



Parish of Fleet  
All Saints  

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St Philip & St James

**News Sheet for Sunday 8 March 2020**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**

**Welcome** in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our worship today. It is a joy to have you with us as we worship God together. If you are here for the first time we pray that your visit will be a time of blessing. Please make yourselves known to us after the service and, if you can, join us for coffee and a chat in the hall.

**TODAY IN THE PARISH**

**All Saints (FPCC)**

10.00am Sung Eucharist (CW)

**Ss Philip and James**

8.00am Holy Communion (1662)

10.00am Sung Eucharist (CW)

12.00pm Baptism Service

6.30pm Choral Evensong

**TODAY'S COLLECT** Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**PRAYER AFTER 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. Amen

## **THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH**

**The Coffee Bar is open Monday to Saturday 10.00am – 12.30pm**

### **Monday 9 March**

FPCC 9.00am Morning Prayer

Ss Philip and James 7.30pm Lent Course

### **Tuesday 10 March**

FPCC 10.00am Praise and Play

Ss Philip and James 11.00am Prayer Group

FPCC 7.00pm The Handicraft Café

### **Wednesday 11 March**

Ss Philip and James 9.30am Eucharist followed by coffee

### **Thursday 12 March**

Ss Philip and James 9.00am Coffee & Play

Ss Philip and James 5.00pm Hot Potato Youth Group

Ss Philip and James 7.30pm Choir Practice

### **Friday 13 March**

FPCC 10.00am Dribbles and Giggles

FPCC 8.00pm All Saints Choir Practice

## **SUNDAY 15 MARCH - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

### **All Saints (FPCC)**

10.00am Sung Eucharist (CW)

### **Ss Philip and James**

8.00am Holy Communion (1662)  
10.00am Sung Eucharist (CW)

## **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK . . .**

**Those being baptised today...** Arthur Hussey.

**Those in urgent need of our prayers including...** Angela, Melanie Brant, Marion Brown, Chris Butterfield, Jonathan Eddy, Cathy Gibbs, Jacqueline Muggridge, Timothy Rayment, Isaac Smith and Malcolm Taylor.

**Members of our extended church family in need of our continuing prayers...**

Steph, Gladys Barber, Patricia Bull, Pearl (Frances) Draper, David Dunk, Alan Harvey, Mollie Hayes, Dexter Heard, Bonnie Lewis, Roger Matcham, Gill Page, Matthew Parkes, John and Barbara Simson, Eileen Taylor, Erica Taylor, Jean Thomas, Tyler Thompson, Molly Wilson, Janice and Peter.

**Those who have died recently...** Peter Pimm and Richard Chapman.

**Those from our two memorial books whose anniversaries fall at this time...**

Harold Akerman, Gordon Robbins, Arthur Holmes, Margaret Speaight, Bertha Waite, Irene Mearing.

## **PRAYER DIARY FOR WEEK BEGINNING 9 MARCH 2020**

Meditation: 'Jesus alone refused to be a crucifier, even at the cost of being crucified. He never asked for sympathy, played the victim, or asked for vengeance. Instead, in perfect love, he breathes forgiveness and invites us beyond cycles of illusion and violence.' *Richard Rohr*

We give thanks for...The inexhaustible forgiveness of God, which moves us to repentance.

Please pray....

Mon - For those who care for disabled adults.

Tues - For victims of sexual violence around the world.

Wed - For the charity shops of our town and the causes they support.

Thurs - For all those striving to prevent the spread of Coronavirus – and those already afflicted.

Fri - For those who welcome people to our services and events.

Sat - For the people of Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

Sun - That Christ might break down barriers of fear and suspicion between nations and form us into one humanity.

ALL WEEK - For those who live in Hagley Road, Hall Drive, Hanover Drive, Harlington Way, Harrow Drive, Hartford Road.

## PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

Please note that items with headlines underlined are new this week.

**CORONAVIRUS** - Some people may be worried about the possible spread of coronavirus through contact with one another at our services. The advice from both the Church of England and our government is to carry on as normal. However, our advice would be...

**AT THE PEACE** – that we should make the peace ‘contactless’ for the time being – i.e. share the peace by saying ‘Peace be with you’ to each other, but refrain from handshakes and kisses. A short bow of respect to one another might be a nice alternative.

**AT COMMUNION** – we will continue to offer both the bread and the chalice, but if for any reason you would rather not drink from a common cup, it is okay theologically and in every other way to receive the bread only (congregations did this for hundreds of years anyway).

The practice of INTINCTION (dipping the bread into the wine) is strongly advised against and so will not be offered as an option at our services.

The highest standards of hygiene and care will be maintained during this time in order to keep us all safe – please bear with us therefore if the offertory and ablutions take a little longer.

*Mark and Carol*

**LENT COURSE** - Mondays 9, 23 and 30 March in P&J church, 7.30pm, “Caring for God’s world”. Based on the book “Saying Yes to Life” by Ruth Valerio and recommended by the Archbishop of Canterbury for this Lent. This week’s theme is Water. All welcome to any/all of the sessions.

**FLEET HALF MARATHON** - Sunday 15 March, Amy Canham will be running and would still be glad of sponsorship which you can do via the Parish Office or <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AmyCanham1>. Please be aware that there will be road closures in place that may affect your journey to church.

**ALL SAINTS UPDATE** - Discussions continue between the DAC and our Architects, and these are moving forward quickly and constructively, and we are most grateful to the DAC for their support. Our plans will go back to the DAC at their March meeting. Unfortunately, the plans cannot go to the Chancellor of the Diocese for final approval until a response is received from English Heritage and Victorian Society – these are still awaited. Be assured however, that we are doing all we can in the meantime to move the project forward quickly. We are very grateful to all those who continue to be involved in the fundraising effort, and for all the money that has been given or raised in recent weeks.

**FAMILY ACTIVITY AFTERNOON** - Saturday 21 March, 2.00-4.00pm, Ss Philip and James, a free & fun afternoon of activities themed around mothers.

**FUNDRAISING CONCERT** - Saturday 28 March, 7.30pm, Ss Philip and James Church, Fleet Choral Ensemble present a concert for everyone in aid of All Saints with special guest stars Crookham Handbell Ringers and Emma Mabin. Tickets via Parish Website, Parish Office and Serendipity in Fleet.

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES MINISTER** - Church on the Heath are seeking to appoint a Children & Families Minister to oversee and develop our ministry to, with and by children and their families, see churchontheheath.org.uk for details. Closing date 23 March (noon), interviews 28 March at Church on the Heath.

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## READINGS FOR SUNDAY 8 MARCH

### SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

#### First Reading

#### Genesis 12.1-4a

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

***Comment** The first chapters of Genesis up to chapter 12 describe in allegoric and narrative form the creation of the world, its institutions and features (such as marriage and languages). Chapter 12 is the start of Jewish history - the nation's origins and its identity.*

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#### Psalm 121

#### Refrain: The Lord shall keep you from all evil.

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?
- <sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.

**The Lord shall keep you from all evil.**

3 He will not suffer your foot to stumble;  
he who watches over you will not sleep.

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The Lord himself watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

**The Lord shall keep you from all evil.**

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
neither the moon by night.

7 The Lord shall keep you from all evil;  
it is he who shall keep your soul.

8 The Lord shall keep watch over your going out  
and your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore.

**The Lord shall keep you from all evil.**

***Comment** This psalm was originally sung by pilgrims travelling up to the Temple but it can also be used by modern pilgrims in their spiritual journey to the Holy City.*

**Second Reading**

**Romans 4.1-5,13-17**

<sup>1</sup>What are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or

to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. <sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations'). Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life

to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**Comment** *In Old Testament thought to break the Law of Moses was to sin. St Paul here argues that as Abraham lived before Moses there was no Law to break. However Abraham earned the veneration of later generations not by his good works but by accepting God's promise through faith. St Paul replaces 'law' and 'punishment' with the words 'faith' and 'grace'.*

### **Gospel Reading**

#### **John 3.1-17**

<sup>1</sup>There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'

<sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'

<sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." <sup>8</sup>The wind

blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.'

**Comment** *As Nicodemus was a Pharisee both he and Christ knew that he was living under the law - that was not an issue. What was being discussed was a relationship that went beyond the Law, namely faith.*

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

**Visitors and Newcomers:** Welcome! We'd love to keep in touch with you so please fill in your contact details, tear off this section and give it to the vicar or one of the wardens/sidespersons on the door.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email/phone number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please let us know why you'd like us to get in touch** (e.g. add to mailing list/ prayer request/visit request/information about services)

We will not use your details for any other purpose without your consent and we do not sell or pass on information to third parties.

**Hospital and home visits:** If you know of anybody who is in hospital or housebound and would appreciate a visit, please use the above section giving your details and we will contact you for information. Please give to the duty warden at church or the Parish Office.

**Pastoral Assistants:** Should you have a pastoral need or any other kind of a problem and wish for a listening ear, there is a Pastoral Assistant available after the 10.00am service. Please ask the duty warden at the door for more information.

**For any other need, suggestion or query, see contacts below:**

### PARISH CONTACTS

**Vicar, Revd Mark Hayton** ☎ 01252 219281

✉ vicar@parishoffleet.org.uk

**Revd Carol Dunk** ☎ 01252 444872

✉ carol@parishoffleet.org.uk

**Safeguarding Officer, Sheila Buller** ☎ 01252 629346

✉ s.m.buller@btopenworld.com

**Administrators, Chantelle Gardner & Elly Wilson**

*Office hours: Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 1.00pm*

✉ Parish Office, Parish Community Centre, Church Road, GU51 4NB

☎ 01252 812114 ✉ office@parishoffleet.org.uk

**website: [www.parishoffleet.org.uk](http://www.parishoffleet.org.uk)**