



Three Rivers Churches

Chippenham, Fordham, Isleham, Kennett, Snailwell
CHURCH OF ENGLAND, DIOCESE OF ELY

Welcome to church today – we are very glad to have you with us.

3 March 2024 - Lent 3

Collect Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A reading from Exodus 20. 1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

² I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who

reject me,⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ For six days you shall labour and do all your work.¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns.¹¹ For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.¹² Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.¹³ You shall not murder. ¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵ You shall not steal. ¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. ¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet

your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

A reading from 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.¹⁹ For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe.²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom,²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

For the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Psalm 19. 7-14

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;
8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the

commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

9 the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

11 Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

12 But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults.

13 Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Hear the Gospel of our
Lord Jesus Christ according
to **John 2. 13-22**

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables.

¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!'

¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for

doing this?' ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' ²⁰ The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Post Communion

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

NOTICES

Invitation to Evensong at Jesus College

The acting Dean of Jesus College has very kindly extended an invitation for Reverend Steve, with members of Fordham Parish and the other Three Rivers Churches, to attend Evensong at Jesus College Chapel.

The proposed dates are:

Tuesday 7 May & Tuesday 4 June

both at 6.30pm

This would be preceded by light refreshments at 5.15pm.

If you would be interested in attending please contact reverend Stephen with your interest and preferred date/s at revdsmday@cantab.net

'Leading your Church into Growth' **Ely Online Diocese conference.**

This is an opportunity for a group of us to gather for encouragement and equipping in leading our churches into growth. We will physically gather, and join the LyCiG team via Zoom, so that we can receive input from them, and have in-person conversations about our own parishes. If you would like to be part of this, and are able to attend on the dates given below, please contact Reverend Stephen @ revdsmday@cantab.net

Friday 26 April 6.30 - 9.30pm
Saturday 27 April 9am - 1pm
Sunday 28 April 1pm - 3.30pm

NEXT SUNDAY

10 March – *Lent 4*

9.30am Isleham – Morning Praise

9.30am Snailwell – Eucharist

11.00am Fordham – Eucharist

11.00am Chipp'ham – Morning Prayer



Intercessions

Baptisms:

Sunday 17 March, Chippenham, 11am, Freya Canham

Sunday 14 April, Fordham, 11am, Thea Percival

Wedding:

Saturday 6 April, Chippenham, 3pm, Nicholas Troubridge & India Wadham

Getting to Grips

*** How to grow as a disciple of Jesus ***

A series of conversations in Lent

Thursdays at 7.30pm in Fordham Parish Church

15 February – ***Getting to grips with God***

22 February = Half term – no meeting

29 February – ***Getting to grips with the Bible***

7 March – ***Getting to grips with Prayer***

14 March – ***Getting to grips with Worship***

21 March – ***Getting to grips with Service***

28 March, Maundy Thursday – ***Holy Communion at Chippenham***