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Treasurers and church bank account details:

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St Nicholas: Ian Bromley captainimb@aol.com Acc: **St Nicholas Church 40-25-34 94289579**

Please put a note in the 'reference' box for online banking so treasurers know what the payment is for and/or from whom, if that is important. Thank you.

February 8th, 2024

NOTICES FOR NEXT WEEK

Wednesday 14th. 6pm St. Clement - Ash Wednesday Holy Communion.
A short service of Holy Communion marking the start of Lent.

Sunday 18th. 9am Holy Communion at St Nicholas.
10.30am Holy Communion at St Clement.

Dear friends of St Clement and St Nicholas,

St. Clement was filled last week with people and lovely memories as we celebrated the life of David Le Maistre. Recordings of family members were played and the service was relayed to Canada. Just a couple of hours earlier we had a lovely service around a grave with just a dozen people, birds, a phone and a portable speaker provided the music and the service was filmed live for relatives. It was the third funeral last week where the watching congregation extended well beyond Jersey. Developing ways of viewing from afar and putting our services to read on the website every week was a broadly positive legacy of Covid. We usually manage to absorb the extra time it takes but with Jayne out of action and Christmas the posted letter stopped for a few weeks. If you have started to receive it again but could receive it as an e mail or wonder why we send it at all please save stamps and time and let Jayne know.

The downside of publishing more information is that there are a criminal few who live by exploitation.

Just a few days ago an initially plausible 'fraud prevention officer', supposedly from our bank, tried to talk us into access to our St. Nicholas online banking. We are also advised to tilt the camera upwards to avoid filming people going to receive communion and the diocese asks us to try and keep our notices and prayers of intercession from identifying people too closely, lest the unscrupulous might listen in and try to exploit them. It works reasonably well but can be confusing if a lot of people share the same Christian name. It's a complicated World !

We hope you are keeping well,
David

**Welcome to St Clement Church,
Service of Morning Worship**

February 11th, 2024

A & M 356

**All nations of the world
be joyful in the Lord:
with willing hands your Master serve
with one accord:
in ceaseless praise
with heart and voice in him rejoice
through all your days.**

**Be sure the Lord is God,
creation's Source and Spring:
in him alone we live,
to him our lives we bring.
From days of old
he feeds his flock and guides
the wanderers to his fold.**

**In gladness go your way:
approach his courts with song
in thankfulness to him
to whom all things belong.
His name adore:
his gracious mercy, truth and love
for evermore.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. **and also with you.**

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

We sit or kneel to confess our sins.

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed. Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessed is the Lord, **for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**
therefore shall our hearts dance for joy **and in our song we will praise our God.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, Creator and Redeemer of all; to you be glory and praise for ever. From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world and in your great love fashioned us in your image. Now, through the deep waters of death, you have brought your people to new birth by raising your Son to life in triumph. May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessed be God for ever.

A & M 381

**God in his wisdom, for our learning,
gave his inspired and holy word:
promise of Christ for our discerning
by which our souls are moved and stirred,
finding our hearts within us burning
when, as of old, his voice is heard.**

**Symbol and story, song and saying,
life - bearing truths for heart and mind,
God in his sovereign grace displaying
tenderest care for humankind,
Jesus our Lord this love portraying,
open our eyes to seek and find.**

**Come then with prayer and contemplation,
see how in Scripture Christ is known;
wonder anew at such salvation
here in these sacred pages shown
lift every heart in adoration,
children of God by grace alone!**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

We keep silence We say the Old Testament Canticle

Blessed are you, God of Israel, for ever and ever, for yours is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty. Everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head over all. Riches and honour come from you and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might; yours it is to give power and strength to all. And now we give you thanks, our God, and praise your glorious name. For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

The First Reading is taken from 2 Kings Chapter 2, beginning to read at the first verse (2 Kings, 1-12)

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of the prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and asked, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," Elisha replied, "so be quiet." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, Elisha; the LORD has sent me to Jericho." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So they went to Jericho.

The company of the prophets at Jericho went up to Elisha and asked him, "Do you know that the LORD is going to take your master from you today?" "Yes, I know," he replied, "so be quiet."

Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." And he replied, "As surely as the LORD lives and as you live, I will not leave you." So the two of them walked on. Fifty men from the company of the prophets went and stood at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha had stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied.

"You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not." As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

We stand to sing the Gospel Canticle (O Jesus I have promised **CA503i**)

**O bless the God of Israel,
who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us
and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy,
of rescue and release;
God shall fulfil the promise
to bring our people peace.**

**Now from the house of David
a child of grace is given;
a Saviour comes among us
to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald,
forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation,
the messenger of Day.**

**Where once were fear and darkness
the sun begins to rise —
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes,
to guide the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace:
O bless our God and Saviour,
with songs that never cease!**

The Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. **(Mark 9 2-9)**
Glory to you, O Lord.

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.) Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!" Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

Reflection: David Anyone who has tried to open a bank account or change a signature is likely to have become frustrated with the layers of checks followed often by months of silence. As we have recently discovered with one bank they don't tell you they have accepted the information you have to guess that they have. I am not sure how the disciples knew it was Moses and Elijah, who I picture as old men with white beards. Was something about them recognizably holy and prophetic? It is no wonder then that churches have apparently been taken advantage of by asylum seekers claiming to have converted to Christianity as a ruse to bolster their claims. Catholic, Baptist and Anglican churches have all been targeted. Some 'converts' spent weeks attending courses and one cathedral said they knew of 200 Moslems coming to them claiming to have become Christians but none had lived in the UK for more than a few months. Ultimately it is a relationship between the individual and God not certificates or declaration forms.

We stand to sing the Creed *Abbot's Leigh* (Father, Lord of all creation **CA163**)

**We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.
We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary
upon whom the Spirit came.**

**Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
till as judge he comes again.**

**We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
saints of God in one communion,
one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end. 8.7.8.7.D**

Prayers of Intercession *We sit or kneel* Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

With the eyes of faith, deepen our vision, O Lord, that we may see more fully the splendour of your creation. May we discern your ways for our lives.

Give to political leaders the vision and strength to do what is needful and right and just. May people work together for the good of all.

We pray for peace in the world and an end to conflict in the Middle East, Ukraine and all places where violence is chosen over peace. May all who are working for peace in the world be given the wisdom and understanding they need to broker peace.

We pray for our island as it continues to recover from the consequences of Storm Ciaron and for those who wait to return to their homes.

We pray for all who feel under a cloud of despair or anxiety. For all in hospital, hospice or ill at home. Bring your healing, Lord, to all who suffer, to all who care and to all who watch and wait. With the eyes of faith, help us to trust in your unfailing promise of heaven. We commit to you all who have died and pray for your loving comfort to surround those who mourn.

And at the end: Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Collect for the Sunday Next before Lent: Almighty Father, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross: give us grace to perceive his glory, that we may be strengthened to suffer with him and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

CA 86

**Bright the vision that delighted
once the sight of Judah's seer;
sweet the countless tongues united
to entrance the prophet's ear.**

**Round the Lord in glory seated
cherubim and seraphim
filled his temple, and repeated
each to each the alternate hymn:**

**'Lord, thy glory fills the heaven,
earth is with its fulness stored
unto thee be glory given
holy, holy, holy, Lord.**

**Heav'n is still with glory ringing,
earth takes up the angels' cry
Holy, holy, holy, singing
Lord of hosts, the Lord is high.**

**With his seraph train before him,
with his holy Church below,
thus unite we to adore him
bid we thus our anthem flow.**

**Lord thy glory fills the heaven;
earth is with its fulness stored
unto thee be glory given
holy, holy, holy, Lord**

The Blessing: The Lord bless you and watch over you, the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look kindly on you and give you peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

We say the Grace together: **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.**

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord . **Thanks be to God.**