

March Team St John, St Mary, St Peter, St Wendreda

11th Sunday after Trinity 31st August

Regular Church Services

St Peter's Sundays 8am & 11am; Wednesdays 10am

St Mary's Sundays 9.15am; St Wendreda's Sundays 11am

St John's Sundays 9.30am; Tuesdays 10am

Meditation

It has been said, "Jeremiah, without this extraordinary being, the religious history of humanity would have taken another course, and Christianity would never have happened." Jeremiah suffered the terrible drama in which his people were involved, in 597BC, when King Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem and deported the King and some of the inhabitants. However, the vassal King he installed in Jerusalem subsequently turned so Nebuchadnezzar returned in 587 captured the city, destroyed it, burnt the Temple and the ark of the covenant and deported many inhabitants to Babylon; that was the end of the Kingdom of Judah and the line of Davidic kings. Furthermore, he had foreseen these disasters and tried to prepare his people. However, they were thoughtless and simply persecuted him.

To begin with Jeremiah's preaching was no different from the prophets that preceded him. He wanted to make his people aware that they had gone astray, that the life they were leading would only end in catastrophe. His two key words were that people had *abandoned* God – they must *return* to God and be converted.

Earlier, in 605, the Babylonian ruler Nebuchadnezzar, defeated the Egyptians at Carchemish, in the north of Syria, and in 603 he advanced as far as Jerusalem, which surrendered. Jeremiah understood that the enemy would come from the north, from Babylon. He foresaw the catastrophe and prepared his people for it. When a mishap befalls us (an illness or an accident) and there is no more we can do about it, there is nothing for it but to try and make sense of what has happened. It is afterwards that we understand. This is what the prophets Ezekiel, and some disciples of Isaiah living in exile in Babylon, tried to do. The great merit of Jeremiah is that he understood beforehand and made sense of the disaster before it happened. Of course, the people did not listen to him, but rejected him and persecuted him, preferring to follow false prophets, who reassured them. However, when events proved Jeremiah right, his message was remembered. Thanks to him, the people who endured

catastrophe had the possibility of making sense of it as it happened. To a great degree this enabled people to endure the exile in faith and hope, not being overwhelmed by their misfortunes, but rather discovering a new meaning in life.

Like all the prophets, but to an even greater degree Jeremiah preaches his actions as well as his words. These symbolic gestures are often more than a simple announcement because the prophet bears the word of God, the effective word. In some sense they make the event announced become present in advance. In this sense the actions of Jesus at the Last Supper are also prophetic actions.

God will punish you.....

The message of the prophets may well shock us. They often present us with a God who threatens his people with punishment because they have sinned. So are natural catastrophes, wars, human injustice, all punishments from God? We find such a picture of a vengeful God intolerable.

Here is a parable. Imagine a young man, crazy about his motorcycle. One day he has an accident: hospitals, long months of convalescence, doctors, nursesand one nurse who begins to look after him with more than professional care. One day, later, they get married. The boy might well say to the nurse who became his wife: "It's lucky that I got smashed up; otherwise I would never have come to know you." We might accept this remark, but would find it objectionable if the chaplain went up to him and said; "You were lucky....." Why? In the first case, it is the person involved who himself, out of his own feelings and after the event, makes sense of his accident; it is not imposed on him from the outside. Furthermore, the accident remains a misfortune for him; the good luck is the happy outcome to his troubles.

Now, let's change the story and apply it to the prophetic books. Suppose that before his accident the boy had led a dissolute and selfish life. His suffering, his long months of loneliness led him to reflect on the emptiness of his life, and the boy who came out of hospital was a changed person. He decided to transform his life and to put himself at the service of others. If he even discovered faith, one could imagine him saying to God "It is a good thing you allowed this accident, because as a result I've found meaning in my life." We can accept this prayer, but we would find objectionable the chaplain who said "You see, God's punished you...."

The prophets are the boy, and not the chaplain. Ezekiel was deported with the people of Jerusalem; Jeremiah was persecuted and bore in advance the sufferings of the people. They reflected on events which for them remained a misfortune. However, from within, and after the event (or before it in the case

of Jeremiah), they tried to make sense of these events and to see the good effect that they might have. They led the people to recognize that they had lived their lives badly and had to change their lives. For them, even if the language which they use is sometimes rather abrupt, these events are less divine punishments than occasions for discovering the love of God which invited them to a new life.

Prayers

The risen Christ is here in the midst of us. We bring our prayers to him as Lord of the Church. For the Church universal, of which our buildings are a visible symbol, **Lord receive our thanks and prayer.**

For our congregations as we remember your promise that when two or three are gathered in your name you are in the midst of them.

Lord receive our thanks and prayer.

For our homes that we may be still and know that you are God and the fulfilling of our desires and petitions as you see best for us;

Lord receive our thanks and prayer.

For the pardon of our sins when we fall short of your glory, for your blessings in the past and for a vision for the future.

Lord receive our thanks and prayer.

For the gift of the Holy Spirit and new life in baptism, for the foretaste of your eternal kingdom in the sacrament of communion

Lord receive our thanks and prayer.

For the blessing of our vows and the crowning of our years with your goodness. For those who come in times of joy or times of sorrow, those who have much to look back on, and those who have much to look forward to.

Lord receive our thanks and prayer.

For the faith of those who have gone before us and for grace to persevere like them; for the benefactors of our churches and all who have died in the peace of Christ and are at rest.

Lord receive our thanks and prayer.

O God, from living stones you prepare an everlasting dwelling place for your majesty. Grant that by the power of the Holy Spirit those who serve you may always be kept in your presence and we may have a sense of fellowship with Saints John, Mary, Peter and Wendreda. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday 13th September
Chatteris Music Society Concert
at St Peter's 7.30pm

Jazz Music with Paula Jackman's Jazz Maters
£15 Members £18 no—members U16/Students Free
Details 01354 693160

NEXT Saturday 6th Sept
– Quiet day at St Mary's
Led by Mother Jane - *The modern mystics*
10am - 4pm Shared lunch.
All Welcome – no need to book

Future Events
SEPTEMBER

Sat 13th “Ride and Stride” Walk, Cycle etc
Sat 13th Working Party in St Mary's Churchyard
Sun 14th Sept Musical afternoon St John's Choir
at 129 West End – Refreshments and Raffle
Sat 20th St John's Autumn Fair
Sun 21st Harvest Festival at St John's
Sat 27th Lions Event at St Peters

OCTOBER

Sun 5th Harvest Festivals at St Peter & St Mary
Sun 5th 2.30pm 3Counties Masonic Service St Peter
Sun 12th Harvest Lunch Maureen's **POSTPONED**
Sun 12th 4pm Choral Evensong St John's
Sat 18th Bondi Concert 7pm St John's
Sun 26th Mourners Service at St John's 4pm
Tues 28th Mourners Service at St John's 10am
Wed 29th Mourners Service at St Peter's 10am
NEW ADDITION Fri 31st Lumos 7pm
Candlelit Concert St Peter's 7-8pm & 9-10pm

NOVEMBER

Sat 1st Requiem at St Peter's 10am
Sun 2nd Mourners Service 9.15am St Mary's
Sun 2nd Mourners Service at St Peter's 4pm
Sat 8th St Mary Coffee Morning at Sue's
Sat 8th CMS Concert St Peter's 2pm
Sat 22nd St Peter's Christmas Fair

DECEMBER

Sat 6th St John's Christmas Fair/ Choir Singing
Sat 6th FMC concert in St Peters
Sun 7th Dec 1pm Christmas Lunch at St Mary's
Fri 12th – Sun 14th Christmas Tree Festival
at St Peter's, with Christingle Sunday 3pm
Wed 17th-Fri 19th Winterwonderland at St John's
Sat 20th Dec St Mary's Coffee Morning at Roger's
Sunday 21st Carol Services 3pm St Mary,
4.30pm St John, 6.30pm St Peter

Thanks to all who supported and contributed to the
MODEL RAILWAY SHOW at St Mary's

Tues 9th Sept Team Council St Peter's 7.30pm
Tues 16th Sept St Peter's PCC 7.30pm
Thurs 18th Sept St John PCC 7pm
Tues 23rd Sept Deanery Synod 7.30pm Wimblington
Tues 30th Sept St Mary PCC at Vera's 7.30pm

11th Sunday after Trinity 31st Aug

Welcome to St John the Evangelist,
St Peter & St Mary Churches
in the March Team

TODAY 5pm at the Bandstand
Armed Services Service

Regular Sunday Services

St John 9.30am Sung Communion

NEXT WEEK First Sunday of each Month 9.30am
Wholeness Service with Laying on of Hands
Monthly, 3rd Sunday **MESSY CHURCH 1-3pm**

St Mary 9.15am Traditional Sung Communion

St Peter 8am Holy Communion

11am Sung Communion

Last Sunday of each month, Sunday Club

There will be no session in August (31st).

TUESDAY St John's; 10am Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY St Peter's; 10am Holy Communion

Zoom services Sunday 5.15pm Team Service

Thursday 8.30am Morning Prayer

Team Rector: Rev Andrew Smith 01354 572117
andrew.marchurch@gmail.com

All enquiries about Weddings Baptisms etc to Andrew
Baptisms; 12.30 St Peter; 2pm or later St John St Mary

Team Leader in Mission Ruth Clay 07905950849

RevRuth.marchchurches@outlook.com

Clergy; Jane Rees 463284, Anthony Chandler 652894,

Jenny Webb 650855, Mother Jane Dicker 661099

Readers; Hannah Taylor 661712, Diane Wise 651512.

Karen Pritchard karen.marchchurches@outlook.com

Next Sunday, Sept 7th, 12th Sunday after Trinity
Jeremiah 18 v1-11, Luke 14 v25-31

FUNERAL

Fri 5th Sept 2.30pm; Roger Jones

Thanks to those who supported the
Christian Aid Garden Party - £400 raised.

Diane Wise sadly has decided to retire as LLM
(Reader) at St John's after 20 years of faithful
service for which we are very grateful and have
been blessed. She will continue as an active
member of the congregation, but we will need
someone to take on the readers/servers rotas.
Her last Sunday as LLM will be 5th October
Thank you very much, wise and faithful servant!

Prayer, Collect, for this week

God and judge of all, you show us the way of your kingdom is through humility and service. Keep us true to the path of justice and give us the reward promised to those who make a place for the rejected and poor. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Jeremiah 2 v4-13

Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord: What wrong did your ancestors find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthless things, and became worthless themselves? They did not say, 'Where is the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that no one passes through, where no one lives?' I brought you into a plentiful land to eat its fruits and its good things. But when you entered you defiled my land, and made my heritage an abomination. The priests did not say, 'Where is the Lord?' Those who handle the law did not know me; the rulers transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal, and went after things that do not profit. Therefore once more I accuse you, says the Lord, and I accuse your children's children. Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care, see if there has ever been such a thing. Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

Regular Church Activities at St Peter's

Tuesday

10am-12noon Knit and Natter;

1st St Peter's MU 2.30-4pm 3rd Deanery MU

Wednesday

10am Midweek Communion Service

1st Study Group 7.30-9pm **THIS WEEK Sept 3rd**

2nd Wed Christian Aid Lunch Hall 12-1pm

WINDOWS MAGAZINE

Contributions to <allan.whyte@yahoo.com>

For "Harvest" Edition by 5th September please

YEARS Mind – a reminder

The names we read out in the prayers in church are to be found in the 2024 diaries in each church.

Please feel free to add any more names

*The names for the sick are also usually by this book, **and you can add names**, and for other names see the information on this notice sheet.*

Gospel of Luke 14 v1 & 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'

Prayer after Communion

Inviting God, laying open your table to the deviant and deranged, setting a place for the foreign and unwanted: overturn our tables of power and teach us to receive bread from strange and wounded hands; through Jesus Christ, the One given for all. **Amen.**

"Suicide Prevention Awareness Eve

Tuesday 9th September online zoom 5.15 pm finishing with Compline. See Rev Jane for details."

St John's Church Activities

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

9.15-11.15 St John's Tots;

Tuesday

10am Midweek Communion Service

2nd Study Group 11-12 Next Sept 9th

Study Group 7pm-8.30pm; Film The Chosen resuming **this week** 2nd Sept.

Wednesdays

Thursday 1st Thursday Social Group (see above)

Friday Choir Practice in Church 7pm

THIS WEEK First Thursday

Next is 4th Sept at Rachel's

June Jackson on work in Prison Service.