

News Sheet – Sunday 18th February The First Sunday of Lent

LINK FOR THE LIVESTREAM SERVICE - <https://cofewrecclesham.org.uk/streamed-services/>

Please click on the link from ten minutes beforehand and there will be the livestream link to take you to the service

Thank you to all involved in our worship today - and to those offering refreshments and hospitality

TODAY'S SERVICE – 18th February 2024

8am - Holy Communion

10.00am – Third Sunday Service for the First Sunday of Lent – we will be welcoming Martin Angel who will be talk about conservation in our churchyard – with refreshments in church afterwards

Readings & Hymns: There are **Pew Bibles** available to browse/follow the readings at the back of church

Lectionary: Genesis 9.8-17; Psalm 25.1-9; 1 Peter 3.18-22; Mark 1.9-15

Reading for 10am Service – Psalm 104.1-31; Matthew 6.26-30

Hymns: *Intro:* Forty Days and Forty Nights - 6 All creatures of our God and King (omit 5&6) – 54 Beauty for Brokenness – 167 For the beauty of the earth – 60 Be still – 40 As the deer pants for the water – 499 O Lord, my God when I in awesome wonder

The Collect for the First Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

The Collect for Creation

Lord God, you lovingly spoke all creation into existence and shaped each one of us within our mother's womb; As we gather to worship you today, fill our hearts with wonder and our mouths with praise at the wildly wonderful world you have made. In the name of Jesus, by whom and for whom all things were created. Amen

NEXT SUNDAY'S SERVICE – 25th February 2024

8am - Holy Communion

10.00am – Parish Communion for the Second Sunday of Lent

TODAY'S MAIN NOTICES

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024 – SERVICE TO BE HELD AT ST MARY'S FRENESHAM – 11am FRIDAY 1 MARCH

Wendy Coxell and Roz Forsyth are our reps for this special service – this year's theme 'I beg you, bear with one another in love....' Please join them for the service followed by refreshments.... **(please see poster on the board)**

LENT LUNCH THIS WEDNESDAY, 12.30-1.30pm – simple soup lunch at the Vicarage, 2 Kings Lane (please sign up or let Jacqueline know if you can (any alms giving (optional) will go to charity)

SECOND WRECCLESHAM CONSERVATION GATHERING – 10AM–1PM SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY (church folk can join afterwards – or praise the Lord through working in our churchyard!

QUIZ NIGHT IS BACK! – 7pm Saturday 2nd March - £3 per person – teams of no more than six – come as a team or individually to make up teams on the night. Bring your own nibbles and tipple.... There will be a raffle and hot drinks/cake available at interval – **sign up sheet at back – Let Jacqueline know if you can kindly make a cake**

PLEA – CONTAINERS FOR MESSY CHURCH, PLEASE! – We would like the plastic takeaway containers to make Easter Gardens, please – could you kindly leave them at the back of the church or in the Vicarage Garage – huge thanks! ☺

Hear Here - is a Diocese of Guildford project in partnership with Sight for Surrey and the NHS, where NHS audiology trained volunteers provide community-based hearing aid maintenance – for more information: <https://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/hearhere/>

Could you become a Hearing Champion? Hearing Champions are volunteers who have been trained by NHS audiology staff in the basics of hearing aid maintenance. Volunteers from parish churches will be trained on safeguarding matters and have had the appropriate police checks.

We can provide our church as a local venue if we have people interested in providing this valuable service – it seems to be held monthly as a drop-in at other venues...

If anyone feels drawn to exploring the possibility of becoming a Hearing Champion, please speak to Jacqueline and/or contact Jude Darby, the Diocesan Hear Here Lead - Telephone: [07827 567014](tel:07827567014) Email: hearhere@cofeguildford.org.uk

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER – Lent and Easter...

Forthcoming Lent Course– beginning 2pm Thursdays 22nd & 29th February – 7th, 14th, 21st March

at 24 Buttermer Close (Thank you Chris & Frank) — **you don't have to attend every session....**

Lent Lunches 2024 – will be held at the Vicarage, 2 Kings lane – **Wednesdays 21st Feb – 6th & 20th March 12.30 – 1.30pm** – please do join me for a sociable home-made soup lunch – **if you would like to help with some soup-making / rock cake making, please let me know** – look forward to seeing some of you...

Easter Lilies – If you would like to make a donation towards the Easter Lilies in memory of a loved one, please kindly give your donation to Chris Gray, with your loved one's name(s) and we will have an 'In memory' list by the chancel display. Of course, if you would rather not have the name listed, please do say....

HEALING SERVICE FOR PALM SUNDAY – 6PM, Sunday 24th March – please see notice board for details of this gentle and what we hope is a calming and hopeful service as we seek God's wholeness and peace.

DATES FOR THE DIARY – LOOKING AHEAD!

- **Saturday 8th June** – BARN DANCE AT ST PETER'S CHURCH!
- **Tuesday 18th June** – Rowledge Community Choir Summer Concert in aid of the Dan Eley Foundation (it's a lovely repertoire!)

BAPTISM AND/OR CONFIRMATION: Affirming our faith – all ages: if you would like to consider affirming your journey of faith through Baptism and/or Confirmation, then please come and speak to Jacqueline about preparing for this very special occasion – it will be lovely to share the journey with you.... ☺ (07806 775974 / 01252 716431 – vicar@cofewrecclesham.org.uk) – **Confirmations also take place during the year in local churches** if this might be more preferable – either way, it will be good to talk more about next steps...

Farnham Assist – 2024 Programme now available by the notice boards – Farnham Assist reach out to older people who live alone or who are carers – **Please do take one if you or anyone you know might benefit from becoming part of the Farnham Assist community** – monthly Sunday lunches – pie & pint club for gentlemen – knit & natter – Ladies pub lunches – day trips & walks – and transport to help – it's all there...

Junior Church – I am praying for the mobilisation of a regular monthly (at least) Junior Church – is this something you might be interested in – or do you know someone who might like to be part of this? We have a very good resource that means the planning and prepping is already done – just the delivery and a heart for the little ones – that they get the chance to develop their faith and spirituality – and have fun along the way! We do have some funding to be allocated to a part-time role (3-4 hours per week) – if this option is of interest. **Please do come and speak to me or pass on my details if anyone would like a chat about this. (07806 775974 – jackieds8@hotmail.com)** In the meantime, please pray for the revival of our Junior Church and family ministry.

Calling all singers.... Do you like to sing? Come and join our informal choir. No experience needed, you don't need to read music or commit to regular Sundays. We will meet at 9.30 before the service to run through the hymns with David - just turn up. For more information please contact me on 07548830018 or email carolzeiher@sky.com.

OTHER HEADLINES / CHURCH NOTICES

THIS WEEK'S THANK YOUS... To all of us for being there for each other and doing what we can for the love of the Lord and our St Peter's Church! ☺

- Thank you to Myung Hye for mobilising the beginnings of Wrecclesham Conservation Group – beginning with our churchyard!
- To Martin Angel and Noel Moss, and members of Bourne Conservation for their support and guidance and generosity of spirit and goods by way of nest boxes etc...
- To our choir who are wonderfully enhancing our congregational singing – and to David for leading them and leading us so beautifully in our worship through wonderful organ and piano playing ☺

PRAYERS FOR:

Margaret Jeffery, Beryl Tate, Jenny Emberson, Andrew Steward, Penny Cleland, Andrew Jones, Gerald Martin, Zoe Perkins – for all who are poorly, and give thanks for the healing and ongoing wellbeing of all recovering and on the mend from illness....

Years Mind: We remember all those dear to us whose years' mind falls around this time....: *(please let Jacqueline know if you would like someone remembered by name ...)*

Please also pray for the life and work of our Church, that we might be part of God's revival, and loving and transforming grace here in our place...

Please contact Jacqueline on vicar@cofewrecclesham.org.uk or 716431 / 07806 775974 if you have a notice to share – or if you would like to talk about something else – her day off is a Monday....

HELP NEEDED, PLEASE – techy team rota - we would like to extend the team - it is not as challenging as it sounds! Please do speak to Rob/Jacqueline or any of our wonderful Techy Team if you would like to know more – you will be on the rota roughly once every 4/5 weeks – you can work with another person if you like to be in a team!

WRECCLESHAM OVER 60'S – On 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month @ 1.30pm – a lovely group meet at the Leverton Hall – please pick up a leaflet for information....

Farnham Foodbank

THE BASKET IS NOW LOCATED ON THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE OF THE CHURCH BY THE DOOR

Please only donate long-life goods – fresh and perishable goods cannot be accepted – thank you for all that you contribute

- **Please** continue to put donations in the basket and Lizzy Hendry will kindly be taking the food to the Foodbank – thank you everyone...

Contact: mail: info@farnham.foodbank.org.uk or call 07901 58153 visit our website farnham.foodbank.org.uk or follow on Facebook [facebook.com/farnhamfoodbank](https://www.facebook.com/farnhamfoodbank)

GENERAL NOTICES

- **Lions Fuel Appeal** - Farnham Lions, for the 12th year running, are again launching the Wenceslas Appeal for anyone who might be in a position to donate their Winter Fuel Payment to help local people and families who will find it hard to keep warm and cook in these coming months – an amazing £57,000 was distributed to people in need who were referred via the Citizens Advice and Farnham Support Fund, Farnham Foodbank and other charities...
Donations can be made to <https://www.lionsgiving.co.uk/Appeal/farnhamwenceslas> or by cheque (payable to Farnham Lions Club CIO and endorsed WFP on the back) sent to Farnham Lions Club, 45 Edward Road, Farnham GU9 8NP
- **Diocese News** - If you would like to receive news and information from the Diocese, please sign up to their [weekly parish brief](#).

LECTIONARY READINGS – The First Sunday of Lent

First Reading - Genesis 9.8-17

⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' ¹²God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' ¹⁷God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Psalm 25.1-9

Second Reading 1 Peter 3.18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Gospel Reading Mark 1.9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Readings for The Third Sunday Service – Turning back to Nature

Reading: Palm 104:1-31 – Giving praise to the Creator

Praise the LORD, my soul! O LORD, my God, how great you are!

You are clothed with majesty and glory;

² you cover yourself with light. You have spread out the heavens like a tent

³ and built your home on the waters above. You use the clouds as your chariot and ride on the wings of the wind.

⁴ You use the winds as your messengers and flashes of lightning as your servants.

⁵ You have set the earth firmly on its foundations, and it will never be moved.

⁶ You placed the ocean over it like a robe, and the water covered the mountains.

⁷ When you rebuked the waters, they fled; they rushed away when they heard your shout of command.

⁸ They flowed over the mountains and into the valleys, to the place you had made for them.

⁹ You set a boundary they can never pass, keep them from covering the earth again.

¹⁰ You make springs flow in the valleys, and rivers run between the hills.

¹¹ They provide water for the wild animals; there the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

¹² In the trees near by, the birds make their nests and sing.

¹³ From the sky you send rain on the hills, and the earth is filled with your blessings.

¹⁴ You make grass grow for the cattle and plants for us to use, so that we can grow our crops

¹⁵ and produce wine to make us happy, olive oil to make us cheerful, and bread to give us strength.

¹⁶ The cedars of Lebanon get plenty of rain— the LORD's own trees, which he planted.

¹⁷ There the birds build their nests; the storks nest in the fir trees.

¹⁸ The wild goats live in the high mountains, and the rock badgers hide in the cliffs.

¹⁹ You created the moon to mark the months; the sun knows the time to set.

²⁰ You made the night, and in the darkness all the wild animals come out.

²¹ The young lions roar while they hunt, looking for the food that God provides.

²² When the sun rises, they go back and lie down in their dens.

²³ Then people go out to do their work and keep working until evening.

²⁴ LORD, you have made so many things! How wisely you made them all! The earth is filled with your creatures.

²⁵ There is the ocean, large and wide, where countless creatures live, large and small alike.

²⁶ The ships sail on it, and in it plays Leviathan, that sea monster which you made.

²⁷ All of them depend on you to give them food when they need it.

²⁸ You give it to them, and they eat it; you provide food, and they are satisfied.

²⁹ When you turn away, they are afraid; when you take away your breath, they die and go back to the dust from which they came.

³⁰ But when you give them breath,^[c] they are created; you give new life to the earth.

³¹ May the glory of the LORD last forever! May the LORD be happy with what he has made!

Second reading: The Gospel of Matthew: 6.26-30

²⁶ Look at the birds: they do not plant seeds, gather a harvest and put it in barns; yet your Father in heaven takes care of them! Aren't you worth much more than birds? ²⁷ Can any of you live a bit longer^[c] by worrying about it?

²⁸ "And why worry about clothes? Look how the wild flowers grow: they do not work or make clothes for themselves. ²⁹ But I tell you that not even King Solomon with all his wealth had clothes as beautiful as one of these flowers. ³⁰ It is God who clothes the wild grass—grass that is here today and gone tomorrow, burned up in the oven. Won't he be all the more sure to clothe you?