



THE PARISHES OF STANSTED, BIRCHANGER AND FARNHAM

Weekly bulletin

17th March 2024

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Fifth Sunday of Lent – Passion Sunday

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE STAFF TEAM

The Church Commissioners for England has learned from research it commissioned that Queen Anne's Bounty, a predecessor fund of the Church Commissioners' endowment, had links with African chattel enslavement. In response to this discovery, the Church of England has agreed to pay one billion pounds in reparations.

The reaction to this decision has been overwhelmingly negative. What about the Church's role in the Abolitionist movement? What of the need to finance local ministry and mission? One journalist from *The Telegraph* wrote that the decision was made in a 'fit of woke frenzy'.

I think I understand the arguments against, so I was quite interested in discovering the reasons for. Everything I found on Google was negative, however, so I'm still somewhat in the dark.

Justin Welby has said that the Church's past involvement in the slave trade is a matter for sorrow, lament and repentance. In this, I think he is right.

Where the Church may have taken a wrong turn is in not engaging in sustained theological reflection about appropriate atonement. Perhaps I have missed something, but all I found from the Church was a web page which doesn't even scratch the surface of all the issues raised. As a result, I'm not sure what judgments were made to arrive at the figure of one billion pounds, or whether that sum factors in all aspects of the Church's historical response to the slave trade.

The problem, in other words, isn't that no atonement needs to be made, but that there hasn't been clear public discussion of how paying a billion pounds represents an acknowledgement of sin and an expression of repentance.

Rev'd Colin

QUIET DAY AT THE BOWLING GREEN 2024

Quiet days help to redress the balance in our busy lives. Revd Rosemary Drew offers a programme of Quiet Days at her beautiful home and garden in Gt Dunmow every year.

While these days are structured with talks in the morning and afternoon, there is plenty of space for stillness and silence to allow God to speak through his word and his creation.

Dates available are:

Wednesday 10th April

Tuesday 7th May

Thursday 6th June

Wednesday 10th July

Thursday 15th August

Tuesday 8th October

Tuesday 3rd December

I will leave a leaflet with full details at the back of St John's Church. Please email me if you are at Birchanger or Farnham and are interested in attending.

Revd Helen

LENT LECTURE

The Churches Together in Stansted Lent Lecture this year will be delivered by yours truly. It's called 'Binge-watching Jesus in the TV series "The Chosen"'. I will show some clips from the series, and there will be time for discussion. 20th March, 7.30pm, Stansted Free Church, admission free, all welcome.

Rev'd Colin

CAMBRIDGE CHORALE AT ST JOHN'S

One of the country's leading choirs, Cambridge Chorale, will be performing at St John's on Saturday 23rd March at 7.30pm. They will be singing Italian and English madrigals as well as items by Britten, Elgar and Vaughan Williams. A recent press review said *"...Establishing itself as one of the finest chamber choirs in the country. The potent combination of young, well-trained voices and professional-standard musicianship makes them capable of a very high level of performance..."* Praise indeed and, perhaps, a concert not to be missed! Tickets on the door; Adults £15, concessions £12, under 21s free.

Alan Corbishley

ELECTORAL ROLL, ST JOHN'S

The Electoral Roll is due to be updated before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Monday 22nd April 2024. If you would like to be included on the Electoral Roll application forms are available from Ann Conroy or from the Sidemen's table at the back of church.

Being on the Electoral Roll allows you to receive the weekly Bulletin, elect Church Wardens, members of the Parochial Church Council and representatives of the Deanery Synod at the APCM.

Please return completed forms to Ann by the closing date 24th March, 2024.

Ann Conroy
Electoral Roll Officer, St John's

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Farnham Coffee morning – Wednesday 27th March, 10am-12pm
St John's PCC – Monday 25th March

If you wish to place a notice in the bulletin for next week, please email details to Colin at revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com

PLEASE PRAY

...for Jeremy Wilson, Bob Stubbings and all those who suffer in mind, body or spirit.

Do let us know if you would like the anniversary of a loved one's death mentioned during the intercessions in St John's. Please contact Kathy West, Pastoral Assistant, so this can be arranged.

If you would like yourself or someone else on the prayer list, please email me at revdrcolinfairweather@gmail.com in the coming week.

SERVICES FOR THIS SUNDAY

St John's Church, Stansted

Holy Communion

9.30 am

Rev'd Helen Flack

URL for live broadcast: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069100732358>

The service sheet can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/teqljk2ykrqu28hmt6x7m/17-3-24-Lent-5.pdf?rlkey=9u50benccsg9vh26ve1a61lwy&dl=0>

The words for the hymns are here, in case you want to sing along at home.

- <https://www.hopecublishing.com/find-hymns-hw/hw4150.aspx>
- <https://grahamkendrick.co.uk/the-servant-king/>
- <http://www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/r/o/y/b/roybanfg.htm>
- <https://www.praise.org.uk/hymn/such-love-pure-as-the-whitest-snow/>
- https://hymnary.org/text/o_jesus_i_have_promised

St Mary's Church, Birchanger

11.15 am

Matins

Jo Pratt

St Mary's Church, Farnham

11.15 am

Holy Communion

Rev'd Helen Flack

ONLINE MORNING PRAYER

This takes place at 9am every day apart from Friday and Sunday.

URL: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/459441774>

Meeting ID: **459 441 774**

Password: **Stansted**

Morning prayer (and evening and night prayer) can be found at

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>.

The readings for the day are included within the text of the services. We normally use traditional language on Thursdays, and contemporary language for the rest of the week.

CONTACT DETAILS

Priest in Charge:

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Inquiries for St John's Church Stansted, and Hall Administration:

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Inquiries for St Mary's Farnham,

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<https://www.thefivechurches.co.uk/>

St John's Stansted and St Mary's Birchanger also have a Facebook page.