



Parish of Fleet  
All Saints  
St Philip & St James

News Sheet for  
Sunday 21 February 2021  
First Sunday of Lent

**WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP, IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU WITH US.**

I hope you are well and coping with these difficult and rapidly changing times.

Lent is here again, and this year, like everything else, it may feel a little different. We have endured so many relative deprivations over the last year we might feel unwilling or even unable to add to them in order to 'give up something for Lent'. If you are feeling that way, but would still like to keep a good and fruitful Lent, may I suggest you follow this advice on Lenten fasting from Pope Francis himself...

*'If you want to fast...*

- *Fast from hurting words and say kind words.*
- *Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.*
- *Fast from anger and be filled with patience.*
- *Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.*
- *Fast from worries and have trust in God.*
- *Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.*
- *Fast from pressures and be prayerful.*
- *Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.*
- *Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.*
- *Fast from grudges and be reconciled.*
- *Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.'*

I don't think I can really add much to that!!

Do join us for our Lent Study group on Thursdays at 2pm on Zoom, and our Lent Lunchtime reflections at 12 noon on Monday Wednesday and Friday (On the theme of Exodus and Return).

And of course, do join us for worship on Sunday and Wednesday.

Please don't suffer in silence – if you need help, or just need a chat, please ring me on 01252 219281 – or ring the parish office if you prefer.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

Mark

**THIS WEEK**

**Sunday 21 February** - 10.00am Morning Service, Ss Philip & James Church\*,  
livestreamed via our [Facebook page](#)  
followed by 'Zoom Coffee', [Meeting ID: 761 9820 6224](#), Passcode: 1eGHjT

**Monday, Wednesday and Fridays in Lent** - 12.00noon via our [Facebook page](#)

**Wednesday 24 February** - 9.30am Prayer Together, online only, [Zoom Meeting ID: 5089713920](#)

**Thursday 25 February** - 2.00pm Bible Study, [Zoom Meeting ID: 5089713920](#)

**Sunday 28 February** - 10.00am Morning Service, Ss Philip & James Church\* livestreamed via [Facebook](#)

\* please sign up beforehand to attend Sunday 10.00am services in church in person, see inside for details.

**Ss Philip & James Church is open for prayer Wednesdays 10.00am-3.00pm & Sundays 12noon-3.00pm.**

## PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY - FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

**TODAY'S COLLECT** Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

**Those in urgent need of our prayers including...** Chris Butterfield, Angus Cairns, Tony Holbeche, Phyllis McGowan, Carol Paton and Timothy Rayment.

**Members of our extended church family in need of our continuing prayers...** Matthew Allen, Gladys Barber, Alona Beauchamp, Marion Brown, Patricia Bull, Dilys Denney, David and Yvonne Dunk, Joan Hall, Alan Harvey, Dexter Heard, Sue Huddie, Garth Kellett, Bonnie Lewis, Roger Matcham, Sheila O'Connor, Gill Page, Matthew Parkes, John & Barbara Simson, Eileen Taylor, Erica Taylor, Jean Thomas, Tyler Thompson, John Tillyer and Molly Wilson.

**Those who have died recently...** Nicholas Hardy, Gillian Ferguson, John Ball, Mollie Hayes, Kenneth Lloyd, Margaret Steele, Raymond Lawes and Joan Stock

**Those from our two memorial books whose anniversaries fall at this time...** Harriet Beale, Enid Hale, James Hancock, Shirley Dearman, Christopher Goodband, Thomas Woolford, Edna Beale, Paul Durrant, Jock Forbes, Jason Leach, Estelle Crossman, Alice Leigh, Violet Harrington and John James .

### PRAYER DIARY FOR WEEK BEGINNING 22 FEBRUARY 2021

Meditation "A happiness that is sought for ourselves alone can never be found: for a happiness that is diminished by being shared is not big enough to make us happy." —Thomas Merton, "No man is an island".

We give thanks for... those many who have received vaccination.

Please pray....

Mon - For those who work in education and for school governors.

Tues - For the hungry, and those dedicated to feeding them.

Wed - For forgiveness for ourselves, and for those unable to find forgiveness.

Thurs - For our young people, and for our ministry to them.

Fri - For those struggling with issues of gender or sexuality.

Sat - For the bereaved and those supporting them at this time.

Sun - For strength to overcome temptation, and for those who have failed.

ALL WEEK – For Funeral directors – especially Goddards, Holmes and the Co-op.

For All Saints School, Tavistock, Velmead, Heatherside, Fleet Infants, Elvetham Heath, Courtmoor and Calthorpe Park. For all the nurseries, preschools and child-minding services of our town.

For Frimley Park Hospital, Fleet Hospital, Fleet Medical Centre, Branksomewood Healthcare Centre, Richmond Surgery – and all vaccination centres.

For all working to bring us our food and essential supplies.

## PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

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

**SERVICES IN CHURCH** - Please contact Mary Goodson (01252 815103) by Friday if you would like to attend the 10.00am service in Ss Philip & James Church on Sunday. Face masks must be worn.

**PRAYER ON WEDNESDAYS** - You can also join by phone to the prayers on Wednesday mornings at 9.30am - just ring 0131 460 1196.

**LIVINGSTONES** - are currently taking online orders of Easter Cards, Greeting cards, Bible Reading Notes, Books and Book bundles. All will be delivered free of charge to those within a 5 mile radius of the centre. Visit <https://newlivingstones.org.uk/news/>

**ANNUAL PARISH REPORT** – We would normally be compiling our Annual Parish Report at this time, however with most of our church activities having come to an abrupt halt the report will look somewhat different this year. If you are normally responsible for submitting a report and your group/committee/activity has in some way been able to continue or meet during brief periods when we haven't been in lockdown we would love to hear from you. Please send your submissions to Claire – [clholt@ntlworld.com](mailto:clholt@ntlworld.com) by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

**JOB VACANCY** - Children's and Families Pastor for St Paul's Camberley. Contact [helen.vince@stpaulscamb.co.uk](mailto:helen.vince@stpaulscamb.co.uk)

**GIVING OPTION** - You can now donate to Parish funds by scanning this QR code with any smart phone with a QR reader on it - it takes you directly to a web page where you can make a donation.



## NOTES ON THE READINGS FOR SUNDAY 21 FEBRUARY

Genesis 9.8-17

*This early Old Testament story is just one of many such stories of the Flood that are to be found in ancient contemporary literature. Here natural phenomena are given an explanation and are used to illustrate a new relationship between God and all human beings following the Fall and Adam & Eve's expulsion from the Garden of Eden.*

Psalm 25.1-9

*This is the psalmist's act of contrition. Having admitted his sins he now asks (with us) for forgiveness.*

1 Peter 3 & 18-22

*Peter's Jewish readers would have understood the reference to 'the spirits in prison' as those wicked ones who had perished in Noah's flood. He likens his readers who had been baptised to those of Noah's family who had survived; they can now enjoy a new relationship with Christ in heaven.*

Mark 1.9-15

*Mark, in saying 'He saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending', implies that this is the end of a separation between God and man; it happened with the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a dove.*

## PARISH CONTACTS

Vicar, Revd Mark Hayton ☎ 01252 219281 📧 [vicar@parishoffleet.org.uk](mailto:vicar@parishoffleet.org.uk)

Safeguarding Officer, Sheila Buller ☎ 01252 629346 📧 [s.m.buller@btopenworld.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@parishoffleet.org.uk) website: [www.parishoffleet.org.uk](http://www.parishoffleet.org.uk)



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