

## FOR PRAYER

SICK AND SHUT-IN: Debbie Thornton / Alan Bartlett / John Payne / Olive Lane / Bryan Walker / Lizzy Strick / Wendy Trent / John Round-Turner / Mary Sharpe / Margaret Watson / Pamela Bowen / Sue Waugh / Cindie Lind / Lesley-Anne Dotchin / Margaret Symonds / Julie May / Marlene Jackaman / Jean Marsh / Marilyn Raw / Georgina Simpson / Rob King / Caroline Tea / Sybil Groves

DEPARTED: Mary Hunt, Victoria Howard-Vyse, Liz Hardy, Jean Marshall  
ANNIVERSARIES: Please see list by ICON and in the magazine

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Anyone down your street shut-in and lonely due to Corona Virus
- Local business people economically hit by the current restrictions
- Stables in town, trying to plan for an uncertain spring and summer
- Wisdom in government regarding Corona Virus (COVID-19).

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER: Loving God,  
as a mother feeds her children at the breast  
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal  
life:  
help us who have tasted your goodness  
to grow in grace within the household of faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## WEEKDAY SERVICES

Cancelled

Next week: Cancelled

**RECTOR: Fr John Hardy (01638 660729);**

**ASSOCIATE RECTOR: Revd Max Drinkwater (01638 601455);**

**ASSISTANT CURATES: Revd Cheryl Belding; Revd Jeremy Lind**

**WEBSITE: [stmarysandstagnesnewmarket.org.uk](http://stmarysandstagnesnewmarket.org.uk)**

## NOTICES

**Two messages from Fr Max.** (1) Dear friends in Exning and North Newmarket, As you may already be aware, Churches Together in England are encouraging everyone to pray together for our nation this Sunday at 7pm. To clarify, there is no gathering being organised, as government and church guidelines have made clear that this is no longer advisable, but we are invited to join together from our own homes. If you are able to light a candle in the window, that is even better, and will demonstrate to friends and neighbours that we are still united in our faith that God is with us in these troubled times.

Further information and resources are here: <https://www.cte.org.uk/Publisher/Article.aspx?ID=569010>

As you can imagine, it is highly unlikely that Holy Week and Easter ceremonies will be able to be held in their usual way this year, including the Walk of Witness, so I will update you nearer the time on what we might be able to do. It will be important over the coming weeks and months, however, that we show that our faith in Jesus Christ, who suffered with us to the point of death and rose again for our sake, remains steadfast and we 'hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful' (Hebrews 10.23). *Every blessing, Max*

(2) The clergy agreed the following schedule over the coming weeks, to keep the churches open, the clergy available as far as possible, and prayers being said.

During the week, members of the clergy will be in church from 10am to 11am: Monday-Thursday at St Mary's and Friday at St Martin's. Prayers will be said at 10am by the clergy, and the Eucharist offered on Wednesday. After this, the clergy will be around to speak to if needed. For the whole time, people are invited to come in and pray quietly and to light candles, if you are able to within the current government guidelines.

On Sundays, churches will be open for an hour at the regular service times: 9.30am at SS Philip and Etheldreda's, 9.45am at St Mary's, 11.00am at St Martin's, 11.15am at St Agnes's. Again, prayers will be said or the Eucharist offered by the clergy, with the church staying open for the remaining time for personal prayer.

It is important to say that we are trying to make the church space available to everyone, whether they are regular church goers or not, and will be advertising these opening times as widely as possible. Cathy or John P, could you please update the Exning website with this information?

We know that many people will be in isolation, and unable to visit the church even under these arrangements, and we are therefore developing ways to stay in touch and ensure people continue to feel connected to the wider church community. This is not the church shutting up or closing down, but developing new ways of expressing our faith and worship in these extraordinary circumstances. In fact, we may find that people seek the church's ministry even more in these testing times. Please do be in touch with us by phone, email or social media if there is anything we can do, and let people know what we are planning.

And a final note to say that, as the church's ministry continues and develops, we do need you to continue supporting the church if you are able, and that includes financially. Your support and your prayer is much appreciated by myself and all the clergy at this time. With prayers and best wishes, Max

**Welcome to the  
Benefice of St Mary's Newmarket with St Agnes' Exning  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
Mothering Sunday  
22 March 2020**

READINGS:

9.45

Exodus 2.10

John 9.1-41

6.30

The Prayer of Manasseh

James chapter 5

COLLECT:

God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,  
and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself:  
strengthen us in our daily living, that in joy and in sorrow  
we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to  
heal; 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.

***GIFTAID IT: If you're a UK taxpayer, please think before you put cash in the collection plate. If you put it in one of the Gift aid envelopes (available in the pews), please remember to fill in your details and sign the envelope. The Chancellor of the Exchequer adds 20% to your gift. So a gift of £5, for example, becomes £ 6.00 at no extra cost to you. Every little helps. Thank you.***