



18th February 2018
1st Sunday of Lent
Holy Communion

The Power of God: to know our motivations

“...circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit,
not by the letter.” *Romans 3.29*

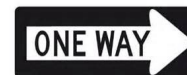
Welcome to today's service!

We continue our walk through the first 3 chapters of Romans, digging deeper into the problems in our lives that only Jesus could overcome... If chapter 1 showed how the 'pagan' nations have rejected God and been given over to their godlessness and wickedness, chapter 2 came in as bucket of cold water to the religious person by pointing out how they do the very same things.

Paul follows on along a similar theme in our passage today: He's talking to the Jewish people of his day—the religious types, and he's talking to the Church today, saying in effect: 'Don't just assume you're fine if you call yourself a Christian!'

As we welcome God's guidance and correction in our own lives today, let's be prepared to have our eyes opened to any way in which we make an idol of our religion and let it get in the way of true Spirit-filled, all-of-life worship. In short—where are we talking the talk, but not walking the walk? The way that our faith plays out visibly in our lives is what reveals the true state of our hearts, and whether they are 'circumcised' or 'uncircumcised'. Thank God that we have a Saviour who has made good our many short-comings!

James Kennedy (Vicar)



During our 10.45 service, to serve our families, we run a supervised crèche (for under 3s), Ignite (for 3-5 year olds) OneWay (for children aged 6-11), and Ablaze (for youth aged 11-16). Everyone is welcome!

Services This Sunday— 18 February 2018

1st Sunday of Lent

St Mary's 8am Holy Communion (BCP) Leading: Rev James Kennedy
Reading: 1 Peter 3: 18-3end (Martin Jarratt)

St James' Chapel Over Norton 9.15am: Morning Worship
Leading: Rev Jackie Jones

St Mary's 10.45am Holy Communion (with Creche, 'OneWay' Ignite & Ablaze) Leading: Rev James Kennedy Preaching: Bill Rees
Reading: Romans 2:17-3:4 (Fiona/Lionel Rossington) Prayers: (Peter Williams)
6—8pm Youth Alpha in Parish Rooms. (Set up from 4.30pm)

Praying round the Deanery. This week: St Michael & All Angels, Leafield
Please pray for Paul Mansell and Sarah Jones and the Church warden Simon Salome-Bentley

*****NOTICES*****



**Have you got questions about faith?
Why not join us for Alpha in 2018...**

Youth Alpha:

After a break for half-term, we're back for week 4 (of 10) of our Youth Alpha (6-8pm on Sunday evenings). A chance for young people to ask life's big questions along with friends and see what the Christian faith has to say in answer to them... There's good

food, games, great banter and to discuss some of the most important things in life. It's not too late to join in— a great chance to build some lasting relationships with friends. If you're 11-18, we'd love to see you. Check out the Youth Alpha Trailer our website stmaryscnorton.com/youth-at-st-marys.php. To sign up, contact Jonny— youth@stmaryscnorton.com

Adults: Tuesday nights—starting right after Easter

If you've got questions (however provocative / daft / awkward you think they are), or just want to find out more, look out for more details on our website.

Women's Breakfast - 24th February 8.30-10am, Crown & Cushion

Lindsay Melliush will be speaking on "Finding peace in an Anxious World"

Lindsay lives in West London where she is part of the staff team at St Paul's Ealing and also works as a family therapist within an NHS service. She will speak on ways to overcome and manage anxiety - a great opportunity to invite along a friend. Please sign up at the end of church, book online (women@stmaryscnorton.com) or 01608 646202

Let us know whether you would like a full English breakfast, or continental (which will be croissant, fruit salad, granola & yoghurt)

Babysitting for Kenya

As part of our fundraising for Kenya we are offering a babysitting service. If you are interested, please contact Isobel Kennedy, 07493 305570

Services Next Sunday— 25 February 2018

2nd Sunday of Lent

St Mary's 8am Holy Communion (BCP) Leading: Rev David Salter
Reading: Romans 4: 13-end Andy Thomson

St James' Chapel Over Norton (No service on 2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

St Mary's 10.45am Morning Worship (with Creche, Ignite, 'Oneway' & Ablaze)
Leading: Emma Kennedy Preaching: Rev James Kennedy
Reading: Romans 3:1-20 (Sylvia Hawkins) Prayers: Matt Deans
8.00pm Men's Curry at Spice of India

Contacting St Mary's

Website: www.stmaryscnorton.com

Clergy Team

Team Rector of Chipping Norton Benefice:

Rev Dr James Kennedy
✉ vicar@stmaryscnorton.com
Tel: 01608 642688
N.B. James takes his rest day on a Friday

Curate

Rev Martha Simpson
Currently on Maternity leave.

Team Vicar of Kingham & Churchill:

Rev David Salter
✉ david.salter@stmaryscnorton.com
Tel: 01608 658852
N.B. David takes his rest day on a Friday

Team Ministers:

Rev Ursula Simpson
✉ ursula.simpson@stmaryscnorton.com
Tel: 01608 674541

Rev Jackie Jones
✉ jackie.jones@stmaryscnorton.com
Tel: 01608 658616

Church Wardens

Linda Carpenter
Graham Povey
✉ churchwarden@stmaryscnorton.com
Tel: 01608 641727 (Linda)

Financial Giving

If you would like to give to support the mission and ministry of St Mary's, may we encourage you to join our planned giving scheme. If you are a UK taxpayer you may be able to add Gift Aid which increases your giving by 25%. Please pick up a leaflet to explore ways to give or you can give online at <https://my.give.net/donations>

St Mary's is a caring fellowship.

Being a member of a **Small Group** is the best way to make sure you are both cared for, and able to care for others. For more information about joining a group please email smallgroups@stmaryscnorton.com. Otherwise, if you or anyone you know is sad or unwell, in hospital or in need of any other support, please let the Church Office know. We have a team of pastoral visitors who would love to help.

CHURCH DIARY

THIS WEEK - 19 - 25 FEBRUARY 2018

- Mon 19 Feb NO St Mary's Pilates** this week.
- Wed 21 Feb St Mary's Minis** (10.00-11.30am in Parish Rooms)
Lent Supper (7—9pm at Holy Trinity School Hall)
 Talk by Fr Paul Berrett: **The Power of Prayer**
- Thurs 22 Feb Midweek Communion + coffee** (10am in Parish Rooms)
- Fri 23 Feb Remix Youth Club** (3.15—4.45pm at Glyme Hall)
- Sat 24 Feb Women's Breakfast** 8.30-10am, Crown & Cushion Hotel
 Lindsay Melluish will be speaking on "Finding peace in an Anxious World"
- Sun 25 Feb London Rd Home Group Tea Party** (3-5pm in Parish Rooms)
Youth Alpha (6—8pm in Parish Rooms. Set up from 5pm)
Men's Curry Night (8pm at Spice of India)

Encounter' Evening Service - Launch 18th March

We are excited to announce the launch of our new contemporary evening service called 'Encounter' on the 18th March at 6pm.

Our hope and prayer is that many people will encounter God through this vibrant and exciting new opportunity to worship together.

There will be a cafe on arrival, great worship and a relevant talk from God's word, along with an opportunity to chat, pray and minister to each other. We would love to attract both familiar and new faces, especially seeking to welcome young people from our community and other local churches. What an amazing opportunity to gather to encounter the living Lord Jesus, the Holy Spirit and His people....

CALENDAR OF FURTHER EVENTS

- Wed 7 Mar Town Prayer Meeting** (7.30pm at St Mary's)
- Mon 12 Mar Come for Tea** (2.30-4pm in Parish Rooms)
- Sun 18 Mar 'Encounter Evening Service** (6pm in the Church)
- Mon 26 Mar Journey to Easter interactive displays at St Mary's**
 to **Sun 1 Apr** Help needed for Welcoming and serving Refreshments throughout the week. Please see Christine Clinch in church to sign up on the rotas.
- Sun 1 April EASTER DAY**
- Tues 24 Apr Adult Alpha Course starts** (7.00-9.30pm in Parish Rooms.
 Set up from **5.30pm**)

For further information, please contact the Church Office

LENT SUPPERS - 2018 SUBJECT: Spiritual Disciplines

The theme for our Lent Suppers this year is **the Power of Spiritual Disciplines**. For many of us spiritual disciplines can be a source of guilt, a challenge to our pride and a profound provocation. They were modelled and commended by Christ and form a crucial part of the Christian's life and 'toolkit'. In this short series we hope to explore together the power of these disciplines for forming the likeness of Christ in us, bringing God's grace into our lives and seeing God's Kingdom advance.

Wednesday 14th February 7pm – 9pm

The Power of Fasting / Abstinence

Venue: St Mary's Parish Rooms.

Led by: Rev Jackie Jones

Wednesday 21st February 7pm-9pm

The Power of Prayer

Venue: Holy Trinity School Hall

Led by: Fr Paul Berrett

Wednesday 28th February 7pm-9pm

The Power of Evangelism

Venue: St Mary's Parish Rooms.

Led by: Community Church.

Wednesday 7th March, 7pm-9pm

Venue: St Mary's Church

Town Prayer

Wednesday 14th March, 7pm-9pm

The Power of Solitude / Silence

Venue: Methodist Church Lower Hall

Led by: Stephen Bywater

Wednesday 21st March 7pm -9pm

The Power of Rest (Sabbath)

Venue: Baptist Church

Led by: Baptist Church

Contributions towards the cost of the soup supper would be appreciated.