

PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY, PULBOROUGH



22nd November 2020

We are very grateful that this leaflet has been
generously sponsored

**'In loving memory of my eldest son James'.
Anne Stevenson**

*You are invited to remember all those who you would normally meet
with on this day within the church family and pray for them,
especially those you have a particular concern for.*

Having brought sisters and brothers to mind, you may like to join in the singing of the Opening Hymn: (Found on website?)

**Opening Hymn: NEH 352
Matthew Bridges 1800-94**

- 1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own:
awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee
and hail him as thy matchless King
throughout eternity.**

- 2 Crown him the Lord of love!
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends each burning eye
at mysteries so bright.**

- 3 Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways
from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise:
his reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of Paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

**4 Crown him the Lord of years,
the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres,
ineffably sublime.
Glassed in a sea of light,
Where everlasting waves,
Reflect his throne – the Infinite!
Who lives – and loves – and saves.**

✠ In the name of the Father, and
of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

In a few moments of quiet bring to the Lord your failings and shortcomings, particularly those times when you have doubted God's loving purposes in this current situation.

The Prayers of Penitence

The kingdom is yours,
but we turn away from your just rule:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The power is yours,
but we trust in our own power and strength:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

The glory is yours,
but we fall short of the glory of God:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver
us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Gloria

**Glory to God in the Highest, and
peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, Heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus, Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world; have mercy on us;
You are seated at the right hand of the
Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy one,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the
glory of God the Father. Amen**



The Collect for the Day

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven
that he might rule over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Reading: Ezekiel 34. 11-16. 20-24

For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

*You may now wish to sing along with the next hymn:
(Found on website?)*

**Hymn: NEH 443 Rejoice the Lord is King
Charles Wesley (1707-1788)**

- 1 **Rejoice, the Lord is King,
your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore
*lift up your heart, lift up your voice,
rejoice, again, I say, rejoice.***

- 2 **Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:** *Chorus*

- 3 **His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:** *Chorus*

- 4 **He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command
and fall beneath his feet:** *Chorus*

**5 Rejoice, the Lord is King,
your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore:
*lift up your heart, lift up your voice,
rejoice, again, I say, rejoice.***

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 25. 31-46

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?”

And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.”

Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'

Reflection

This last Friday our Queen and Prince Philip celebrated 73 years of marriage. Talk of the monarch and her family are familiar and regular features of our national life. Worldwide, talk of princes and princesses , kings and queens, although not real people in many cases, are well known figures in folk stories, nursery rhymes and certainly in history books!

The concept of a king or queen is one which most people can relate to in some way or another.

I want to take us back to 1925. Very few of us were around then and those of us that were wont remember much about it. It was a year in that period following the first world war-a time that saw significant political, cultural and social change across Europe and other parts of the world. If you watched 'Downton Abbey' or similar dramas set in that period you will appreciate what great social changes were taking place in this country at that time. It was a time when everything seemed to be changing (sound familiar?). All the established social norms seemed to be in question!

It was at this time, that Pope Pius XI instituted this feast of Christ the King. It is said that he did this in response to the political changes of his day, especially the rise of nationalism and secularism,(again sound familiar?).

The centres of power and authority seemed to be shifting: old certainties seemed to be no longer that!

The institution of this feast seemed to be about reminding God's people to celebrate where true power and authority really lie; to point the faithful to the true source of that power and authority which is absolute ,that is the rule of Jesus Christ, the Universal King!

The Christian year ends with proclaiming 'Christ is King'! We celebrate His kingship and the presence of His kingdom in the midst of the kingdoms of this world. But we also recognise that we have a part to play in bringing this kingdom to its full realisation in the places where we live and work and in ourselves and the people we meet.

In our scripture readings today we see what sort of king we worship. He is the King who is the shepherd-the one who keeps all His flock in view, who rescues us when we stray, who binds up our wounds when we need healing, who gives strength when we feel we are weak. Yet we also worship the King who is also our judge. This is not such an attractive image; the judge who sits on His throne of glory who is the judge of all the nations.

Jesus tells us very clearly what we will be judged on in seeking to make His kingdom a reality in the course of our lives on earth. It is about those small things; those few words and simple actions that will affirm another person in their dignity as a child of God or how we have failed to do that.

We have this truth presented to us on a very broad canvas ie. The Son of Man seated on His throne of glory with all the nations assembled before him. Yet when it comes to it , He say, in as far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of

mine.....in as far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you neglected to do it to me”.

God’s kingdom is advanced by those simple actions which actually make all the difference in the world to those who are in need. The challenge for us is to make Christ’s sovereignty a reality in our lives, He should rule our every movement, our every thought, word and deed. He should be the motivation of our lives; the goal of our lives, the one who ultimately gives life its meaning and purpose. The one we should see in all His children, even in the seemingly most unlovable and unattractive!

Fr. Paul

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and buried;
He descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sin,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen

The Intercessions

Let us with confidence present our prayers and supplications to the throne of grace.

We pray for all those in positions of power, that they may govern with wisdom and integrity, serving the needs of their people.

May your reign come;
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church, the sign of your reign, that it may extend your welcome to people of every race and background.

May your kingdom come;
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for Christians of every denomination, that together we may come to understand the royal priesthood you bestowed on us in baptism.

May your dominion come;
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those whose commitment to truth brings them into conflict with earthly powers, that they may have the courage to endure.

May your rule come;

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for this community of faith, that attentive to your word we may always worship in spirit and in truth.

May your reign come;
Lord, hear our prayer.

Pray for the leaders of the nation, governments of the world and all managing the affects of the present pandemic and all those engaged in medical research, especially in securing a development of an effective vaccine.

We pray especially for the President-Elect of the USA

We especially pray for those working and living in our local Care Homes: Hillside Lodge, The Anchorage, Petworth Cottage Nursing Home and Rotherlea

Together with other Churches in the village we pray for those who work for Broomers Hill Lane, Mare Hill Road, West Mare Lane Kings Lane and Batts Lane

*Those who are in particular need of healing:
Andrew Nairn, Margaret Olver and Millie*

*Those who are in need of continued prayer:
Ron Jones, Betty Miller and Ryan Nichols*

Pray to rest in peace: Douglas Burford and Peter Garland

Anniversary of death: Cecil Grover, Les Adsett, Brian Ball and Joyce Cottle

Loving God,
you have taught us that the power of the heart
is greater than the power of wealth and might.
Hear us as we pray for the fulfilment of your reign.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our King;
to him be glory and power for ever. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**



An Act of Spiritual Communion

(As we are unable to physically receive Holy Communion you might find it helpful to make this act of spiritual communion)

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you. Since I cannot at this time receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Amen

You may now wish to say or sing along with the next hymn:

HYMN: NEH 271 William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

- 1 Alleluia, sing to Jesus!
his the sceptre, his the throne;
Alleluia, his the triumph,
his the victory alone:
hark, the songs of peaceful Sion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation
hath redeemed us by his blood.**

- 2 Alleluia, not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia, he is near us,
faith believes, nor questions how:
though the cloud from sight received him,
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?**

- 3 Alleluia, bread of angels,
thou on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia, here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day:
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.**

4 Alleluia, King eternal,
thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia, born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:
thou within the veil hast entered,
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
thou on earth both Priest and Victim
in the Eucharistic Feast.

The Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all now and for ever. Amen.





Sadly, during the present lockdown the government has directed that all public worship be suspended for the time being.

However, the church is open for private prayer and reflection on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 2pm-4pm. It may also be open at other times around the times of Morning and Evening Prayer (Please listen for the bell!)

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, along with other church leaders have encouraged us to use this month's lockdown as a time for prayer for the nation. The focus for this will be at 6pm each day. Please look at the Church of England's website for helpful prayer resources.

Please also look at our church's own website www.stmaryspulborough.org.uk for updated information about recorded services, worship texts for use at home and other information. Alternatively call Fr Paul on 01798 875773 or the Churchwardens on 873795 or 872819

' May the God of hope fill you with all joy in believing'

FSW FOOD HAMPER

Please remember the food hamper when you go shopping and if possible any of the following items would be most welcome: **FSW is asking for soup, tinned meat, tinned vegetables and tinned fruit for the food bank but all donations are** Thank you so much for your continued help.



With the festive season ahead this is a specially challenging for FSW. They would be pleased for **tins of chocolates or sweet, Christmas puddings, Christmas Puddings, tinned custard, tinned fruit, jelly, cranberry sauce, bread sauce, stuffing mix, gravy granules, minced pies and packs of savoury snacks again that the family can share.**

Items can be left in the North Porch Tuesdays, Thursday, Saturday or Sunday between 2-4 if you are out on your daily exercise or coming to the Church for private prayer or contact **Alyson Heath 873795**

TOYS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT WORK

Traditionally at the beginning of December we have collected toys for FSW. This year the charity especially needs toys for the over 5s, and of course toys includes things like games, jigsaws, colouring books and pens and of course books, **all unwrapped**. For teenagers gift vouchers are good. They do stress that **they can't use soft toys this year so please tell everyone that they, sadly, DO NOT want teddies.**

ST. MARY'S COOK BOOK

We hope to have the cook book ready for sale by the end of November. Please order your copy from **Ann Kaiser 872819 or Toni Hayes 873683 or Alyson Heath 873795** Copies are '£8 or 800pence for our St. Mary's 800 Appeal'!. We are very grateful to Comyn & James who have generously sponsored the Cook Book