**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**

**SUNDAY 18th FEBRUARY 2024**

**Collect**

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.

**Genesis 9.8-17**

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him: 9‘I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you 10and with every living creature that was with you – the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you – every living creature on earth. 11I establish my covenant with you: never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth.’

12And God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: 13I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, 15I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. 16Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.’

17So God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.’

**Psalm 25.1-9**

In you, Lord my God, I put my trust.

2I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.  
3No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

4Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.  
5Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.  
6Remember, Lord, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.  
7Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;  
according to your love remember me, for you, Lord, are good.

8Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways.  
9He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

**1 Peter 3.18-22**

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. 19After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits – 20to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21and this water symbolises baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience towards God.[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+peter+3&version=NIVUK#fen-NIVUK-30446e)] It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand – with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

**Mark 1.9-15**

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. 10Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.’

12At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness, 13and he was in the wilderness for forty days, being temptedby Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

14After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!’

**Post Communion**

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;

by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love:

teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**THE WEEKLY MESSENGER**

**ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH, STONEBRIDGE**

**This Week’s Service Schedule**

* **Sunday 18th February: Parish Eucharist at 10am**; **Church on the Phone** at 1:30pm;
* **Morning Prayer: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:15am on Zoom**
* **Wednesday 10am: Prayer Fellowship Lent Group**
* **Saturday 24th February: Praise and Worship with Holy Communion at 5pm.**
* **Sunday 25th February: Parish Eucharist at 10am** with the Bible readings as below; **Church on the Phone** at 1:30pm;

**Hymns for 10:00am service**

*Introit hymn:*

**No 673: There is a Redeemer**

*Gradual hymn:*

**No 160: Forty days and forty days**

*Offertory hymn:*

**No 784: Ye servants of God**

*Hymn during communion:*

**No 64: Break Thou the bread of life**

*Recessional hymn:*

**No 1008: The Lord’s my shepherd**

**Bible Readings Sunday before Lent 11th February**

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| **Readings** | **Sunday** |
| 1st: Hebrew Scripture | Genesis 17.1-7, 15, 16 |
| 2nd: Psalm | Psalm 22.23-31 |
| 3rd: Epistle | Romans 4.13-25 |
| Gospel | Mark 8.31-38 |

**How to connect:**

**Telephone service Sundays at 1:30pm:**  call the conference line 0333 0164 757. When it answers, key in the conference number 68971667# and then the PIN 9651#.

**Zoom services: all prayer services on Zoom use the same meeting code as follows: either enter the Meeting ID manually – 881 6923 2299** or use the quick link https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88169232299

For audio only from any phone, please dial 0203 481 5237 and enter the Meeting ID.

**Contacts and information:**

**Vicar: Revd Sarah Liebert**

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**Facebook:** [**https://www.facebook.com/St-Michael-and-All-Angels-Church-Stonebridge-296910461762296**](https://www.facebook.com/St-Michael-and-All-Angels-Church-Stonebridge-296910461762296)

**Hall hire:** **07704 694432**

**Diary Dates**

* Elders Drop-in lunch Friday 1st March 12:30 to 2:00pm.
* The Fourth Sunday of Lent 10th March
* The Sixth Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday: 24th March. Holy Week 2024 begins. There will be a procession with palms and palm crosses to take home to use in prayer.
* Maundy Thursday 28th March: we hold an evening service to remember the Last Supper and watching and waiting at the Garden of Gethsemane.
* Good Friday 29th March: we hold a service of Three Hours’ Devotions 12:00 to 3:00pm including a one hour telephone linkup for Church on the Phone.
* *British Summer Time starts 2:00 am Sunday 31st March: this is the night as Easter Sunday begins, so do not be caught out.*
* Easter Sunday 31st March: our Sunday begins with our Easter Early Service including blessing of fire and light, and renewal of our baptismal vows. There will then be a Parish Breakfast followed by Parish Eucharist at 10:00am.