



Parish of Fleet
All Saints
St Philip & St James

News Sheet for Sunday 7 March 2021 Third 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.

In the 8th Chapter of the book of Jeremiah the prophet compares Israel to a pot being worked by a potter on the wheel.

He notices that from time to time the potter, not satisfied with what he has produced, squashes his half-formed pot back down to a lump of clay and starts again, reworking and reshaping his creation until it is perfect.

The prophet says that this is what God is doing to Israel by sending them into exile in Babylon – helping them to make a new start so that they can become a better version of themselves, the finished article he intended from the beginning!

Without suggesting for a moment that God intentionally brought this time of pandemic upon us, might it not be that God is using this opportunity to give us the possibility of a new start, a reshaping of our world, our community, our church, ourselves so that we might become better versions, as he intended we would be from the very beginning?

If so, it is appropriate that we should be thinking about this in Lent, the season that gives us the chance to chip away all the stuff that we have picked up over the last year(s) to allow the best version of ourselves to shine through.

As the lockdown trundles on, and brighter days still seem a long way off, perhaps just by looking at these times in a new light – not as a burden but as an opportunity, we might not only endure them, but even enjoy them as a time of liberation and a prelude to new life.

Please continue to join us for worship, reflections, Bible study, prayer times, and zoom gatherings! Join us especially next week when we will be celebrating Mothering Sunday (Refreshment Sunday) together at special services you can read about elsewhere in this news sheet.

Mark

THIS WEEK

Sunday 7 March - 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 - 12.00noon Lent Reflections via our [Facebook page](#)

Wednesday 10 March - 9.30am Midweek Communion Service, Ss Philip & James Church,
[Zoom Meeting ID: 5089713920](#) (no need to book to attend this service in person)

Thursday 11 March - 2.00pm Bible Study, [Zoom Meeting ID: 5089713920](#)

Sunday 14 March - 8.00am Holy Communion (1662), Ss Philip & James Church (no need to book)

10.00am Morning Service, Ss Philip & James Church* livestreamed via [Facebook](#)

11.30am Family Worship, online only, [Zoom Meeting ID: 5089713920](#)

* 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 7 MARCH - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

TODAY'S COLLECT Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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 Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK . . .

Those in urgent need of our prayers including... Chris Butterfield, Angus Cairns, Babs King, 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 & Yvonne Dunk, Joan Hall, Alan Harvey, Dexter Heard, Tony Holbeche, 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... John Ball, Mollie Hayes, Margaret Steele and Joan Stock.

Those from our two memorial books whose anniversaries fall at this time... Olive Straw, Allan Butterfield, Harold Akerman, Gordon Robbins, Arthur Holmes, Margaret Speaight, Bertha Waite and Irene Mearing.

PRAYER DIARY FOR WEEK BEGINNING 8 MARCH 2021

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 all those struggling to find ways to reopen their business in due course.

Thurs - For the people of Myanmar, the Yemen and Syria.

Fri - For vacant roles in the life of our parish and that God may raise up those he has called to fill them.

Sat - For Christians together projects in the town – FACCTS, Food Bank, Living Stones, Anna Chaplaincy and Fleet Angels.

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

ALL WEEK -

For funeral directors – especially Goddards, Holmes and the Co-op.

For All Saints School, Tavistock, Velmead, Heatherside, Fleet Infants, Elvetham Heath, Court Moor 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.

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

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.

MOTHERING SUNDAY - On Mothering Sunday (14 March) at our 10.00am livestreamed service we hope to commemorate with a 'Cross of flowers' (artificial) all mothers we will be thinking of on that day, living or departed. If you would like to include your mother by name in this, please send her name to vicar@parishoffleet.org.uk by Thursday 11 March. There will also be an 8.00am BCP service (in church only) and an 11.30am family service (on Zoom only) on that day.

MOLLIE HAYES - Mollie's funeral is on Monday, 8 March, at 3.00pm and will be available to view online via www.obitus.com - please email the Parish Office before 1.00pm on Monday to be sent the login details.

TOMATOES - Tomato plant sale for Christian Aid: Alan Wilson is selling his excellent tomato and courgette plants for Christian Aid. Contact Jenny Thorne on 617108 for details. Pre-booking essential.

ASSISTANT PARISH ADMINISTRATOR VACANCY - Applications are being sought for this part-time post which is now vacant. Principal duties include administration and supervision of church and hall hirers at both parish sites (All Saints and Ss P&J), supervision of cleaners as well as providing school holiday and half term cover for the parish administrator. The person appointed will have good interpersonal and excellent IT skills and will be able to work on their own as well as part of a team. Confidentiality, flexibility and reliability are essential. Applicants will need to be sympathetic to the ethos of a Christian church. Hours per week: 4 hrs spread over 2-3 days per week; 4.5 hrs daily Monday-Friday during school holidays and half term. There is some flexibility in the working arrangement but there is an essential requirement to provide office cover during half term and school holidays. Remuneration: £10.11 per hour. Applications: please email your CV with a short covering letter saying why you think you'd be right for the job to: office@parishoffleet.org.uk Closing date for applications: 9.00am Monday 22 March.

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 7 MARCH

[Isaiah 40.27-31](#) *The second part of the Book of Isaiah was written just before the return from the Babylonian captivity when the Israelites had been subjected to a number of 'false' gods. Here the latter-day prophet preaches that the Lord is the true god.*

[Psalm 19](#) *The psalm celebrates God as the creator of Heaven, Nature and the Law. In ancient times the sun (v.5) was seen as a symbol of justice.*

[1 Corinthians 1.18-25](#) *Paul was writing to a deeply divided community some of whom had been baptised by Jewish Christians and some by Greek. The former could not accept their Messiah being crucified and the latter could not accept the reasoning (wisdom) behind regarding a crucifixion as a success story. Paul here addresses both parties simultaneously.*

[John 2.13-22](#) *John places this story at the start of Christ's ministry and not, like the other gospel writers, as part of the Passion narrative. By placing this story here at the beginning of his gospel John is able to illustrate the relationship that Christ will be having with the authorities during His ministry on earth.*

PARISH CONTACTS

Vicar, Revd Mark Hayton ☎ 01252 219281 📧 vicar@parishoffleet.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer, Sheila Buller ☎ 01252 629346 📧 safeguarding@parishoffleet.org.uk

Administrator, Chantelle Gardner 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

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