

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership
St James, New Bradwell
an open, growing presence for Christ



17th March 2024

Fifth Sunday of Lent



<https://www.vecteezy.com>

10.00 Holy Communion

Welcome to everyone in Church today.

Please join us after the service for coffee and a chat



Inclusive Church
week 5
Including **Gender**

Through the Lent Course this year, we will explore issues that are important to us all. During a Sunday worship service, as we listen to personal journeys and case studies during the sermon slot:

- Let us **listen** carefully, ponder and respect the views of those speaking.
- Let us **place upon one side** our own views, in order to hear more clearly another's point of view.
- Let us **affirm and support** the right of the speaker to share their personal journey.
- Let us **join together** in prayer as a church family to seek God's guidance in the way forward.
- Let us **refrain** from commenting directly to the speaker unless invited, remembering that the opportunity to respond is available during the home-group sessions. If we need to speak to anyone after the service, our first point of contact should be the service leader, not the speaker.

If you have been affected by the issues surrounding **Gender**, or would like to delve deeper, the following resources may be helpful:

- **Invisible Women** Caroline Criado Perez: <https://carolinecriadoperez.com/book/invisible-women>;
- Support for **transgender** young people: <https://mermaidsuk.org.uk>;
- **Transforming** church: <https://www.inclusive-church.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Transforming-church.pdf>
- **Gender equality**: Karen Sethuraman: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dfBpkx4MAUA>

As some of what you will hear over the next two weeks is possibly of a personal and delicate nature it has been decided that it will not be widely broadcast, therefore the services for the next two weeks will not be live streamed.

COLLECT OF TODAY

Holy God,
in the Saviour's cross
your boundless love meets human sin:
strengthen and deliver us
that we may know the victory is ours
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Luke 15: 1-3, 8-10

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable:

‘What woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, “Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.” Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.’

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 14: 1-11

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; for they said, ‘Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people.’

While Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment of nard, and she broke open the jar and poured the ointment on his head. But some were there who said to one another in anger, ‘Why was the ointment wasted in this way? For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and the money given to the poor.’ And they scolded her. But Jesus said, ‘Let her alone; why do you trouble her? She has performed a good service for me. For you always have the poor with you, and you can show kindness to them whenever you wish; but you will not always have me. She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for its burial. Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her.’

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

This is the Gospel of Christ

All: Praise to Christ our Lord

Luke 15.1-3, 8-10 (CW), Mark 14.1-11 (CW): New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition copyright © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

CCLI # 313899

Worship and events for today and beyond

08.10 Sunday Worship on Radio 4

**10.00 Holy Communion including the fifth week of the
Inclusive Church Lent series**

Led by Rev Dr Mary Cotes

This service will **not** be livestreamed.

This year's ACM will follow the service. Please stay for this important meeting if you are able to.

11.30 Songs of Praise on BBC 1

Other services in the Partnership can be found at www.stantonbury.net

Monday 18th March

09.30 Big Easter Clean

If you can spare time to come along on Monday morning to help to get our lovely church ready for Easter it would be most appreciated.

Please let me know if you are able to help

Thanks Mary Kennedy

19.30 Lent Home-Group

This is the follow-up to today's item on including **Gender** where this topic can be explored in more detail. (See note overleaf).

Wednesday 20th March

10.15 Arts and Heritage Event

If you would like to come along to this event at St James, please would you sign the sign-up sheet at the back of church. Tickets £5.00

(See poster for further details).

Saturday 23rd March

10.00 Church open for coffee

Sunday 24th March

10.00 Baptist Communion

Led by Rev David Nash

With the last of the *Inclusive Church Lent series*.

All are welcome to join us.

The *Inclusive Church* Statement of Belief is:

'We believe in Inclusive Church – church which does not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. We believe in church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.'

LENT HOME-GROUP

This year's home-group will be run in association with the Sunday sermons on *Inclusive Church*. Following each sermon, we will meet on **Monday evening from 7:30-9:00pm** to further explore the topic of the week. The Monday topics are: 18th March – Including **Gender**; 25th March – Including **Poverty**.

You are warmly welcome to attend any or all of the home-group meetings. For more information, please contact - Jo, Gini, Helen, Gill or Duncan

Easter Sunday Morning Breakfast.

Encouraged by their huge success last Easter, our own acclaimed celebrity chefs, Duncan and Graham will once again be tickling your taste buds by cooking breakfast for you after this Easter's Dawn Service.

If you would like to partake in this culinary extravaganza, please sign the sheet on the table at the back of church.

Thank You, Graham.

Saturday 6th April

12.00-1.30 Saturday Soup

Come along and enjoy homemade soup and usually homemade bread but toast if not. Only £1.00 for adults and children are free, larger donations gratefully accepted.

Please Note: This will be the last Saturday Soup until the Autumn.

Saturday 13th April

10.30-13.00. MK Eco Church Network

St James is hosting a meeting of the MK Eco Church Network on the above date.

There will be a short presentation about gaining a Bronze Award, a question and answer session, discussions and a tour of the church and churchyard. There will be a tea/coffee break and you are welcome to bring a packed lunch if you would like to.

Please use the link below to register your interest but you are welcome to just turn up on the day.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/milton-keynes-eco-church-network-visit-to-st-james-church-new-bradwell-mk13-0da-tickets-815652567787>

Thursday, 25th April

7:30 pm Partnership AGM

The AGM of Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership CIO will take place on the above date in Christ Church, Stantonbury. This meeting is open to every member of our six churches – please come along to hear what has been happening in the Partnership this year and prepare for the coming year. It's important that we have as many people there as possible, so please **SAVE THE DATE**.

For more information about what is happening in and around Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership see the current SEP Newsletter.

If you haven't seen a copy, it is available to view on our website at www.stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk or alternatively the SEP website at www.stantonbury.net

Stantonbury Ecumenical Partnership also has a Facebook Group. This is for sharing news on events between the 6 congregations in the partnership, to help bring us closer together and invite others in.

The group can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/208567765189229>

where you can join the group if you wish to.

Willen Hospice Online Tribute Pages

Willen Hospice have asked us to help them promote online Tribute Pages to help those who have lost loved ones.

Find out more on:

<https://www.willen-hospice.org.uk/support-us/fundraise-for-us/in-memory/set-up-a-tribute-page/>

St James services etc for Holy week

Sunday 24th March

10.00 Communion Service for Palm Sunday

Led by Rev David Nash

Thursday 28th March

20.00 Eucharist and Vigil on Maundy Thursday

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

Good Friday (29th March)

13.30 Stations of the Cross

Led by Mary Borrett and Helen Rouse LLM

14.30 Good Friday Liturgy

Led by Rev Duncan Barnes

Holy Saturday (30th March)

09.00 Said Morning Prayers

Led by Helen Rouse LLM

Followed at 10.00 by Easter Workshop

Easter Day (31st March)

06.30 Dawn Vigil and Holy Communion

including lighting the Easter fire and the Paschal candle

Led by Rev Dr Paul Smith

10.00 Holy Communion

A communion service to celebrate the risen Christ.

Led by Rev Duncan Barnes

For details of other services within the Stantonbury Partnership please see the March edition of SEP Newsletter available on St James website at www.stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk or alternatively the SEP website at www.stantonbury.net

Just a reminder that there are Quick Links on the Home page of St James' website (see link below) to Churches Together MK, The Diocese of Oxford, The Methodist Circuit, The Central Baptist Association and The United Reform Church, as well as an Event calendar for St James that also lists services for the next 3 - 6 months.

If you have any notices to be included on the leaflet, please contact John direct either by email or phone before Thursday evening.
Contact details below.

Contact Details are:	
Rev. Dr. Paul Smith revpaul@stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk	01908 606689
<i>Paul is off duty on Monday this week</i>	
Rev. Duncan Barnes revduncan@stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk	01908 226886
Helen Rouse Licensed Lay Minister llm@stjamesnewbradwell.org.uk	01908 318386
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