

- Pray for All Politicians for Wisdom and Integrity, as they make difficult decisions for the care of the nation, (**whatever political persuasion you are from**).

Dates for March/April

28th Deanery Synod meeting 7.30pm See Stefanie for venue.

29th John Wakefield's funeral in church at 11.30am

31st Eileen Baker's funeral in church at 12noon.

April

1st Men's Breakfast 8.30am in the hall

1st Quiz night and Fish and Chip supper 6.30pm in the hall.

2nd Annual District Church Meeting in the church.

Prayer groups meet on each Tuesday 9-9.30am and each Wednesday 7-7.30 pm in the Church.

Contact details:

Rector - Rev. Stefanie Hodges – 504228 (day off Friday)

Curate- Rev. Diane Peters – 532796

Organist – Dawn Scanlon – 07732 033448 or email

dawnscanlon1@icloud.com

Newsletter - Sue Hammond - 562661 or email

m_hammond@talk21.com *material by Thurs. please.*

Hall manager/Lettings - Val Holt – 852764

Safeguarding – Eike Ndiweni – Eike.ndiweni@btinternet.com

Stewardship – Mike Hammond - details as for newsletter.

ST. FRANCIS PARISH CHURCH, WESTBOROUGH

Sunday 26th March 2017 at 10 am

Lent 4 - Mothering Sunday

A warm welcome to all joining us for our service today.

Readings:

Psalm 69 v.8 -13 p.583

Romans 12 v. 1-13 p.1139

John 9 p.1075

Collect:

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.

Please feel free to use the toys and books in the back room if your tiny one needs distraction during the service.

Please join us for refreshments and a chat after the service.

1st April Quiz Night. Tickets, priced at £9, are available from Dawn and she really needs to know final numbers by today for ordering the food. If you would like to come please let Dawn know your choice of food, either fish, sausage or veggie burger all served with chips. Dawn can be contacted on 823557.

Our thanks go to James and Thomas, the funeral directors on Woodbridge Hill, for providing the flowers for Mothering Sunday.

This weeks notes from Stefanie.

Let's get creative

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thess 5:16–18 ESV)

I am sure that everyone of us have to admit that there are those times when we struggle to pray. Most of us if we are honest would love to have a better 'prayer life'. Even with the best intentions, we can be distracted. Here are some things that have helped me to pray more in all kinds of situations.

Writing to God: In difficult times, I have found it hard to pray, so I have written to God about how I have been feeling. I have felt the presence of God powerfully at these times and felt God's tender loving care.

The Ironing Prayer: I'm not a fan of ironing, but I almost look forward to it since I turned it into an opportunity to pray for my family. As I iron their clothes, I pray about situations facing them and sometimes feel God prompting me to think differently.

The Fridge List: In the past I have written a list of people's names on my fridge to remind me to pray for them every time I open the fridge. You would be surprised how many times you end up praying each day!

The Prayer Room: I have just moved house and I am decorating a 'prayer space' with family and friend photos, to remind me to pray for God to intervene in their lives. Over time, praying in this place becomes a place of refuge, as the peace of God can be felt. For several years I have been praying for a friend to become a Christian: she has in recent weeks!

A Mile with Jesus: You ask Jesus to travel with you by car, by train, walking or at home with a map. When I have done this, God has shown me the love He has for EVERYONE and has led me to pray for complete strangers in ways I would never have considered.

For all of us, we will find it sometimes easier to connect with God than at other times. The secret to prayer is to persevere, to keep praying on all

occasions and with thanksgiving. Whatever you face today, I am certain that inviting God into the situation will transform it.

Notices for 26th March 2017

Confirmation, we shall be holding a confirmation course in the near future, if you have not been confirmed and would like to consider it, please have a word with Stefanie.

Please pray for God to grant us courage and to care enough to invite others to come to His Church, learn more about the Love and Saving Power he has for those who turn to him.

A most sincere thank you to all who offer lifts to members of our congregation who otherwise find it impossible to attend our Sunday worship and other activities. Your ministry is very much appreciated and vital as part of our 'caring' as a church family'. If there is anyone else who is available to give lifts occasionally, or on a regular basis, please have a word with Michael or Sue Hammond.

Sad Farewell's

John Wakefield's funeral service will take place on Wednesday 29th at 11.30am.

Eileen Baker funeral service will take place on Friday 31st at 12 noon.

Let us continue to hold the families and each other in prayer as we mourn the loss of two very special people.

Please Pray for

- Your PCC & DCC members as they continue to make important decisions for our Church life and Building.
- The victims and their families who were caught up in the Tragedy at Westminster on Wednesday.
- Pray for our police and emergency services as they carry out in their difficult duties. We also pray for Charles from our own church family in role in the police force.