

Please pray for Archbishop Justin, for Bishop Rose, Dean David and the Cathedral, and for the people and clergy of the diocese.

### Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Prayer written by Margaret Hawkins - Licensed Lay Reader at Birchington: All Saints with Acol: St Mildred & St Thomas Minnis Bay

*Heavenly Father, as his disciples in the world today be with us as we make our Lenten journey following in the footsteps of your Son. Forgive us when we stumble and lose our way. Make us worthy to travel with Jesus in humility on the path that leads not just to Calvary and the Cross but to the empty tomb and the joy of the resurrection. May we, filled with that joy and equipped by the Holy Spirit, continue on our journey of faith and commitment to you.*

*Amen.*

### Anglican Communion:

*Church of the Province of Uganda*

### The Middle East Crisis

The Archbishop of Jerusalem, Hosam Naoum has offered us this prayer:-

*O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths – Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children – for to all of us, you are our heavenly father. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*



**PLACE OF WELCOME**

**Wednesdays 11.15am to 1pm  
All Welcome!**

### Ministry Team

**VICAR:** The Revd David Ridley  
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**Curate:** The Revd Karen Burgess  
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**Honorary Assistant Priest**  
The Revd Pam Beckinsale

**Ordinand in Training**  
Tracy Williams

**Authorised Lay Minister**  
Elizabeth Sabine



# St Michael, Sittingbourne

*A very warm welcome from the parish of St Michael Sittingbourne. If you are visiting for the first time, we hope you feel at home among us.*

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024  
Third Sunday of Lent**

### Sunday:

9am Holy Communion  
10am Morning Praise with Baptism of  
Finley Wakelen

### This Week:

#### Tuesday 5 March

2pm Ladies' Fellowship

#### Wednesday 6 March

10am Holy Communion  
*followed by refreshments*  
11.15am - 1pm 'Place of Welcome'  
1.30pm *Angels and Demons* in Church House  
3pm HC in Riverbourne Court  
7pm Lent Study Group in The Vicarage

#### Thursday 7 March

10.30am HC in Beatrice Lodge  
12 noon *Ignite* - in St Michael's Church. Food, fun and fellowship. All very welcome. Bring a friend.  
7pm Bellringing Practice  
7.30pm Deanery Synod at Tunstall

#### Friday 8 March

8.30am - 10am Breakfast Club  
1pm *Key (Support) Group*  
3pm Lent Group in Church House  
7.45pm - 9pm Choir practice

#### Saturday 9 March

11am Music Recital in St Michael's Church. Doors open at 10.50am for tea and coffee. Retiring collection.

### Next Week:

#### Sunday 10 March

#### *Mothering Sunday*

#### Fourth Sunday of Lent

10am Mothering Sunday Communion  
6.30pm Choral Evensong

#### Wednesday 13 March

10am Holy Communion  
*followed by refreshments*  
11.15am - 1pm 'Place of Welcome'  
7pm Lent Study Group in The Vicarage

#### Thursday 14 March

12 noon *Ignite* - in St Michael's Church. Food, fun and fellowship. All very welcome. Bring a friend.  
7pm Bellringing Practice

#### Friday 15 March

8.30am - 10am Breakfast Club  
1pm *Key (Support) Group*  
3pm Lent Group in Church House  
7.45pm - 9pm Choir practice

#### Saturday 16 March

11am Music Recital in St Michael's Church. Doors open at 10.50am for tea and coffee. Retiring collection.

### Lent 2024

*Our Lent Course this year is a five-week course entitled 'Shapes for Living'.*

*We are meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in The Vicarage and 3pm on Fridays in Church House. Please do join us.*

There is a contactless card reader in St Michael's Church which can be used to make contributions to the Church in lieu of cash collections.

It simply involves selecting an amount to pay and tapping your card.

Payments may also be made using this QR code, so it is not necessary to attend in person to offer a gift to St Michael's Church.



The next meeting of our pre-school group 'Angels and Demons' is on Weds 6 March at 1.30pm, and then meet fortnightly. Please invite friends and family. See details below:



### **'Angels and Demons!'**

Stories, Songs, Prayer,  
Games, Craft and Snacks

**Alternate Weds 1.30pm-3pm**

### **For Our Prayers**

#### **To be Baptised**

Finley Wakelen

#### **Recently Baptised**

Lilie-Anne Goring; Lola Houghting

#### **To be Married**

Jack Tickle and Lois Brown; Thomas Shaw and Racquel Lewin

#### **Recently Married**

Duane Askew and Rebecca Parrish;  
Michael Woodhouse and Leanne Bel-som

#### **Ill and Housebound**

Frances Davis; Tom Mason; Rereo-luwa

#### **Died**

Dorothy Eller; Stanley Light; Betty Vasellina

#### **Year's Mind**

### **Breakfast Club**

Our Friday morning Breakfast Club, serving tea, coffee and bacon butties is open from 8.30am - 10am.

All are very welcome. Please do pop in.

### **A prayer for Ukraine**

(from Archbishops Justin and Stephen)

*God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen*



St Michael's Church now has a Foodbank Collection Point - a plastic bin near the entrance of the Church. They would particularly like to receive any of the following:

*Long-life Milk*

*Tinned Vegetables - potatoes, carrots, peas, sweetcorn*

*Jar Sauces - pasta, curry, chinese etc*

*Tinned Meats and Tinned Fish - any*

*Coffee; Tinned Fruit*

*Custard/Rice Pudding*

*Squash/Long-life Fruit Juice*

*Pot Noodles/Instant Snacks*



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/  
StMichaelsSittingbourne](http://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsSittingbourne)

## **Third Sunday of Lent**

### **Exodus 20.1-17**

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

### **1 Corinthians 1.18-25**

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the dis-

cerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

### **John 2.13-22**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

**Ignite**

Every Thursday -  
12 noon to 1.30pm  
in St Michael's  
Church