



Willen Church Newsheet

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mothering Sunday



Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
St Mary Magdalene Willen
Sunday 15th March 2026
The Fourth Sunday of Lent



Today: Mothering Sunday

Theme: Opening our spiritual eyes

9.30am Holy Communion led by Revd Dr. Sam Muthuveloe followed by the **THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of ST. MARY MAGDALENE WILLEN** at 10.45am

Please collect a gift of daffodils provided for everyone to celebrate the work of the mothering love given freely to others during this last year.

Thank you, Sam, for leading us this morning

11.00am Holy Communion at Cross & Stable led by Revd Phil Dunning

Service details for SEP churches are on SEP website and in monthly newsletter

This week

St Mary Magdalene church is open for private prayer or quiet reflection on Sundays and Mondays from 9.30am until evening.

ChatterboxMK at Cross & Stable each Wednesday 10.30am to 12.30pm. All Welcome - tea - coffee - cakes - meet and chat. Come and meet others.

Lenten Reflection at Cross & Stable on Wednesdays at 1pm with a video from Bishop Steven of Oxford on the Eucharist. Led by Rev. Dr. Sam Muthuveloe
18th March - The Vine; 25th March - The Son of God; 1st April - The Apostle

T.T.T.T (Third Tuesday at Twelve Thirty) Pop along to St Mary Magdalene Church Willen and be entertained by the **ROLLING HOME** on **Tuesday 17 MARCH** at 1230

Lenten Bible Study : the next meeting of the Lent Group is from **7.00pm to 9.00pm** on Thursday **March 19** at the Quaker Centre, Downhead Park.

Next week: March 22nd The Fourth Sunday of Lent

9.30am Holy Communion led by Revd Dr. Sam Muthuveloe.

10.00am Family Breakfast Club at Cross & Stable. Service at 11.00am Free Continental Breakfast and Family Service for the entire family, children and adults.

<p>Pastoral contact: Revd Dr Sam Muthuveloe <i>Email: sam@willenchurch.org</i> Churchwarden: Janet Hawkins <i>Email: warden@willenchurch.org</i></p>	<p>Margaret Moakes Licensed Lay Minister <i>Telephone: 01908 237915</i> <i>Margaret@willenchurch.org</i> <i>Church website: www.willenchurch.org</i></p>
<p>Enquiries: To contact about weddings funerals and baptisms or other enquiries please call 01908 382458; or E. sburyepadm@gmail.com or contact a churchwarden.</p>	
<p>Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership: www.stantonbury.net and Facebook Please email short succinct notices to notices@willenchurch.org by 5pm on the preceding Thursday</p>	

The Collect of The Fourth Sunday of Lent

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. **Amen**

The Collect of Mothering Sunday

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians 5: 8 – 14 (NRSVA)

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians

⁸For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING

John 9: 1 – 41 (NRSVA)

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

Glory to you, O Lord

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’ ³Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.’ ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, ‘Go, wash in the pool of Siloam’ (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, ‘Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?’ ⁹Some were saying, ‘It is he.’ Others were saying, ‘No, but it is someone like him.’ He kept saying, ‘I am the man.’ ¹⁰But they kept asking him, ‘Then how were your eyes opened?’ ¹¹He answered, ‘The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, “Go to Siloam and wash.” Then I went and washed and received my sight.’ ¹²They said to him, ‘Where is he?’ He said, ‘I do not know.’



¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' ²⁰ His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.' ²⁵ He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' ²⁶ They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' ²⁷ He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' ³⁰ The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' ³⁴ They answered him, 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?' And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' ³⁶ He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.' ³⁷ Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.' ³⁸ He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshipped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, 'I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.' ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?' ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your sin remains.'

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

PSALM 23 (The Archbishops' Council, 2005)

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; ♦
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He shall refresh my soul ♦
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; ♦
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; ♦
you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, ♦
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

NOTICES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of ST. MARY MAGDALENE WILLEN

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 15 March in the Boardroom of Willen Hospice following the service starting at 10.45am. We will be looking to appoint

- members of the Leadership Team, Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Safeguarding
- up to 2 people elected as Church Officers who will be members of the Partnership Leadership Team, and will fulfil the roles of Anglican Churchwardens, Baptist Deacons, Methodist Stewards and United Reformed Church Elders.
- 2 people to be on the new Consultative forum, which will meet as required to consult with their congregations on strategic development and new strategic initiatives
- parochial representatives to the Deanery Synod; the Methodist Council; URC

If you would like to be a member of the church and attend the Annual Members' Meeting or would like other information please contact Janet Hawkins or the secretary.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

- the one in four people suffer from some form of mental illness each year, with anxiety and depression the most common complaints. Please pray for those who suffer, and for those who care for them
- **World Vision**, which works in almost 100 countries. See worldvision.org.uk

Sick: Louise Folley, Mark & Janice Earls, Fr Edmund Wheat SSM, Alison Read, Cindy Williams, Liz Halliwell, Lynda Phillips, Rosie Fletcher, Warwick Newton, Gwen McNulty

World Prayers we pray for world peace at this time with a focus on ending conflict,

HYMNS - Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New

- 114** Come down, O Love divine
- 649** The King of love my shepherd is
- 428** Love divine, all loves excelling
- 303** I cannot tell

