

# The Third Sunday in LENT



## Services This Sunday (4<sup>th</sup> March)

### The Third Sunday in Lent

St Pauls	9:30	Holy Communion
St James	15:00	Holy Communion BCP
St Michaels	8:00	Holy Communion
	11:00	Holy Communion
Thursday	19:00	Family Service

## Services Next Sunday

### MOTHERING SUNDAY (11<sup>th</sup> March)

St Pauls	9:30	All Age Word Service
St James	15:00	Evensong BCP
St Michaels	8:00	Holy Communion
	11:00	All Age Word Service
Thursday	19:00	Family Service

Please do pray for our retreaters this weekend. We are hoping to make this an annual event so please do pray for its success:

*O Lord please Bless those who attend the retreat, all for whom they pray and all who pray for them,*

*May they successfully turn away from distraction and make space for you in their lives.*

*Please hold us all close this lenten season that we may know always of your eternal presence.*

*We ask this and all our prayers in*

*Jesus Christs name.*

*Amen.*

## Our Prayers are asked for

### World concerns

Victims of wars and aggression.

**Our Diocese** Bishops David, Mark & Mark; Archdeacon Cherry; Mark our Borough Dean, Karen our Area Dean.

**Our Community**; for those who face persecution because of their love for God.

**Our Team** The Clergy, Readers & people of the Benefice and the wider Deanery.

**Sick** Rene Smith, Sheila Anson, Linda Donkin, Pixie-Rose, Barbara Bisson, Eliza Bryning, Laura Sousa, Beth Price, Janice Dawson, David and Marjory Nunwick, Sue Holland, Cis Van Der Schanns, Billy Osbersby, Fr Terry Murnane, John Harrop, Sylvia Baron, Clive Houghton, Sheila Payne. Ken Henderson.

**Departed** Bill Guest.

## Dates for the Diary

### **PCC's PCM/APCM**

To be advised, coming soon.

### **Deanery Synod**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, Christ Church

### **Anglican Ladies**

15<sup>th</sup> March – Hannah Timperley (Armenia)

24<sup>th</sup> March – SPRING FAIR

### **Lenten Soup**

Homemade soup will be served from 12.30pm each Wednesday in Lent at 1, Rose Avenue.

No charge but donations to Christian Aid, please. (Jenny Buckley 358686 for more details)



As is our custom at **St Michael's**, the Mothers' Union invite people to make a donation towards the Church Easter flowers in memory of a loved one. The names will be listed in a memory book in Church on Easter Day. Please donate £1 for each name. The list and a money box will be at the back of the Lady Chapel'

*Readings and Prayers*  
*Common Worship*  
**The Third Sunday of Lent**

**Collect**

Almighty God,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's  
sufferings, and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**First Reading**

**Numbers 22:21-31**

So Balaam got up in the morning, saddled his donkey, and went with the officials of Moab. God's anger was kindled because he was going, and the angel of the Lord took his stand in the road as his adversary. Now he was riding on the donkey, and his two servants were with him. The donkey saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand; so the donkey turned off the road, and went into the field; and Balaam struck the donkey, to turn it back onto the road. Then the angel of the Lord stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it scraped against the wall, and scraped Balaam's foot against the wall; so he struck it again. Then the angel of the Lord went ahead, and stood in a narrow place, where there was no way to turn either to the right or to the left. When the donkey saw the angel of the Lord, it lay down under Balaam; and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he struck the donkey with his staff. Then the Lord opened the mouth of the donkey, and it said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?" Balaam said to the donkey, "Because you have made a fool of me! I wish I had a sword in my hand! I would kill you right now!"

But the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not your donkey, which you have ridden all your life to this day? Have I been in the habit of treating you this way?" And he said, "No."

Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the Lord standing in the road, with his drawn sword in his hand; and he bowed down, falling on his face.

**Gospel Reading**  
**Luke 11.14-28**

Now he was casting out a demon that was mute; when the demon had gone out, the one who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed. But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons." Others, to test him, kept demanding from him a sign from heaven. But he knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself becomes a desert, and house falls on house. If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? —for you say that I cast out the demons by Beelzebul. Now if I cast out the demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your exorcists cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you. When a strong man, fully armed, guards his castle, his property is safe. But when one stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his plunder. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters.

"When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it wanders through waterless regions looking for a resting place, but not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' When it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and live there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first."

While he was saying this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it!"

**Post Communion Prayer**

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. **Amen.**