

4th March 2018
3rd Sunday of Lent
Holy Communion

The Power of God: His righteousness revealed.

'But now, the righteousness of God has been revealed apart from the law... and given—through faith in Jesus Christ—to all who believe'
Romans 3:21-2

Welcome to today's service!

The great Reformer, Martin Luther, called the passage that we're looking at this morning "the chief and central place of this letter, and of the whole Bible"! Paul has already proclaimed the gospel (the good news of Jesus) as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe. He's systematically shown us why we need to be saved—God has revealed himself to us all, so we're without excuse, but we've all rejected him. Neither religion nor morality nor 'good works' will ever get us close to being in a restored relationship with the God whom we've spurned and failed. We all fall short. How depressing is that?!

But that's not how God leaves us. Our passage today—the culmination of Paul's argument in these opening chapters of his letter, and the conclusion of our short series—starts with the words: 'But now...'. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, one of the most prominent figures in the church in the middle of the 20th century (and another doctor-turned-preacher) was of the view that "there are no more wonderful words in the whole of Scripture than these two words: "But now..." What vital words they are." Let's join with his excitement and open our hearts to be caught up in the wonder as we worship together this morning!



James Kennedy (Vicar)



ignite

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— 4 March 2018

3rd Sunday of Lent

St Mary's 8am Holy Communion (BCP) Leading: Rev James Kennedy
Reading: Romans 3: 21-31 (Matthew Carpenter)

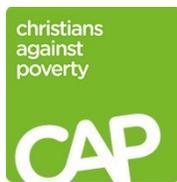
St James' Chapel Over Norton 9.15am: Holy Communion (BCP)
Leading: Rev Ursula Simpson

St Mary's 10.45am Holy Communion (with Creche, 'OneWay' Ignite & Ablaze)
Leading: Rev Ursula Simpson Preaching: James Kennedy
Reading: Romans 3:21-31 (Jen/Peter Williams) Prayers: (Coenraad/Yolande VanWyk)

Praying round the Deanery. This week: St John the Evangelist, Little Tew
Please remember in your prayers Ginny Thomas and the Churchwarden, Claire Freeman.

*****NOTICES*****

 **Youth Alpha:** Please continue to pray for those who are part of our youth Alpha as they move into week 6 (of 10) (6-8pm on Sunday evenings). See additional notice about or next Alpha course for adults



CAP SUNDAY—11th March: As well as celebrating Mothering Sunday, at our 10.45 service on the 11th March, we'll be marking 3 years since the launch of our Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre, hearing about the remarkable way that our CAP ministry is growing and impacting the lives of people in our community, and thanking Thene Mitchell for her incredible commitment as she hands over the reins as Debt Centre Manager, Please come and be a part

of it all.

'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.... Will you be a part of it?

1st Priority (7.30pm, Wed 7th March)

When prayer is at the centre of our church life, then we can expect to see God working most powerfully. Are you and your Small Group making your 1st Priority to come together to pray on the 7th March? Let's not allow other competing agendas to lead us astray from putting first things first. We look forward to seeing as many of you as can possibly be there to worship and pray together. Don't miss out!

Services Next Sunday - 11 March 2018

3rd Sunday of Lent & Mothering Sunday

St Mary's 8am Holy Communion (BCP) Leading: Rev Jackie Jones
Reading: Ephesians 2: 1-10 (Barbara Ambrose)

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

St Mary's 10.45am Morning Worship (with Creche, OneWay, Impact & Ablaze)
Leading Rev James Kennedy Preaching: Mark Burbridge
Reading: Psalm 103 Loraine Smith Prayers: Athene Mitchell

12.45pm Church Lunch in Parish Rooms. All are welcome to join us at our 'Bring and Share' lunch and to invite friends and family—children welcome! Please inform Jen Williams if bringing guests. 01608 686366 / jenwilliams366@gmail.com

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

✉ curate@stmaryscnorton.com

Tel: 01608 645668

N.B. Martha works part time and so is not available on Tuesdays, Fridays or Saturdays

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 (Mon—Wed)

Rev Jackie Jones

✉ jackie.jones@stmaryscnorton.com

Tel: 01608 658616

Church Wardens

Linda Carpenter

Graham Povey

✉ churchwarden@stmaryscnorton.com

Tel: 01608 641727 (Linda)

Youth, Children and Families

Jonny Lowe (Youth Worker)

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Tel: 01608 645668

N.B. Jonny takes his rest day on a Saturday.

Becca Sterry (Children & Families Worker)

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Tel: 01608 645668

N.B. Becca works part-time.

Catherine Spring (School and Community Support Worker)

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N.B. Catherine works part-time.

Office

Church Administrator

Emma Bayley

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Tel: 01608 646202

Administrative Manager (and Finance)

Emily O'Shea

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Church Office,

St Mary's Parish Rooms, Church Street, Chipping Norton, OX7 5NT

(Office hours 09.00-11.30 weekday mornings)

Registered charity no: 1132070

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 : 5 — 10 mARCH 2018

- Mon 5 Mar **Knit and Knatter** (2—4pm in Parish Rooms)
St Mary's Pilates class (6-7pm in Parish Rooms)
- Wed 7 Mar **St Mary's Minis** (10am– 11.30am in Parish Rooms)
1st Priority Prayer Meeting (7.30pm at St Mary's)
- Thurs 8 Mar **Midweek Communion + coffee** (10am in Parish Rooms)
- Fri 9 Mar **Remix Youth Club** (3.15—4.45pm at Glyme Hall)
- Sat 10 Mar **Marriage Prep course.** (9.30am—4pm in Parish Rooms)
- Sun 11 Mar **CAP Sunday** (10.45 at St Mary's)
Church Lunch (12.45 in Parish Rooms)
Youth Alpha (6-8pm in Parish Rooms. Set up from 5pm)

Come for Tea is open to all and is held every second Monday in the month in the Parish Centre - The next one is Monday 12th March. For information contact Amanda Gafford, on 641284. **Come and join us!**

CALENDAR OF FURTHER EVENTS

- Mon 12 Mar **Come for Tea** (2.30-4pm in Parish Rooms)
- Sat 17 Mar **Boy's Hike & Breakfast** (Depart 9am from CN School coach park ends 10am approx. at Parish Rooms)
- Sun 18 March **'Encounter' Evening service** (6pm in Church)
- Mon 26 Mar **Journey to Easter interactive displays at St Mary's**
- Sun 1Apr Help needed for Welcoming and serving Refreshments throughout the week. Please see Christine Clinch in church to sign up on the rota.
- Fri 30 Mar **Good Friday Reflective Service** (12noon—3pm at St Mary's)
- Sun 1 April **EASTER DAY**
- Fri 13 Apr **All Day Youth Hike** (Depart 9.30am from & ends at Parish Rooms)
- Sun 22 Apr **APCM Meeting** (12.30pm in Parish Rooms)
- Tues 24 Apr **Adult Alpha Course starts** (7.00-9.30pm in Parish Rooms. Set up from 5.30pm)
- Wed 25 Apr **Colin Buchanan Live** (5pm at St David's, Moreton-in-Marsh)

For further information, please contact the Church Office

*****NOTICES CONTD.*****



Alpha Course for adults starting on Tuesday 24th April , 7-9.30pm in Parish Rooms.

Few people can have missed seeing advertisements for the Alpha course. This series of interactive sessions based around a shared meal, a presentation and discussion is estimated to have been experienced by around 25 million people through Christian churches across the globe since it was launched at Holy Trinity, Brompton, and has probably been the most effective outreach to non-Christians. Many successful Alpha courses have been run at St Mary's Church over the years. Now another is to be launched on 24 April by a special guest, Warren Furman – “Ace” of the 1990s tv show, Gladiators! The course will then continue to run for nine further sessions on Tuesday evenings in the Parish Centre until 3 July.

This is a wonderful opportunity to ask some of those big questions of life – Why am I here?; What is the purpose of life?; Where am I heading?; What has Christianity got to offer? – in a relaxed, informal setting that makes no demands on the individual. Is it now the right time for YOU to experience Alpha for yourself? Or could you bring a friend along to the launch as your guest, with a view to doing the course with them? Further information can be found on the church website, stmaryscnorton.com or by contacting

Judith Marshall on joulesmarshall53@gmail.com or 01608 643303.

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

Bitter Sweet Church Family News

We are very sad to report that **Dr Bruce Parker** passed away following a short illness on Wednesday afternoon. Please hold Sheila and all the family in your prayers. Funeral arrangements to be announced next week....

At the same time, though we are delighted to announce the safe arrival of **Simeon Westgarth Simpson** born during a blizzard in early hours of Thursday morning— in Chippy Maternity Unit! Mother and baby doing well. Congratulations to Martha and Tom, Alex and Libby.