

NOTICES

Please send any items for the pew sheet to Iris for the next week by **Thursday** at pewsheets@sandbachchurch.co.uk.

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1 Samuel 16.1–13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the Lord said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord.' But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the Lord chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.



Contact:

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Sunday 22nd March, Fourth Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday

This week your prayers are asked for:

Special Intentions

The UNICEF WASH Project

Those who are ill or in need, including:

Susie Stewart	Joyce Whittenbury
Barbara Yorke	Audrey Sanderson
John Percival	Jean Dunning
Stuart Hirst	

Those whose memorials fall this

Cissy Foster	Harry Pratt
Kenneth Grimshaw	Michael Bennison
Eric Halden	Reginald Ford
Edith Viney	Joan Cockram
Eric Vickers	Joan Needle
Maurice Brooke	Kenneth Hardman

Please help us to all stay in touch in these uncertain times. If you are in need of any shopping, help or just chat please give one of us a call.

Anne & Kevin Birch 01270 760778 or

John & Heather Bottomley 01270 768744

The Archbishop of Canterbury will lead a national broadcast on Sunday 22nd March on BBC radio at 8am if you wanted to tune in.

National Day of Prayer

At 7pm this Sunday, light a candle in the windows of your homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

Collect

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his
name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death,
I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.
Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Ephesians 5.8–14

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you
are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the
light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try
to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part
in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose
them. For it is shameful even to mention what such
people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light
becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is
light. Therefore it says,
'Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.'

John 9.1–41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.
His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man
or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered,
'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born
blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We
must work the works of him who sent me while it is
day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as
I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When
he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud
with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes,
saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which
means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back
able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen
him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the
man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is
he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like
him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept
asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He
answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it
on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash."
Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They
said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'
They brought to the Pharisees the man who had
formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when
Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the
Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received

his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes.
Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees
said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not
observe the sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man
who is a sinner perform such signs?' And they were
divided. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do
you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.' He
said, 'He is a prophet.'
The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and
had received his sight until they called the parents of
the man who had received his sight and asked them,
'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How
then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We
know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;
but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do
we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age.
He will speak for himself.' His parents said this
because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had
already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be
the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.
Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'
So for the second time they called the man who had
been blind, and they said to him, 'Give glory to God!
We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'I do
not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know,
that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him,
'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?'
He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you
would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do
you also want to become his disciples?' Then they
reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are
disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to
Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he
comes from.' The man answered, 'Here is an
astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes
from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God
does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who
worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world
began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of
a person born blind. If this man were not from God,
he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were
born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?'
And they drove him out.
Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he
found him, he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of
Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir? Tell me,
so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said to him,
'You have seen him, and the one speaking with
you is he.' He said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he
worshipped him. Jesus said, 'I came into this
world for judgement so that those who do not see
may see, and those who do see may become blind.'
Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and
said to him, 'Surely we are not blind, are we?'
Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would
not have sin. But now that you say, "We see", your
sin remains.

