

THIS WEEK

Sunday 22nd March 2020
Lent 4 / Mothering Sunday
8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion
1 Samuel 16: 1-13
John 9: 1-41

NEXT WEEK

Sunday 29th March 2020
Lent 5
**SERVICE STEAMING ONLINE; look
for details on the website**
8am Holy Communion
10am Holy Communion
Ezekiel 37: 1-14
John 11: 1-45

Gift Aid

Taxpayers can allow the church to reclaim the tax on a donation by completing a gift aid envelope available in the pews.

WELCOME!

The church is open every day from 9-4, enter through the tower door. Do use the church for personal quiet times during this difficult time.

You will find paper copy resources for prayer and reading on the warden's pew ledge.

Do keep an eye on the church website for a link to the 10am services which we will stream live. As far as possible, we will try to keep to the existing pattern of the 10am services.

When possible, after the Third Sunday, there will be some craft materials to pick up at the back of the church for families to do together at home.

The sermon will be posted on the website each week, and some paper copies will be left in church.

Do email the Vicar if you want to receive a copy electronically, or in hard copy.

On behalf of the PCC, my prayers are with your All.

God be with us,

Mandy

CONTACT DETAILS

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Organist Geoff Symon, organist@

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Collect

Merciful Lord,
absolve your people from their offences,
that through your bountiful goodness
we may all be delivered from the chains of
those sins
which by our frailty we have committed;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord
and Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

1 Samuel 16.1-13

16The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' 2Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." 3Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' 4Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' 5He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. 6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' 7But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' 8Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' 9Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' 10Jesse made seven of his sons

pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' 11Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' 12He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' 13Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

John 9

9As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' 3Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. 4We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' 6When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, 'saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." 10But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' 12They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15Then the Pharisees also

began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' ²⁰His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.'²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.'²⁵He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.'²⁶They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?'²⁷He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.'²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.'³⁰The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that

anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.'³⁴They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' ³⁶He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.'³⁷Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.'³⁸He said, 'Lord, I believe.'³⁹And he worshipped him. ³⁹Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.'⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' ⁴¹Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God,
whose blessed Son our Saviour
gave his back to the smiters
and did not hide his face from shame:
give us grace to endure the sufferings of this
present time
with sure confidence in the glory that shall
be revealed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

PRAYERS

Thinking about the theme of the Gospel reading, we pray for those who are blind, or who are in danger of losing their sight. We give thanks for medical treatments that halt blindness.

This week, please also pray for:

People who are self-isolating.

People diagnosed with the Coronavirus.

Cambridge Care Home; for staff and residents.

Addenbrooke's Hospital and the National Health Service, and those who work within them.

For care workers, people facing unemployment, people on zero hours contracts.

For a Churchwarden and a new PCC Secretary, two Deanery Synod Representatives and four members of the PCC. Are these roles you might be called to?

CHURCH NEWS and NOTICES

(Please send any notices to the Church Office by 9am Tuesday)

All Services are suspended until further notice as per the Archbishop's Guidance.

The Revd Maxwell will be contacting baptism families and wedding couples when she has further information on whether these services can still go ahead.

Pilgrimage from Ely to Bury St Edmunds, Wednesday 20th - Friday 22nd May 2020

This year, to celebrate the millennial year of the Abbey of St Edmund in Bury St Edmunds, a double pilgrimage is taking place.

One leg of it will travel from St Benet's on the Norfolk Broads, and the other from Ely Cathedral, each arriving in Bury on Friday 22nd May in time for Evensong.

The Ely branch of this pilgrimage will set out from the Cathedral following an early morning Eucharist in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral at 8am on Ascension Day, Thursday 21st May.

It would be marvellous to have pilgrims from the Ely Diocese walking the route – either for the day or for both days. Details are in the church including itinerary, cost and booking form.

Please note that if you join the Ely contingent on Wednesday 20th May, Evensong in the Cathedral is in fact at 5.30 pm. If you would like to join the pilgrims for a meal please contact Jessica Martin on j.martin@elycathedral.org to book. There will be a special Compline in the Cathedral for pilgrims on Wednesday evening at 8.15pm in the Lady Chapel.

[Advisory note: please contact Jessica Martin to confirm whether or not the pilgrimage will go ahead.]