

17th March 2024



Will God forgive me?

King David was Israel's greatest king and was the gold standard by which all the kings who followed him were compared. More than that we are told that when David was made king, God testified concerning him: *"I have found David a man after my own heart"* (Acts 13: 22). Yet David was not perfect; instead he committed the most appalling sins. One day when David should have been leading his army in battle he stayed behind and from the roof of his palace he observed a beautiful woman, who was married to a member of his army. He desired this woman, slept with her and she became pregnant. To make matters worse he then deliberately had her husband killed on the battlefield so he could marry her. The Lord, however, sent Nathan, the prophet, to point out to David his wrongdoings whereupon David said to Nathan, *'I have sinned against the Lord'*, and Nathan replied, *'The Lord has taken away your sin'*. Our reading from Psalm 51 is David's confession when he repented. They are words which we may wish to repeat we when we acknowledge our wrongdoings. *"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love", "cleanse me from my sin", "against you, you only, have I sinned", "Hide your face from my sins and blot out my iniquity", "create in me a pure heart, O God"*. In Psalm 103 we then have the assurance of God's forgiveness as David writes: *"Praise the Lord, my soul, who forgives all your sins", "He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us"*. God has made us this promise: *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us for all unrighteousness"*. If you are still in doubt as to whether God will forgive you, remember these words which Jesus spoke to those who crucified Him: *"Father, forgive them"*.

David



Please pray for...



Ron Jones, John Panter, Laura McGarry, Beryl Hinton, Colin Smith, Helen Hughes, Ray Croucher, Helen Smith, Joe McFee's grandson Jaiden Roberts, Adrian & Jenny Corney's friend Becky Turner, John Halford's brother David and Liz Barnes' brother John.

We pray for the family and friends of Jill Hurst.

We periodically update our prayer section. Please let the Church Office know if you wish names to remain on or be removed from the list.

Lent: Wilderness and Discipleship



Next session Tuesday 19th March, 6.45-8.30pm in St Mary's Church. Please note that this course is now full.

Bring & Share Lunch

Kath McClellan, 3 Victoria Rd,
Sunday 17th March 1pm.



The Church Directory

The production of the new church directory is underway. If you are currently in the directory, wish to remain in it and have no changes of details, you do not need to take any action. Anyone that wishes to be included or that needs to revise their details and has not yet returned a complete form to the Church Office, please do so as soon as possible. Blank forms are available on the front desk. A reminder that we are planning to include email addresses in the new directory, please get in touch if you would not like your email to be included. If you would like to be in the directory but cannot recall if you gave consent in the past, please complete a fresh form.

Helpers Needed

More helpers are needed for refreshments after the 10.30 Sunday morning services. If you are able to volunteer, please speak to Pat Fox.



Services

Services are in St Mary's Church unless otherwise indicated.

9.00am BCP Holy Communion

10.30am Holy Communion CW

Readings: Psalm 51:1-13, John 12:20-33

This service will also be on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85337124930?pwd=NFdMTzRMOR2JXbXRoSctVRS9PSkZXdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 3712 4930 Password: 867888

Wednesday Morning Prayer 9.00am ZOOM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89943278704?pwd=RytPQ3RmOG5yYlBpUWpoWWkxWGFEZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 4327 8704 Password: 730701

Thursday 10.00am Holy Communion

Zoom services can be accessed via landline using any of the following numbers, with the meeting IDs and passwords above: 0203 481 5237 / 0203 481 5240 / 0131 460 1196 / 0203 051 2874.

Tunstall Hall service Wednesday 20th March at 2.00pm

St John Badgers Easter Egg Appeal

Our local St John Badgers Unit are currently working on their Community Badge for which they have to complete a Community based project. They have decided to collect Easter Eggs for the Foodbank, to help families with young children to enjoy the Easter period. They are asking local organisations and groups to donate eggs – can we at St Mary's help them? If you can **bring an Easter Egg to church this Sunday or on Wednesday (11am-1pm)** we will get them to the Badgers. They will let the Foodbank know all the community groups that have helped donate the eggs.

The Filling Station



25th March at Rodington Village Hall, Shrewsbury with speaker Rev Dr Christopher Landau. See poster at the back of church for more information.

Children's Society Boxes

Please bring your boxes into church on Sundays, or to 60 Rowan Road. Cheques made payable to the Children's Society. Contact Elaine Mason 07846 715620 if you need more information. Thank you.

Spring Harvest

There are 3 places available at Spring Harvest **8th to 11th April** (Minehead). There is 1 double room and 1 single room available (as part of 3 bedroomed chalet). If anyone would like to know more (cost etc) then contact Laurina ASAP. Please don't let cost be a barrier, support is available.

Foodbank Items Needed

Stock Items urgently required.



Jars/tins of cooking/pasta sauces; jam; shampoo, tinned rice pudding, tins/cartons custard

We have plenty of—Cereals; Pasta; Rice; Tea; Baked Beans; Tinned Tomatoes.

If you need to contact the Foodbank, please call **01630 654007** (not the number in the current church directory). The trolley at the back of church is now in use and donations are gratefully received.

Foodbank Trustee Needed

The Foodbank are looking for someone with a finance background to join the Board of Trustees. For more information please see the poster on the notice board at the back of church or speak to Catherine.

Easter Canal

Towpath Outreach

We will be on the canal towpath near Bridge 62, Newcastle Road again this



Easter giving away hot cross buns and small Easter eggs, inviting passers-by to Easter services and running quizzes for families. Please pray for this event and invite people to come along. If you would like to donate hot cross buns and/or contribute to the costs we would be very grateful. Please bring buns to church on Wednesday **27th March** between **11.00am and 1.00pm** or bring to the canal on Thursday **28th March** between **2.30pm and 5.00pm**. More details from Jan and John Halford. Thank you.

Staying in Touch

Please either leave a message or send an email and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Church Administrator: Helen Hughes

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If you do not wish to continue to receive these newsletters, please let us know.