

## NOTICES / DIARY DATES

Event	Date and time	Venue
Team Bereavement "Drop In" (Second Monday of the Month)	First Monday of the Month (3:00 to 4:00 pm)	St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough
Team "Tea for All" for anyone who is feeling lonely and wants to drop in for tea, cake and a chat.	Last Sunday of the Month (2:30 to 4:30 pm)	St. Mary's Church, Princes Risborough
Team Morning Prayer	Wed. 29 <sup>th</sup> March (8:45 am)	St. Peter's Chapel Owlswick
Coffee Morning with Stalls (Offers of Help needed, please speak to the Churchwardens)	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> April (9:30 am to 12:30 pm)	Lacey Green Village Hall
Parish Communion with Liturgy of the Palms	Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April (10:00 am)	St. John's Church
Compline with Meditation	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April (7:00 pm)	St. John's Church
Said Compline with Meditation	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> April (7:00 pm)	St. John's Church
Said Compline with Meditation	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April (7:00 pm)	St. John's Church
Maundy Thursday (Sung Eucharist with Stripping of the Altar)	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> April (7:00 pm)	St. John's Church
Full PCC Committee Meeting	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> April (7:30 pm)	St. John's Church
Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM, after the 10:00 am Service)	Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	St. John's Church

## TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Over 50,000 people have died in Turkey and Syria following the devastating earthquake. Thousands more people are injured, hundreds of buildings have been destroyed, and there's an urgent need for clean water, shelter and medical aid. The UK Government will match pound-for-pound up to £2 million donated by the public to the Disasters Emergency Committee's appeal. [www.dec.org.uk/appeals](http://www.dec.org.uk/appeals)

## ONE CAN TRUST

We have a box outside the Church Porch for any donations of store cupboard food items for the One Can Trust. Any Donations welcome. Thank you.

### Key Contacts:

Vicar:	Rev. Canon Tony Bundock	01844 347741
Team Rector:	Rev. David Williams	01844 346984
Licensed Lay Minister:	Mr Graham King	01844 343910
Churchwardens:	Mrs Pat Rushmere	01494 562140
	Mrs Margaret Gray	01844 347094
PCC Secretary & Pew Sheet editor:	Mr Mark Roberts	01296 437345
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[www.stjohnschurchlaceygreen.co.uk](http://www.stjohnschurchlaceygreen.co.uk)

## PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing  
**SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

### WELCOME TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

You are warmly welcomed to St. John's Church, particularly if you are new to our congregation or are a visitor.

## WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

Wearing masks in church is now optional except for the Lady chapel where we request that masks are still worn in this part of the Church. A bottle of sanitiser is available in the Chancel in front of the choir stalls for people to use prior to receiving Communion, if they wish. From Whitsunday (Pentecost) on 28<sup>th</sup> May, we are proposing to re-introduce the Common Cup. For those who still wish to receive by Intinction, pre-intincted wafers will be available. The Lady Chapel area will continue to be set aside as a mandatory social distancing area for those who feel they need to socially distance themselves from others and where masks will be worn. Please respect this. Where possible, we will be serving coffee after the 10:00 am Service on Sundays.

We have now received the card reader so we will shortly be able to take cashless offerings during services / donations. Linked to this we also have a QR code for members of the congregation to donate via their Smartphone, which can be used as of now. You will need a QR reader App to use this. Thank you for however you choose to make your offering.



### Weekly Services:

#### SUNDAY

8:00 am	In-church Said BCP Communion Service (1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sun)
10:00 am	In-church Parish Communion Service with Hymns

#### TUESDAY

9:30 am	In-church Said Parish Communion Service
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## FOCUS ON... THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

In the Gospel reading for Passion Sunday for Liturgical Year A (John 11:1-45), Mary and Martha have sent an urgent message to Jesus telling him that their brother Lazarus is gravely ill and urging him to come to them. In her grief and distress, Martha goes out to meet Jesus with the news that Lazarus has died, and she pours out her feelings: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." In his reply, Jesus seems blunt and to the point: "Your brother will rise again." But Jesus has a deep understanding of Martha's character that leads him to shape his challenge in a way which is exactly right for her matter-of-fact approach, paving the way for her triumphant assertion "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." For everyone involved in the Lazarus-event, this is strange, awe-inspiring territory. Other Gospel narratives do also record miracles where Jesus raised people from the dead (Jairus' daughter in Matthew 9:18-26; the son of the widow of Nain in Luke 7:11-17), but there is something about this raising to life which moves us into new and uncharted territory, a new dimension: one that the writer of St. John's Gospel seems intentionally to present as prefiguring the dying and rising of Christ himself. Throughout this Gospel narrative, individuals and groups within it are challenged to take a leap of faith and "go out into the darkness", as it were, of this unknown territory, trusting that the God whom Jesus calls "Father" is able to transform their darkness into light, despair into hope, sadness into joy, and death into life. The raising of Lazarus, which foreshadows the resurrection of Christ, is for us a symbol of all those deep, dark places of our experience where hope seems to be entirely absent and thus we are tempted to fall into the darkness of despair. In her book *Gateway to Hope*, Maria Boulding seems to speak for all of us: "... as we teeter on the edge of despair, beset by every kind of temptation and feeling as though we had already fallen, the Spirit is released. This is his own place, the deepest place of our being where he is wedded to our spirit, where he can act and give life, where he can free us from all that hampers the true thrust of our will... Entombed Lazarus is a sign ... of each one of us. In this hopeless situation, where you are nothing but stark failure, you know the miracle of grace. This tomb is the place of resurrection, and if you believe you will see the glory of God."

Canon Tony Bundock

## COLLECT FOR 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

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, Amen.



## READINGS FOR 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Ezekiel Ch. 37 VV. 1 – 14  
Romans Ch. 8 VV. 6 – 11  
John Ch. 11 VV. 1 – 45

## PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER



We give thanks dear Lord for your saving goodness for us and for all people. We thank you that you are with each one of us as we walk along life's highway. That whether we feel elated or face distress and tiredness, that you are our constant friend and companion. Help us to trust in you at all times, through life's highs and lows that we might come at last to behold the revelation of your majesty.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore, Amen.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER FOR 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

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, Amen.

## *This Week you are Asked to Pray for:*

- Those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Sally Zeybek, Kelly Safaris Silva, Marcus Barthropp, Gary Webb, Lila King, Rita Probert, Rev Nancy Wallace, Roger Hussey, Dick Field, John Gabbitas and Martin Moore. Also, Martinus Vorster of Kuruman.
- [From the Next Pew Sheet we will be completely renewing the Sick List on the Pew Sheet. If you or somebody needs to be kept on the Pew Sheet going forward, please contact Canon Tony or either of the Churchwardens for including in the refreshed list. Thank you.]**
- The recently departed, may their souls rest in peace. For their families and friends at this difficult time.
- We pray for our government, that they will lead wisely and fairly for all.
- We pray for countries where there have been natural disasters, for their peoples and for the various aid organisations bringing relief. We particularly pray at this time for the people of Turkey and Syria following the recent major earthquakes.
- We pray for Peace in the Ukraine. That there will be a rapid end to the fighting and the suffering for its People.
- We pray for our National Health Service, which is currently experiencing increased demand, and the Doctors, Nurses and Support Staff.
- All parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and those caring for them.
- For the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman including our linked parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.