

Diary :

Coffee & Internet Cafe every Saturday 10.30-11.45

Home Group : Studying Acts pt. 2

Wednesday 29th. June 7:30pm - 8:45pm

meeting at 43 Chiltern Avenue, Northampton. All Welcome

Contact Martin Lloyd, 07957 889518.

See website 'About Us : Home Group' for full details and study book

Mother's Union :

Thursday 7th. July

Contact Jill Goodman, 07549113031

Any Other items for the Diary please note down on sheet at back of church.

Note : This Pew Sheet is now available on our Website under the respective churches Menu and 'Services'.

Contacts:

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Church Website Address : www.stmaryandstjames.org



Welcome to the Church's of St Mary the Virgin and St James



This Week :

Sunday 26^h. June – Second Sunday after Trinity

9:30 Eucharist – Hymns 403 : 175 : 457 St. James

11:00 Eucharist St. Mary's

Readings : 2Kings 2:1-2, 6-14, Galatians 5:1 13-25, Luke 9.51-62

Minister : Rev Sue Faulkner & Aaron Day

Forthcoming Services ;

Wednesday 29th. June

10:00 Eucharist St. James

Sunday 3rd. July – Third Sunday after Trinity

9:30 Down To Earth St. James

11:00 Eucharist St. Mary's

Readings : 2 Kings 5.1-14, Galatians 6. 7-16, Luke 10.1-11, 16-20

Minister : Rev Sue Faulkner & Aaron Day

Benefice Prayer :

God, the creator of all good things, bless our Benefice as we work together to be a sign of your glory in the world. As we seek to serve our communities, deepen our faith and fill our hearts with your spirit of love and compassion, that we may act always according to your will; through Jesus Christ. our Lord, Amen.

Your Prayers This Week Please Pray For :

World leaders. Political peace in our time. All those involved in the Ukranian War who have been injured or killed. Those facing tragedy or loss. All abused children and adults. The Victims and survivors of natural disasters. The homeless and those with uncertain futures . The sick, those living alone & the needy.

Residents of our Benefice :

- 27th. Tollgate Road and Westgate Rd
- 28th. Weedon Rd, Tyne Road, The Saints Rugby Club and All the Souls in Dallington Cemetery
- 29th. Ross Road, Stour Road, Warren Road, Dallington Road & Glebeland Road Shops
- 30th. Peverels Way, Abbots Way,
- 31st. The Approach, First and Second Lane, Town Corner
- 1st. Richmond Terrace, Parkwood Street, Aberdare Road & Brecon Street
- 2nd. St. James Park Road, Ambush Street, The Bartons Close, Baring House and Baring Road

Those in Special Need of our Prayers :

Please see the sheet at the back of church to include any friend or family member you would like added.

In the meantime please pray for Agnes Okkers, Sylvia Whittington, Mike Wimpress. Graham Elderton, Kim Pearson, Mick Dunnock, John Cox, Colin Wilson and Jennifer Thompson.

Those whose Anniversary of Passing Occurs :

Joyce Tipping, Margaret Helen Hoerle, Florence Ada Mary Ashby and Charles Bernard Harris

Those being Ordained :

Holly Horspole, Andrew Mead, Kim McCloghry, Evie McNally, Tracy Pegram, Mel Stanley, Shilo Varughese, Rebecca Yates, George Frost, Clare Glover, Peter Heffron, Jonathan Lee, Sarah Lee, Shakeel Nurmahi, and Lesley Tomalin

See the website for Daily Prayers under 'About Us'

Notices :

Organist & Choir Master

As you may know we are looking for someone to play our organ on a Sunday for the Communion service. We would also like to find someone to help lead our choir. Do you know anyone who would like to try this out?.

Please do ask around and see if anyone you know is interested.

Rule of Life : Why do Christians Serve?

Social action is about people coming together to help improve their lives and solve the problems that are important in their communities.

During your 'Rule of Life' journey', you can make a difference as an individual and join in with or lead social action projects in your parish or worshipping community.

Commit yourself to do ten things each year that will contribute to the common good.

Organise or take part in community events to bring people together (with the aim of reducing social isolation) e.g. Summer and Christmas, Harvest supper meals

Support local, national and international charities e.g. Christian Aid; local Foodbanks; sponsoring the education of a child overseas

Get involved in local and national politics or activism e.g. through social media campaigns, writing letters to MPs

www.ruleoflife.org.uk/resources/what-ways-can-you-serve/

Get your Worksheet from the **Rule Of Live** page on our Website.

Notices to martinlloyd@uwclub.net please.

invasion phase in 2003 to a nearly decade-long occupation, American public opinion shifted towards favouring a troop withdrawal; in May 2007, 55% of Americans believed that the Iraq War was a mistake, and 51% of registered voters favoured troop withdrawal.[41] In late April 2007 Congress passed a supplementary spending bill for Iraq that set a deadline for troop withdrawal but President Bush vetoed this bill, citing his concerns about setting a withdrawal deadline. The Bush Administration later sought an agreement with the Iraqi government, and in 2008 George W. Bush signed the U.S.–Iraq Status of Forces Agreement. It included a deadline of 31 December 2011, before which "all the United States Forces shall withdraw from all Iraqi territory". The last U.S. troops left Iraq on 18 December 2011, in accordance with this agreement.

In February 2006, the Salafi jihadist organization Tanzim Qaidat al-Jihad fi Bilad al-Rafidayn (also known as Al-Qaeda in Iraq) bombed one of the holiest sites in Shi'a Islam - the al-Askari Mosque in Samarra. This set off a wave of Shi'a reprisals against Sunnis followed by Sunni counterattacks. The conflict escalated over the next several months until by 2007, the National Intelligence Estimate described the situation as having elements of a civil war.

In 2008 and 2009, during the Sunni Awakening and the surge, violence declined dramatically. However, low-level strife continued to plague Iraq until the U.S. withdrawal in late 2011.

In October 2006, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Iraqi government estimated that more than 370,000 Iraqis had been displaced since the 2006 bombing of the al-Askari Mosque, bringing the total number of Iraqi refugees to more than 1.6 million. By 2008, the UNHCR raised the estimate of refugees to a total of about 4.7 million (~16% of the population). The number of refugees estimated abroad was 2 million (a number close to CIA projections) and the number of internally displaced people was 2.7 million. The estimated number of orphans across Iraq has ranged from 400,000 (according to the Baghdad Provincial Council), to five million (according to Iraq's anti-corruption board). A UN report from 2008 placed the number of orphans at about 870,000. The Red Cross stated in 2008 that Iraq's humanitarian situation was among the most critical in the world, with millions of Iraqis forced to rely on insufficient and poor-quality water sources.

The Islamic State insurgency in Iraq is an ongoing low-intensity insurgency that began in 2017 after the Islamic State (ISIS) lost its territorial control in the War in Iraq. ISIS and allied White Flags fought the Iraqi military (largely backed by the United States and other countries conducting airstrikes against ISIS) and allied paramilitary forces (largely backed by Iran).

Since the parliamentary election in October 2021, there has been a political crisis in Iraq, with members of the Council of Representatives of Iraq being able to form a stable coalition government, or elect a new President. For 8 months the national political system has been in a political deadlock.

Old Testament Reading

I Kings 2.1–2, 6–14

¹ Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel.

⁶ Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸When Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' ¹⁰He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

¹³ He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, 'Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?' When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

Thanks be to God

New Testament Reading - Galatians 5.1, –13-25

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. ¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Thanks be to God

Gospel - Luke 9.51–62

Glory to You Oh Lord

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³ but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village. ⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' ⁵⁹ To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' ⁶⁰ But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' ⁶¹ Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' ⁶² Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

Praise to You Oh Christ

At the end of February, Rev. Sue read a list of twenty eight conflicts in the world today. Although our attention is on the Ukraine, it is worth reflecting on that list and what is happening now. This is the Fourteenth of our reports.

The invasion of Iraq lasted from 20 March to 1 May 2003 and signalled the start of the Iraq War, which was dubbed Operation Iraqi Freedom by the United States. The invasion consisted of 21 days of major combat operations, in which a combined force of troops from the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and Poland invaded Iraq and deposed the Ba'athist government of Saddam Hussein. The invasion phase consisted primarily of a conventionally fought war which included the capture of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad by American forces with the assistance of the United Kingdom, Australia and Poland.

160,000 troops were sent by the Coalition into Iraq during the initial invasion phase, which lasted from 19 March to 9 April 2003. About 130,000 were sent from the USA, with about 28,000 British, 2,000 Australian, and 194 Polish soldiers. 36 other countries were involved in its aftermath. In preparation for the invasion, 100,000 U.S. troops were assembled in Kuwait by 18 February. The coalition forces also received support from Kurdish irregulars in Iraqi Kurdistan. The invasion was preceded by an airstrike on the Presidential Palace in Baghdad on 20 March 2003. The following day, coalition forces launched an incursion into Basra Province from their massing point close to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border. While the special forces launched an amphibious assault from the Persian Gulf to secure Basra and the surrounding petroleum fields, the main invasion army moved into southern Iraq, occupying the region and engaging in the Battle of Nasiriyah on 23 March. Massive air strikes across the country and against Iraqi command and control threw the defending army into chaos and prevented an effective resistance. On 26 March, the 173rd Airborne Brigade was airdropped near the northern city of Kirkuk, where they joined forces with Kurdish rebels and fought several actions against the Iraqi Army to secure the northern part of the country.

The main body of coalition forces continued their drive into the heart of Iraq and met with little resistance. Most of the Iraqi military was quickly defeated and Baghdad was occupied on 9 April. Other operations occurred against pockets of the Iraqi army, including the capture and occupation of Kirkuk on 10 April, and the attack and capture of Tikrit on 15 April. Iraqi president Saddam Hussein and the central leadership went into hiding as the coalition forces completed the occupation of the country. On 1 May, an end of major combat operations was declared, ending the invasion period and beginning the military occupation period.

The withdrawal of U.S. military forces from Iraq was a contentious issue in the United States for much of the 2000s. As the war progressed from its initial

When all six pages are being used this is the order of printing ;

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