

4th Sunday before Lent

Sunday 5 February 2017

when you have finished with this sheet pass it on to someone unable to get to church this week

COLLECT

Lord of the hosts of heaven,
our salvation and our strength,
without you we are lost:
guard us from all that harms or hurts
and raise us when we fall;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 58.1-9a

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD: 1 Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. 2 Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. 3 'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. 4 Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. 5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? 6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? 8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard. 9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. This is the word of the Lord. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

PSALM Psalm 112:1-9



Response: The righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance.

Alleluia. Blessed are those who fear the Lord and have great delight in his commandments. Their descendants will be mighty in the land, a generation of the faithful that will be blest. **Response** Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness endures for ever. Light shines in the darkness for the upright; gracious and full of compassion are the righteous. **Response** It goes well with those who are generous in lending and order their affairs with justice, For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be held in everlasting remembrance. They will not be afraid of any evil tidings; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. **Response** Their heart is sustained and will not fear, until they see the downfall of their foes. They have given freely to the poor; their righteousness stands fast for ever; their head will be exalted with honour. **Response**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 2.1-12

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

1 When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. 2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3 And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. 4 My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. 6 Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. 7 But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 8 None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But, as it is written, 'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him' – 10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. This is the word of the Lord **THANKS BE TO GOD**

GOSPEL Matthew 5:13-20

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew **GLORY TO YOU O LORD**

Jesus went up the mountain and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to teach them: 13 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. 14 You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. 17 Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.' This is the gospel of the Lord. **PRAISE TO YOU O CHRIST**

POST COMMUNION

Go before us, Lord, in all we do with your most gracious favour, and guide us with your continual help, that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy receive everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**



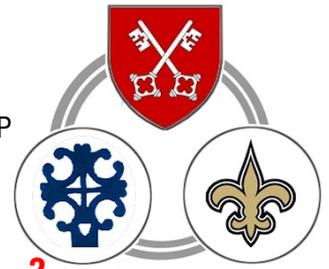
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The United Benefice of Sharnbrook, Felmersham and Knotting with Souldrop

St Peter's Church, Sharnbrook MK44 1HU, St Mary's Church, Felmersham MK43 7JP

All Saints Church, Souldrop MK44 1EX

www.sharnbrookcofechurches.org



Welcome to church today! Why not sit somewhere different ...?

Worship in the Benefice today—4th Sunday before Lent

0930 **Sharnbrook Parish Communion & R'nS**

1100 **Felmersham Parish Communion**

1500 **Souldrop Parish Communion**

1800 **Sharnbrook Benefice Evensong** Preacher Andrea Maffie

Monday—Commemoration—The Martyrs of Japan, 1597

0800 **Morning Prayer** at Sharnbrook

1145 **Messy Church** at Sharnbrook

1400 **St Peter's Guild** in SPR

2000 **Christian Meditation Group** in SPR

Tuesday—feria

0800 **Morning Prayer** at Sharnbrook

0930 **Holy Communion (CW)** at Felmersham

1930 **PCC** Souldrop in village hall

Wednesday—feria

0800 **Morning Prayer** at Sharnbrook

0930 **Holy Communion CW 2nd Wed** at Sharnbrook

1930 **Extra-Ordinary PCC** at Sharnbrook

Thursday—feria

0800 **Morning Prayer** at Sharnbrook

Friday—Commemoration—Scholastica, sister of Benedict, c.543

0800 **Morning Prayer** at Sharnbrook

Saturday—feria

0800 **Morning Prayer** at Sharnbrook

Next Sunday—3rd Sunday before Lent

0830 **Souldrop Holy Communion BCP**

0930 **Sharnbrook All-Age Communion**

1100 **Felmersham All Age Communion**

1800 **Felmersham Benefice Choral Evensong**

Items for inclusion should be sent to sharnbrookbenefice@gmail.com by 0900 on Wednesdays.

Please look at our parishes websites for the **ONLINE Diary**

Electoral Roll

revisions are now taking place—to be added or deleted please see the churches' electoral roll officer— at **St Peter's Enid Salter**

The Sharnbrook Benefice: St Peters Sharnbrook, St Marys Felmersham, All Saints Souldrop

Today	Saturday, 14 January
	08:00 Morning Prayer
	Sunday, 15 January
	2nd Sunday of Epiphany
	09:30 St Peters Parish Communion & Rise and Shine
	11:00 St Marys Parish Communion
	15:00 Souldrop PC HC CW
	18:00 Benefice Evensong 6pm
	Monday, 16 January
	07:00 Rectors Day off
	08:00 Morning Prayer
	11:00 Messy Church 1145 to 130

Female images of God in the Bible—pick up a sheet to take home and read with your Bible—people have asked for this as a resource in prayer...



Christian Meditation Group meets on Mondays at 8pm in St Peter's Room—all welcome!

Intercessions

The Sick and in need: Catherine, Jean, Ann, Marjorie, Ron, Connie, Mary, Paul, Pat, Rex, Emma

The Departed: Steve Stephens

Send the names of people who have asked to be remembered in our parish intercessions to the Rector

Pray for Emma Richard's preparing for baptism on 19 Feb

Pray for St Peters PCC meeting this week to look at the budget for 2017

Pray for the lesbian & gay people trying to find a home in the Church of England for a sense of welcome as our Bishops are calling us to

Pray for the out working of our Mission Action Plans in the Benefice

CONFIRMATION 2017 if you are interested in being confirmed this year please let Fr Reuben or a Churchwarden know.

Fairtrade—St Peter's is now using Fairtrade Communion Wine



The Very Reverend Dr Jeffrey John is coming to BELIEF to speak on: "All generations shall call her blessed" Mary in the New Testament and in the church. Sat 18th Feb 10am-1pm see posters in church

Sat 4 March "One Jesus ? A day with Mark's Gospel"—See posters in churches A day with the text of Mark, with prayer together and individually and renewal

Mary and Paul Freeman have asked if people would pop in and visit them in the afternoons—they are feeling quite isolated being housebound. A 10 min chat would be much appreciated:



Church Contacts

The Rector: Reuben Preston, The Rectory, 81 High Street, Sharnbrook MK44 1PE 01234 782000 07971 895897

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Lay Leaders of Worship: Rosemary Drewery 07792926004, Jane Templeman, Andrea Maffie 07881 046255

Churchwardens:-

St Peter's Church: Roger Gaunt 01234 782183 &

Andrea Maffei 07881 046255

St Mary's Church: Jane Wells 01234 782462 &

Sue Whitehouse 01234 781300

All Saints Church: Nick Wells 07841 759497

To make arrangements for Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms/Christenings, Confessions, House Blessings etc. please contact the Rector

Sponsorship: In thanksgiving for everyone who came to Candlemas and for those who brought food and drink to share

If you would like to sponsor this sheet please send you £5 donation to The Rectory along with details of the sponsorship (even if anonymous)