch, Edith Willard,
Winnie Knight, Dorothy Carr
- 9 Edward Parham
- 10 Lavinia Groves, John Maguire
- 11 Alice Taff, Harriot Best-Dalison,
Adelaide Walker
- 12 Hubert Hunt, Terry Boswell
- 14 James Sanguine, Mary Butler,
Arthur Burrows, Pr
- 15 Arthur Herrington,
Arthur Petty, Carole Lamy
- 16 Arthur Fane, Gwynneth Jones
- 17 Violet Croucher, Ann Rogers
- 18 Annie Chown, Audrey Brundle,
Patricia Pettman,
Barbara Fabling,
Dilys Spearpoint
- 19 Susannah Cribb, Norah Dove,
Audrey Wright
- 20 Ernest Coote, Kenneth Grimes
- 22 Frederick Witt, Harry Lowe
- 23 Harry Burlace, Alan Booth
- 24 Winifred Bloomfield
- 25 Eileen Lawley
- 26 Edith Sweatman,
Thomas Taylor,
Brian Woods, Pr

- 27 Patrick Coates, Daisy Davis
- 28 Parker Curtiss, Pr
Frank Penny, Gladys Jackson
- 29 Charles Webb
- 30 Louise Scott

March Funerals

- 5th March
Maisie Cheriton
St Mary's Church & Churchyard
- 10th March
Ronald Seal
St Mary's Church & Churchyard
- 12th March
Phoebe Rickman
St Mary's Church
followed by Stone Cemetery
- 17th March
Joan Sherlock
Beckenham Crematorium
- 26th March
Pamela Saunders
Eltham Crematorium
- 30th March
Gwen Luffman
Medway Crematorium

Arrangements for Requiem Masses, funerals and memorial services in church will be made when we are able to use the church building once again.



**ST MARY THE VIRGIN,
SWANLEY**
is in the
**Diocese of
Rochester**
the **Archdeaconry of
Rochester**
and the **Deanery of
Dartford**

We are a
Forward in Faith
parish under the care of
The Right Reverend
Norman Banks
Bishop of Richborough

The right to present a priest
to be our Vicar when there is
a vacancy is held by the
parish patron, the Guild of

Hall Hire

For full details of price,
availability and facilities call
Nicky on 07821 005632. We're
grateful to her for all she does.

Baptisms

There is no charge for Baptism.

Here at S Mary's we baptize
those who live in our parish -
and will even baptize those from
outside with their parish priest's
permission.

Who's Who

Vicar

Father Dane Batley-Gladden
Saint Mary's Vicarage,
London Road,
Swanley, BR8 7AQ.
01322 662201
vicar@swanleyparish.org.uk

Churchwardens

Kevin Merrick
(also PCC Vice Chair)

Christine Parkes

Hon Secretary

Holly Reardon

Hon Treasurer

Sandra Merrick

Hall Lettings

Nicky Reeve

Servers

Kevin Merrick

Organist

Doug Blew

Choir

Ann Parkes

Safeguarding Officer

(Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection)
Toni Roast

Weekly Mass Booklets

Bob Jones

Finding St Mary's



St Mary's

St Mary's Church car park is available to those attending our church services.

Giving To Church

WE ARE COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON YOUR GIVING. ALTHOUGH SERVICES MAY HAVE STOPPED, OUR BILLS GO ON: water rates, electricity and gas all have a standing charge. We still have to pay for our priest. We still have to pay for the central church functions which are supporting us even now.

Online, you can go to www.justgiving.com/stmarys-swanley to give by credit or debit card.

All these allow you to enhance your donation with Gift Aid if you wish.

To offer your usual donation by standing order or BACS please contact Fr Dane and he'll arrange for you to receive the appropriate form/information.

The Week

Sunday

Parish Mass, 10am
Holy Baptism, 12 noon
(or at Mass)

Evening Prayer, 5pm

Monday

No Mass

Tuesday

Mass, 7pm

Wednesday

Mass, 11.30am

Thursday

Mass, 10am

Friday

Mass, 11am

Saturday

Mass, 10am



Our website:

www.swanleyparish.org.uk

where you will find a lot of information, news & much more!

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