

NOTICES

LENT DISCUSSION GROUPS

Please remember that, if you wish to be included on the **Tuesday** Zoom list, send an email to Mark at wincheslodge@gmail.com but if you prefer to attend on **Wednesdays** at 11.00 (in the Parish Centre after the Communion Service), please tell Patsy Cann or Sue Vaughan, so that we know how many to cater for.

As part of her Readership training, **Patsy Cann** will not be with us from today until Easter Day, Sunday, 9th April, as she will be on placement at St Stephen's to get more varied experience. Our thoughts and prayers go with Patsy on this important part of her training.

ADVANCE INFORMATION

ELECTORAL ROLL: Before for the **Annual Meetings on 21st May**, the parish Electoral Roll needs to be revised, and **will be open for revision from 31st March**.

- If you are already a member of the Roll, you do not need to complete a form.
- If you are a regular worshipper aged 16 and above, and not yet on the Roll, please take an Electoral Roll Application Form from the back of either church, fill it in, and return to the Parish Office at the Vicarage. Membership of the Electoral Roll gives you voting rights at parish meetings and helps keep our pastoral contacts up to date.

ELECTIONS for **Lay Members of Deanery Synod** are due to take place at the **Annual Meetings on 21st May**, and below is a brief overview of the role of Deanery Synod for your information.

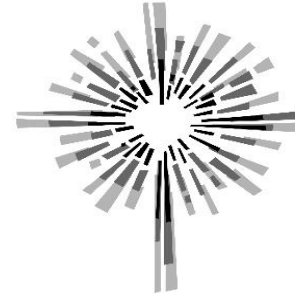
What is Deanery Synod?

The role of Deanery Synod provides a forum for people and churches to discuss ideas, address challenges and share resources. It is comprised of both Clergy and Lay members. One of the most important things about lay Deanery Synod members is that they are the people who elect the laity to the General Synod. They therefore have a surprisingly large amount of power in shaping the future life of the Church of England.

How Does Deanery Synod Work?

Deanery Synod meets 3 times a year – Spring, Summer, and Autumn. Meetings last about 2 hours and are held at different churches within the Deanery.

If you would like to know more, please speak to either Val, Mark or Graham Willey who is one of our current Deanery Synod representatives.



St Michael with St Mary

Services this week

Sunday, 12th March 2023:

Third Sunday of Lent

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St Michael's)
President: Rev'd Canon Iain Lane
6.00 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

Wednesday

- 9.00 a.m. School Service
10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)

Sunday, 19th March 2023:

Mothering Sunday

- 8.00 a.m. Holy Communion (St Michael's)
9.30 a.m. Parish Communion (St Michael's)
President: Rev'd John Bannister
6.00 p.m. Evensong (St Mary's)

PLEASE NOTE: The Parish Office is CLOSED on Wednesdays

Contacts

Key information is available on www.stmichaels-parishchurch.org.uk or via the Parish Office: 01727 835037 (9.00 a.m.–12.00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)

Children's Church for those in school years Reception to Year 6 meets alongside the 9.30am service during term time. Please ask a Steward for more information and directions.

The **children's corner** in the North Aisle contains themed-worksheets, books and toys. Parents: please remain responsible for your children in this space. If your child needs time-out or privacy (e.g. nappy change) the Tower Room is available and has sound relay of the service.

Toilets are available in the Parish Centre at the east end of the churchyard; please see a steward for access.

Please stay for **refreshments** after the service in the Parish Centre.

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 17: 1-7 (OT p.59 in the Pew Bibles)
Between the first and second readings the choir sings Psalm 95

O come, let us sing unto the Lord:

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving:

and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God:

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth:

and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it:

and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down:

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God:

and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

To-day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts:

as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness;

When your fathers tempted me:

proved me, and saw my works.

Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said:

It is a people that do err in their hearts, for they have not known my ways;

Unto whom I swear in my wrath:

that they should not enter into my rest.

New Testament Reading: Romans 5: 1-11 (NT p.143 in the Pew Bibles)

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we

be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Gospel Reading: John 4: 5-15, 31-42 (NT p.88 in the Pew Bibles)

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

During Communion the choir sings:

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God.

Why art thou so full of heaviness, O my soul, and why art thou so disquieted within me?

O put thy trust in God.

Words from Psalm 42 Music by Vincent Novello 1781-1861

Please remember in your prayers

- those who are **ill**, including: Nicola Cann, Sandra Dove, Jacqui Follett, Jo Frost, Rev'd Ruth Goatly, Debbie Greenwood, Edna Hames, Helen Huson, Rachael Hymas, Ingrid Kluckova, JoAnne Laws, John Polhill, Alice Reardon, Pat Stroud, Cora Marie Varshney, Paul Wiggett