

Dates for your diary

3rd Candlemas 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

7th Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

10th Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

12th Vestry Meeting.

14th Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

17th Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

21st Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

24th Seventh Sunday after Epiphany 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

28th Thursday 10.30am Holy Communion at St. John's.

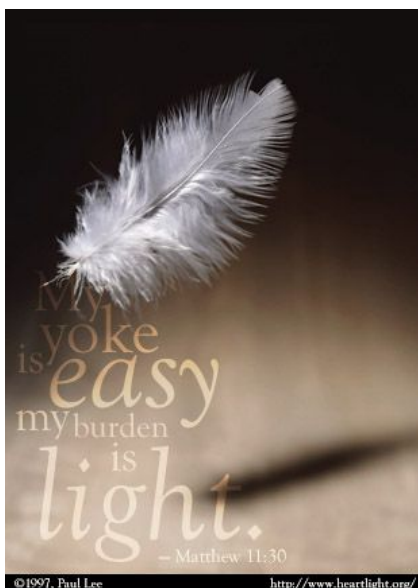
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February 2019

Some thoughts ..

With our nation in a time of uncertainty it's important as Christians that we pray ...

'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all Godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our

Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth.' **1 Timothy 2:1-4.**

In the House of Commons the Speaker's Chaplain prays this prayer daily:

Lord, the God of righteousness and truth, grant to our Queen and her government, to Members of Parliament and all in positions of responsibility, the guidance of your Spirit. May they never lead the nation wrongly through love of power, desire to please, or unworthy ideals but laying aside all private interests and prejudices keep in mind their responsibility to seek to improve the condition of all mankind; so may your kingdom come and your name be hallowed. Amen.

God and Father of us all, graciously bless this our nation, and send out your light and your truth to lead us in the paths of justice and peace. Give wisdom to those who exercise authority in the government of our land; remove all causes of contention and strife among us; unite us in the service of your kingdom; and make us a God-fearing people regarding your laws and living together in mutual love and concord through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Almighty God, direct the hearts and minds of those who bear in their hands the government of this people. Make them uphold honour and justice, to restrain evil and oppression, and to seek the true prosperity and the welfare of all our citizens; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, our refuge and strength in every hour of need, raise up among us at this time faithful and fearless men and women who know that in loyalty to your word and will alone can a nation find true peace and security. To such and to all in authority give a right judgment and the courage to follow your way, whatever the cost; for the good of this people, and for the honour of your name. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that the men and women of our nation may devote themselves to the common good, not seeking gain for themselves, but giving much and taking little; that in this time of testing we may all know the joy of service and the discipline of self-denial; for the sake of him who gave himself for us, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

If you would like to know more about praying for our nation, then these websites might be useful:

<https://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk/prayer-points/>

<https://www.eauk.org/current-affairs/politics/get-involved/prayer-for-parliament.cfm>

<http://www.ppscotland.org/>

Something to make you smile ‘Suffer the little children ...’

During a long and very boring sermon, a small distinct voice could be heard at the back of the church, asking: “Mummy, is it *still* Sunday?”

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Little girl: Is it true that we come from dust and go to dust?

Mother: Yes, the Bible says so.

Little girl: In that case, lots of people are either coming or going under my bed.



AGM appointments:

Lay Representative: Deborah Munday.

Alternative Lay representative: Angus Munday.

People's Warden: Jan Goodall.

Priest's Warden: Sarah Mackay.

Officer for the Protection of Vulnerable groups: Angus Munday.

Data Protection Officer: Jennifer Jones.

Vestry members: Janet Benson, Andrew Buxton, Kathryn Gillings, Jar Goodall, Sarah Mackay, Deborah and Angus Munday.

Please remember Deborah as she prepares to be licensed as Lay Reader – date to be announced.

Vestry meeting – Tuesday February 12th.

Vestry Minutes are displayed on the noticeboard.

Looking ahead: Ash Wednesday on March 6th.

On February 2nd we celebrate Candlemas: Christians consider Jesus as the “light of the world” so it is fitting that candles are blessed on this day and that a candle-lit procession precedes the Eucharist. It is traditional to eat crepes on Candlemas in some parts of Europe, such as France. And did you know that snowdrops are known as Candlemas Bells because they bloom early in the year? According to folklore, an angel helped these Candlemas bells to bloom and pointed them as a sign of hope to Eve, who wept in repentance and in despair over the



cold and death that entered the world. Many Christians see the flower as a symbol of Jesus Christ being this hope for the world.