

Please take me home

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in the middle  
of Lent

thanksgiving  
flower posies  
showing love  
grieving loss  
celebrating  
hymns prayers  
readings sermon  
Holy Communion

come and join us  
all welcome!

St Nicolas  
Witham & Villages

# Mothering Sunday

9:30am  
15 March



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**Sunday 8 March 2026**

**Hymns, Readings & Notices**

**9.30am Holy Communion**

Opening	(641) Glorious things of thee are spoken
Reading 1	Exodus 17.1-7 Samantha Rees
Reading 1	Romans 5.1-5 Rod Gayton
Gradual	(634) Firmly I believe and truly
Intercessions	Carla Tointon
Offertory	(128) Jesu, lover of my soul
The Anthem	Sicut cervus - Palestrina
Communion 1	(592) As the deer pants for the water
Communion 2	(118) Drop, drop, slow tears
Final	(135) Take up thy cross, the Saviour said

**6.00pm Sung Evensong**

Joshua 1.1-9 Liz Tymms  
Ephesians 6.10-20 Janet Hewitt

## Opening Prayer - St Columba

Lord, be a bright flame before me, O God,  
a guiding star above me,  
be a smooth path below me,  
a kindly shepherd behind me,  
today, tonight, and forever. **Amen.**

### the **Collect**

Give us grace and courage to hope,  
and to risk disappointment.  
Teach us to pray expectantly,  
and when our prayers seem to fail,  
bring us to pray again and again;  
for you are our God, who acts, and will act again.  
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. **Amen.**

## Reading 1 Exodus 17.1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water

## Reading 2 - Ephesians 6.10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



If you would like to support the mission and ministry of Witham Parish Church through giving, please use this QR code. Thank you!

### **Reading 1 - Joshua 1.1-9**

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying, 'My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses. From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory. No one shall be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous; for you shall put this people in possession of the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful. I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.'

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?' This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Reading 2 Romans 5.1-5**

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### the **Gospel - John 4.5-42**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to St John.

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you

living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you

## Sung Evensong

Opening Hymn (780)	Soldiers of Christ, arise
Opening+Sentences	Pages 16-1 (one or more of these)
Opening Preces	Ferial
Psalm 40	Page 395
Hebrew Scripture	Joshua 1.1-9
Office Hymn (12)	Before the ending of the day
Magnificat	Set D
New Testament	Ephesians 6.10-20
Nunc Dimittis	Set D
Apostles' Creed	Page 22
Preces	Ferial
Today's Collects	Page 89, 84
Other Collects	Page 24
Anthem	Drop, drop, slow tears - Gibbons
Pre-Sermon (823)	Who would true valour see
Blessing	
Final Hymn (813)	Through the night of doubt and sorrow
Final Responses	

### **Mothers Union Talk - Ashley Thompson**

Ashley will be talking about the history and demonstrate the Church organ. "Join us, join in" 2.00pm Thursday 26 March - meet in Church Hall with refreshments afterwards.

## **Weekly Events**

9.00am Morning Prayer

5.00pm Evening Prayer

(Except Fridays. Monday Evening is in Terling)

### **Monday 9 March**

10.30-12.00noon Chatterbox (0-4yrs)

### **Tuesday 10 March**

### **Wednesday 11 March**

10.00am Lent Group/Open Door

7.00pm Lent Group at the Rectory

### **Thursday 12 March**

10.00am Midweek Communion

### **Friday 13 March**

5.30-7.30pm Youth Club (5-14) in Church Hall

### **Saturday 14 March**

No Junior Confirmation

### **Sunday 15 March**

9.30am Holy Communion

6.00pm Sung Evensong

want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

Glory to you, O Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Post Communion Prayer

Lord, help us to see:

to see what is eternally good and true,  
and having seen, to go on searching  
until we see the joys of heaven.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Please remember in your prayers...**

**Those unwell or recovering, amongst them:**

Rev Simon Pritchard, Janet Decrem, Sue Blackhall, Diâne Collins, Jim Ellard, David & Mary Everitt, Mark Holt, Angela Kilmartin, Rod Lane, Margaret Lilley, Alison Millar, Marion Redgewell, Rena Stewart, Brenda & Keith Talbot.

**Friends and family of those recently deceased:**

Jean Woodard.

## Notices

### Lent continues!

#### Witham Lent Course - Being with the Bible

This course is 5 sessions based on the Old Testament, all welcome to join 10.00am in church hall or Rev Jonathan 7.00pm at the Rectory. Wednesdays 11, 18, 25 March.

#### Hatfield Peverel Lent Course - Les Misérables

Another Story Must Begin, is based on Les Misérables. All welcome to join Rev Howard 7.30pm Mondays 9, 16, 23 March at St Andrew's Church Hall.

#### Terling Lent Course - Women of Holy Week

Looking at some of the women who feature in Jesus's journey to the cross. All welcome to join Rev Jane at The Rectory Terling 7.30pm Mondays 9, 16, 23 March.

## Mothering Sunday - Sunday 15 March

Each year we mark Mothering Sunday in church and it is a great opportunity to connect our church with family, friends, and neighbours. Please pray for who you might invite to come to this service with you.

### The Annunciation

This year we will be celebrating the Feast of the Annunciation with a service of Holy Communion at 10.00am on Wednesday 25 March. This will replace the Midweek Communion usually held on a Thursday for this week only.

### 100 Days of Prayer: 18 February to 29 May

Bishop Guli is inviting people from across the Diocese of Chelmsford to join 100 days of prayer ahead of a conversation about how we Sustain Ministry in the Dioceses of Chelmsford that will begin in Autumn.

### Church Cleaning Day - Friday 27 March

We want to make the church clean, and tidy in time for Holy Week and Easter. If you can help, please come along about 9.30am on Friday 27 March. If you like polishing brass, it would be lovely to see some new people.

### Tuesday Praise March dates - Witham URC 12.30pm

10 - Howard      17 - Lorna Bantock

2 - Marina Price      31 - Jane Quinton

### World Day of Prayer - Friday 6 March

There is a 1.30pm service at Guithavon Valley Church to celebrate this day. See also Church Hall noticeboard.

### Witham Choral Society Concert Saturday 14 March

This Baroque concert starts 7.00pm Organist is Duncan Archard. Conductor is Ashley Thompson. Tickets £15 from Ashley, Witham Town Hall, or on the door.