

SUNDAYS 4TH & 11TH FEBRUARY 2024

SPRING QUIZ

Friday 19th April @ 7.00 pm

St Giles' Community Hall

£10 in aid of St Giles

Tickets from: Alison Wilson or Jean Newson

APCM SEASON IS LOOMING

An early request for all St Giles' groups. Could you please make a note in your diaries to have your reports in by the end of February. Please also note that these reports should cover the period January to December 2023 only. THANK YOU!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

FRIDAY 1st MARCH at 2.00pm

SALVATION ARMY CENTRE,

MEAD WAY, BALDERTON

'I beg you, bear with one another'

This year the service is written by the Christian Women of Palestine. wwdp.org.uk

Everyone welcome.

NEWARK TOWN BAND CONCERT

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH AT 7.30 PM
IN ST GILES' CHURCH

Tickets £10 available from church or from Alison Wilson.

OPEN CHURCH

If you would like to help steward in St Giles on the Thursdays throughout Lent to allow church to be open for quiet reflection and prayer please add your name to the sign up church at the back of St Giles. THANK YOU

DEANERY CONFIRMATION SERVICE - A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Please hold Richard, Rosie, Rita, Jess and Brynn in your prayers as they prepare for confirmation on Sunday 25th February at 6pm in West Markham.

Pop the date in your diary - you are very welcome to come along and support them on the day.

SERVICES

Wednesday 31st January

7.30 pm Encounter (online)

Thursday 1st February

10.00 am Holy Communion, St Giles

Sunday 4th February

10.00 am Holy Communion, St Giles

6.00 pm Free to Be - Evensong, St Giles

Tuesday 6th February

10.00 am Coffee & Prayer Time (online)

10.00 am Funeral of Mrs Edna Dobney, St Giles

7.15 pm 2024 Wedding Couples Get-Together, St Giles

Thursday 8th February

10.00 am Holy Communion, St Giles

Sunday 11th February

10.00 am Holy Communion, St Giles

10.00 am Holy Communion, All Saints, Barnby in the Willows

Tuesday 13th February

10.00 am Coffee & Prayer Time (online)

Wednesday 14th February: Ash Wednesday

7.30 pm Ash Wednesday Communion, St Giles

Thursday 15th February

10.00 am Holy Communion, St Giles

Sunday 18th February

10.00 am Holy Communion, St Giles

4.00 pm 4 @ The Hall, St Giles' Community Hall

7.30 pm Encounter (online)

Please note that Encounter is taking place on 31st January, then won't be taking place for the next two weeks after that - 7th and 14th February. Encounter will resume on 21st February at 7.30pm.

FEBRUARY'S LETTER FROM THE MINISTRY TEAM COMES TO US FROM JOHN DODD, LICENSED LAY MINISTER

I have been thinking about LOVE a great deal recently, whether that is because of my upcoming wedding or because Valentine's Day is only a few days away, I am not sure.

As The Beatles once sang, "All We Need Is Love" and I wholeheartedly agree with that and indeed if the world was full of more love for one another and especially our enemies, what a more harmonious place it would be and we could end a lot of the suffering that dominates our news. This is summed up in The Bible, where we read in Matthew 22:36-40 what Jesus attests about the importance of love; when he is asked:

"which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

The Bible also defines love as sacrificial, patient, kind, humble and selfless. It is a love that gives first and expects nothing in return, and that comes only from Christ. It is the chief fruit of the Holy Spirit at work in and through our lives.

God loves everyone, regardless of their backgrounds, status and actions and His love never ends, nor will it ever fail us. Sometimes it may be that we do not always see or feel God's love in the difficult times in our lives, but perhaps when we look back, we can notice the places and ways and people that he has used to show his love has been holding us and never let us down. So even when we lose faith in him, God remains faithful to us. This faithfulness remains simply because he loves us. It does not matter what happens, God's love will remain steadfast and true in our lives.

The other amazing thing about God's love for us, is that comes without any ulterior motives, it is perfect and always seeks the best for us, no matter who we are.

So although love is about much more than romance and devotion, I hope that you find love amongst your friends and family, whilst also recognising and experiencing God's amazing love for you.

John Dodd, Licensed Lay Minister

The February, March & April issue of our Benefice Bulletin is now out.

Have you got your copy? If you would like to receive this each quarter please email stgilesbalderton@gmail.com so that this can be arranged. Alternatively you can pick a copy up from one of our churches. Suggested donation £2.00



OPEN

**Every Thursday
throughout Lent**

February 15th, 22nd & 29th
March 7th, 14th & 21st

10.00 am Holy Communion

Church will then remain
open until 1pm and
between 5 and 7pm for
quiet prayer and reflection

ST GILES CHURCH

*The BBC
Group of Churches*
www.bbc-churches.org.uk

MOTHERING SUNDAY

*Let's say thank
you together...*

**10.00 am FAMILY COMMUNION
St Giles, Balderton**

**10.00 am FAMILY COMMUNION
All Saints, Barnby in the Willows**

**10.00 am MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE
All Saints, Coddington**

Sunday 10th March 2024

READINGS FOR 4TH FEBRUARY

www.bbc-churches.org.uk

Collect

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Isaiah 40: 21-31

Have you not been paying attention? Have you not been listening?
Haven't you heard these stories all your life? Don't you understand the foundation of all things?
God sits high above the round ball of earth. The people look like mere ants. He stretches out the skies like a canvas— yes, like a tent canvas to live under.
He ignores what all the princes say and do. The rulers of the earth count for nothing.
Princes and rulers don't amount to much. Like seeds barely rooted, just sprouted,
They shrivel when God blows on them. Like flecks of chaff, they're gone with the wind.

“So—who is like me? Who holds a candle to me?” says The Holy.
Look at the night skies: Who do you think made all this?
Who marches this army of stars out each night, counts them off, calls each by name
—so magnificent! so powerful!— and never overlooks a single one?

27-31 Why would you ever complain, O Jacob, or, whine, Israel, saying,
“God has lost track of me. He doesn't care what happens to me”?
Don't you know anything? Haven't you been listening?
God doesn't come and go. God lasts. He's Creator of all you can see or imagine.
He doesn't get tired out, doesn't pause to catch his breath. And he knows everything, inside and out. He energizes those who get tired, gives fresh strength to dropouts. For even young people tire and drop out, young folk in their prime stumble and fall. But those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, They run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind.

Mark 1:29-39

Directly on leaving the meeting place, they came to Simon and Andrew's house, accompanied by James and John. Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed, burning up with fever. They told Jesus. He went to her, took her hand, and raised her up. No sooner had the fever left than she was up fixing dinner for them.

32-34 That evening, after the sun was down, they brought sick and evil-afflicted people to him, the whole city lined up at his door! He cured their sick bodies and tormented spirits. Because the demons knew his true identity, he didn't let them say a word.

While it was still night, way before dawn, he got up and went out to a secluded spot and prayed. Simon and those with him went looking for him. They found him and said, “Everybody's looking for you.”

38-39 Jesus said, “Let's go to the rest of the villages so I can preach there also. This is why I've come.” He went to their meeting places all through Galilee, preaching and throwing out the demons.

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

READINGS FOR 11TH FEBRUARY

www.bbc-churches.org.uk

Collect

Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Deuteronomy 5. 12-15

Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. 13 For six days you shall labour and do all your work. 14 But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. 15 Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

2 Corinthians 4. 5-12

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. 6 For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. 11 For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Mark 2. 23-3.6

One sabbath he was going through the cornfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. 24 The Pharisees said to him, 'Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?' 25 And he said to them, 'Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions.' Then he said to them, 'The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.'

Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, 'Come forward.' Then he said to them, 'Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?' But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen