



St. Mary Magdalene Church, Longfield
Part of the Rural North West Kent Group of Churches

NOTICES FOR WEEK COMMENCING 17th March 2019

RNWK Group Clergy: Revd. Dylan Turner, Revd. Jim Fletcher, Revd. Helen Reeves, Revd. Elizabeth Robertson

Sunday 17 th March 2019	8.00 am Morning Prayer Service at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Ash 9.00 am Holy Communion Service at St. Peter's Church, Ridley 9.00 am Holy Communion Service at All Saints' Church, Hartley 10.30 am Holy Communion Service at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Longfield 10.30 am Morning Prayer Service at St. Peter and St. Paul Church, Ash 10.30 am Morning Worship Service at the Fawkham and Hartley Church Centre
Sunday 24 th March 2019	8.00 am Holy Communion Service at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church, Ash 8.00 am Mattins (BCP) Service at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Longfield 10.30 am Holy Communion Service at Fawkham and Hartley Church Centre Group Service for Jim Fletcher leaving the RNWK group 6.30 pm Evening prayer Service at St. Peter's Church Ridley

(Please note that tea and coffee will be available in the Jubilee Hall after most of our services, please feel free to join us)

ELECTORAL ROLL - Every six years the existing Electoral Roll has to be destroyed and EVERYONE on the existing Electoral Roll now has to reapply to go on the new one. You all need to fill in a new form if you wish to be included on the new Electoral Roll. These forms are available from Yikai Wang or in church. The forms need to be returned to Yikai or the Churchwardens by **this Sunday 17th March** after which the new Electoral roll will be closed prior to the APCM meeting. Names can be added after the APCM meeting when the Roll opens again.

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING- This will take place on **Sunday, 7th April** after the 10:30 am service (12 noon). Nomination forms for Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Representatives and PCC members will be available at the front of the church. If you have any contributions to the Annual Review, please can you submit them to Susan Rogers by 28th March. Thank you.

BIBLE, BREW AND BISCUITS – There will be a relaxed and informal get together at Ruby Wheal's house at 3 Hartley Road, Longfield to have a brew of your choice with some biscuits in the warm glow of the Bible. If you would like a light hearted chat through some of the familiar Bible passages then please do come along. **For further information and the date of the next meeting please speak to Ruby or Steph.**

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – A talk by Lynne Waller about life behind the scenes in her role as Virger of St. Paul's Cathedral, on **Tuesday, 19th March 7.30pm** in the Parish Rooms at the Fawkham and Hartley Church Centre. All are welcome.

LENT COURSES - See your flier (in church this Sunday) for details

Wednesdays 13th March—17th April All Saints' Church, Hartley 7.15—9.15pm,

Mondays 11th March—15th April Jubilee Hall, St. Mary Magdalene Church, Longfield 8pm, if you are thinking of Joining the Jubilee Hall Lent Course 'Prophet and the Passion' please would you let Anne or Lawrie know in advance and agree to them sending the material week by week by e-mail. Thank you

Wednesdays "Lent Reflections" 10am 20th March and 3rd April at Hartley, **27th March** at Longfield, **10th April** at Ash
Every Day "Ridley Lent Labyrinth" at St. Peter's Church, Ridley.

JIM FLETCHER – **A message from Jim** – I wanted to give you warning of my last Sunday in the group and when I am licensed at St. George's, as it would be lovely to see lots of you at these services as I value your support and prayer so much. My last Sunday will be **the 24th March** with a joint Group Holy Communion, 10.30am at the **Fawkham and Hartley Church Centre**. The licensing service at St. George's will be **Monday 29th April, 7.30pm**. Being a bigger Church there is no need of a ticket system but it would be helpful to know how many may be coming—please give your name to Marion Strachan in the Church Centre office 704972. There may also be an opportunity to car share if you speak to Marion.

COFFEE AND COMMUNION – This will be held on **Wednesday 27th March** starting at 10.00am in St. Mary Magdalene Church, Longfield.

YARN AND YAP – The next meeting will be on the **5th April starting at 12.30pm until 2.00pm** in the Jubilee Hall. Light lunch and drinks/cakes are all provided. Donations of wool or a contribution towards its purchase is very much appreciated.

COFFEE MORNING – This will be on Saturday **13th April** in the Jubilee Hall starting at 10.30am until 12.00noon. All are welcome.

MESSY CHURCH – Messy Church meets again on **Good Friday 19th April 2019** at 9.00am in the Fawkham and Hartley Church Centre — please come and join us. There is also a Facebook group to follow which is at: <https://m.facebook.com/RNWKmessychurch/>

COLLECTION FOR JIM FLETCHER - We are making a collection for Jim, which will be presented to him on his final Sunday on 24th March. If you would like to contribute please give any donation to Alan or Marion Strachan or to the Churchwardens.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES - Could all box holders please bring them to church for Liz Gale or let her know and she will collect them. Thank you.

PASTORAL CARE TEAM - If anyone would like to be a part of this ministry through prayer or visiting could they let either Steph, Wendy or Val know and speak to us for more information.

C0 SAFEGUARDING COURSE – Many thanks to all who attended the courses on 28th November and 5th December. Certificates are available from Marion Strachan.

C2 SAFEGUARDING COURSE – If you need to do this level of course book yourself on via the Diocese of Rochester website – you can wait until the next local one is announced if this is more convenient.

SIDESMEN, SOUND AND READING:- Sunday 17th March service: For the 10.30am service the Sidespeople will be Susan Rogers and Marion Stubbs, the Reader will be Gill Horner and Prayers by Stephanie Perfitt with Sound by Peter Garrod.

Sunday 24th March services: For the 8.00am service the Sidesperson and Reader will be Sylvia Partridge. Thank you to everyone for your time and assistance.

*If you have anything to add to the notices for next week, please contact: Alan Strachan on 01474 704602
or at a.m.strachan@btinternet.com Parish website: www.longfieldchurch.org Twitter: @RNWK_Group*

CALLED TOGETHER FOR A NEW VISION

‘CALLED TOGETHER’ - WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO FOR YOUR T FOR 2-500 PLUS CHALLENGE? - ‘CALLED TOGETHER’

WE HAVE SO FAR REACHED OUT AS A GROUP TO 305 PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR OUR T FOR 2-500 PLUS CHALLENGE, WE STILL HAVE 195 PEOPLE TO REACH BEFORE NEXT SUMMER. WHAT’S YOUR CHALLENGE? PLEASE LET THE MINISTRY TEAM KNOW, WE ARE CALLED TOGETHER, TO WORK TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

Just a thought!

I love the image of Jesus as the mother hen, longing to take the children of Jerusalem under his wings. It’s an appealing picture of God—a God who longs for us, who reaches out to gather us in. It’s an image of God that comforts us. But Jesus goes on to say that the children of Jerusalem have not been willing to take the shelter he offers, a motherly figure, making a welcoming gesture, offering love and security, and the children of Jerusalem say, “No.” Does that make sense?

Can we imagine the love of God as a threat to our fiercely-held value of self-reliance, our own quest for security? If I let God love me and enfold me with all my imperfections and all my doubts and fears, could it make me weak? Do I really trust in that unconditional love? This is a slippery sort of resistance. It’s not about how we spend our time or our money; it’s not about just or unjust things that we do. It’s about how we set our heart. In fact, our Christian tradition assures us that we aren’t called to release ourselves from resistance on our own. What we’re called to do, rather, is simply place ourselves where the grace of God can work on us.

A first step in that direction is to slow down, quiet the voices inside our head, and try on that image of Jesus as a mother hen. Try reading scripture that way this Lent, taking the image that jumps out at us, and letting it enfold us. Instead of worrying about unlocking scripture’s mysteries, let’s allow scripture to unlock us. That is one way we can take the step to place ourselves at the disposal of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus stands before us, with arms outspread, he stands at our door knocking, waiting for us to open it, waiting to welcome us, waiting to shelter us. Jesus offers us himself, whether our good works are many or few, whether our motives are pure or not, whether our faith in him is firm or not. His grace is free, and its meaning is beyond all imagining. He calls us only to be open to receive.

Just a thought.....