

This Week

Sunday 6th	17:00	Welcoming Karen Gorham, our new Area Bishop – Sherborne Abbey
	18:30	Going Deeper – St Francis, Littlemoor
Monday 7 th	09:30	Morning Prayer – Church Rooms, Preston
Tuesday 8 th	19:30	Candlelit Evensong – St Andrews, Preston
Wednesday 9 th	10:00	Traditional Holy Communion [BCP] with Healing Prayer – St Andrews, Preston
	10:00	Holy Communion – St Laurence, Upwey
Thursday 10 th	10:00	Holy Communion – St Nicholas, Broadway
	19:30	Prayer group – St Francis, Littlemoor
Friday 11 th	11:30	Said Holy Communion – St Francis, Littlemoor
	19:30	Candlelit Evening Worship – St Andrews, Preston

Sunday 13th

Bincombe	09:15	Holy Communion – Philip Elliott
Broadway	10:30	Holy Communion – Ada Whittock
Upwey	10:30	Holy Communion – Philip Elliott
St Mary's, Weymouth	14:00	Remembering those who have died near birth
Buckland	18:00	Evening Worship – Philip Elliott

Holy Days and Festivals

Monday 7 th	Perpetua, Felicity and their Companions, Martyrs at Carthage, 203
Tuesday 8 th	Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, 1910 Felix, Bishop, Apostle to the East Angles, 647 Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, Priest, Poet, 1929

www.theweytojesus.org.uk

Please send events and prayer updates to notices@theweytojesus.org.uk

Bincombe with Broadway; Upwey and Buckland Ripers Part of the Weymouth Ridgeway Benefice

Sunday 6th March 2016

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mothering Sunday

The Prayer for Today

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Mothering Sunday

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Readings

	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	<i>Mothering Sunday</i>	
Old Test.	Joshua 5 : 9 – 12	Exodus 2 : 1 – 10	1 Samuel 1 : 20 – 28
Psalm	Psalm 32	Psalm 34 : 11 – 20	Psalm 127 : 1 – 4
Epistle	2 Corinthians 5 : 16 – 21	2 Cor. 1 : 3 – 7	Colossians 3 : 12 – 17
Gospel	Luke 15 : 1 – 3, 11b – 32	Luke 2 : 33 – 35	John 19 : 25 – 27

In Our Prayers

- **We thank God for Philip as he embraces his ministry as our new Team Vicar.**
- **Our Church School and Headteacher Mrs Helen Williams.**
- **Our Street Pastors & Prayer Pastors**
- **Food Banks & Christians against Poverty**
- **Healing on the Streets**
- **The Lantern Centre**

Remembering those who have passed into God's presence...

all those from our community, and their families in their grief.

Remembering the sick...

all in our community who suffer sickness.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Sunday 6 th	Church of England: Diocese of Canterbury Church of Ireland: Diocese of Down and Dromore Diocese of Abyei in South Sudan
Monday 7 th	Purbeck Deanery
Tuesday 8 th	Bere Regis and Affpuddle with Turnerspuddle
Wednesday 9 th	Corfe Castle, Church Knowle, Kimmeridge & Steeple with Tyneham
Thursday 10 th	Kingston, Langton Matravers and Worth Matravers
Friday 11 th	Swanage and Studland
Saturday 12 th	The Lulworths, Winfrith Newburgh and Chaldon

The **Cycle of Prayer** is a three-month listing of parishes and ministries to pray for in the Diocese of Salisbury, including the names of team members and specific prayer requests.

Please download from:

<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/worship/prayer/cycle-of-prayer>

The parable Jesus tells in today's Gospel is unique to the Gospel of Luke. Jesus has been teaching the crowds as he journeys to Jerusalem. As he teaches, the Pharisees and scribes complain and challenge Jesus because he is welcoming sinners at his table. Today we hear the third of three parables that Jesus tells in response to his critics. These three familiar parables—the lost sheep, the lost coin, and today's parable of the prodigal son—invite us to consider the depth of God's mercy and love.

Our familiarity with today's parable risks dulling us to its tremendously powerful message. We call this the parable of the lost son or the prodigal son. Any focus on the younger son, however, must also be balanced by an examination of the unusual behaviour of the father.

First we must imagine our first response to the audacity of a son who asks for his inheritance before his father has died. Indignation would certainly be a justifiable response to such a request. Yet the father in this parable agrees to honour the son's request and divides his property among his two sons. How might we describe such a father? Foolish comes to mind, but so does trusting. Without property of his own, the father must rely upon his sons to provide for his well-being.

The younger son takes his inheritance and leaves home. The older son remains, continuing to provide for the father and the household. Having been disgraced by the younger son, the father spends some time watching the road for the return of the lost son. When he eventually sees his wayward son returning, the father not only welcomes him but also runs out to greet him and then honours him with a party. We say that this father is loving and forgiving. Yet these adjectives only begin to describe the depth of love and mercy that characterize the father.

We find no surprise in the anger of the older son. Yet the father appears sad and even confused by the older son's indignation. He says in reply that they should celebrate because the lost son had returned. The father is filled with gratitude and love for the older son's faithfulness. This love is in no way diminished by the father's rejoicing at the return of the younger son. Yet the older son's jealousy reveals his limited understanding of the depth of his father's love.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. Laetare is a Latin word that means *rejoice*. Today's Gospel describes the reason for our joy: God's great love for us has been revealed in Jesus. Through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Christ has reconciled us with God and one another.