

*First Reading***Micah 7**

<sup>1</sup> Woe is me! For I have become like one who, after the summer fruit has been gathered, after the vintage has been gleaned, finds no cluster to eat; there is no first-ripe fig for which I hunger. <sup>2</sup> The faithful have disappeared from the land, and there is no one left who is upright; they all lie in wait for blood, and they hunt each other with nets. <sup>3</sup> Their hands are skilled to do evil; the official and the judge ask for a bribe, and the powerful dictate what they desire; thus they pervert justice. <sup>4</sup> The best of them is like a brier, the most upright of them a thorn hedge. The day of their sentinels, of their punishment, has come; now their confusion is at hand. <sup>5</sup> Put no trust in a friend, have no confidence in a loved one; guard the doors of your mouth from her who lies in your embrace; <sup>6</sup> for the son treats the father with contempt, the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; your enemies are members of your own household. <sup>7</sup> But as for me, I will look to the Lord, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me. <sup>8</sup> Do not rejoice over me, O my enemy; when I fall, I shall rise; when I sit in darkness, the Lord will be a light to me. <sup>9</sup> I must bear the indignation of the Lord, because I have sinned against him, until he takes my side and executes judgement for me. He will bring me out to the light; I shall see his vindication. <sup>10</sup> Then my enemy will see, and shame will cover her who said to me, 'Where is the Lord your God?' My eyes will see her downfall; now she will be trodden down like the mire of the streets. <sup>11</sup> A day for the building of your walls! In that day the boundary shall be far extended. <sup>12</sup> In that day they will come to you from Assyria to Egypt, and from Egypt to the River, from sea to sea and from mountain to mountain. <sup>13</sup> But the earth will be desolate because of its inhabitants, for the fruit of their doings. <sup>14</sup> Shepherd your people with your staff, the flock that belongs to you, which lives alone in a forest in the midst of a garden land; let them feed in Bashan and Gilead as in the days of old. <sup>15</sup> As in the days when you came out of the land of Egypt, show us marvellous things. <sup>16</sup> The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their might; they shall lay their hands on their mouths; their ears shall be deaf; <sup>17</sup> they shall lick dust like a snake, like the crawling things of the earth; they shall come trembling out of their fortresses; they shall turn in dread to the Lord our God, and they shall stand in fear of you. <sup>18</sup> Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of your possession? He does not retain his anger for ever, because he delights in showing clemency. <sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. <sup>20</sup> You will show faithfulness to Jacob and unswerving loyalty to Abraham, as you have sworn to our ancestors from the days of old.

*Second Reading*      **See Inside****A Thank You**

Rev'd Jo Parker would like to say "a huge thank you to all who came to her licensing service on Wednesday evening at St. Edward's in Egguckland. Jo, James and the family also send thanks to those who sent cards and texts as well as to all those who have been praying for them as they move to the Forder Valley Mission Community. It was a very joyful licensing service. Thank you so much for your love, prayers and support."

*Reading*      **Exodus 1: 22 – 2: 10**

1: <sup>22</sup> The king issued a command to all his people: "Take every newborn Hebrew boy and throw him into the River Nile but let all the girls live."  
 2: <sup>1</sup> During this time a man from the tribe of Levi married a woman of his own tribe, <sup>2</sup> and she bore him a son. When she saw what a fine baby he was, she hid him for three months. <sup>3</sup> But when she could not hide him any longer, she took a basket made of reeds and covered it with tar to make it watertight. She put the baby in it and then placed it in the tall grass at the edge of the river. <sup>4</sup> The baby's sister stood some distance away to see what would happen to him. <sup>5</sup> The king's daughter came down to the river to bathe, while her servants walked along the bank. Suddenly she noticed the basket in the tall grass and sent a slave woman to get it. <sup>6</sup> The princess opened it and saw a baby boy. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said. <sup>7</sup> Then his sister asked her, "Shall I go and call a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?" <sup>8</sup> "Please do," she answered. So the girl went and brought the baby's own mother. <sup>9</sup> The princess told the woman, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So she took the baby and nursed him. <sup>10</sup> Later, when the child was old enough, she took him to the king's daughter, who adopted him as her own son. She said to herself, "I pulled him out of the water, and so I name him Moses."

**Swift Boxes at St. Mary's**

Thank you to everyone who has made a donation towards the Swift Nestbox Project at St. Mary's. A pair of colony boxes will be installed within the bell chamber **this Tuesday, 17th March**, - 1 each on the north and south louvred tower windows, internally. The louvred windows are currently internally sheathed with mesh, restricting access into the tower. The louvres and surrounding stonework have been found to be structurally sound and are sufficient for the proposal. All work will be completed by an insured Level 3 Advanced craft Joiner with 30 years of experience, including listed building projects, and other church installations. The nestbox installation has been agreed by the Archdeacon under a List B application ('Matters Which May Be Undertaken Without A Faculty'). All the work will be completed in plenty of time before the nesting season starts around May. Little maintenance is required, but the nestboxes will be inspected and maintained, at the end of the nesting season, once occupied, each year. A yearly report will also be compiled to inform the community and church members of the project's successes.

Further information, including photos of the proposed swift boxes, can be found at the back of the church, or speak to Janet Donovan. Thank you.