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Treasurers and church bank account details:

St Clement: Rob Sharp robsharp@fastmail.fm **St Clements Parish Church 40-25-34 84087488**

St Nicholas: Ian Bromley captainimb@aol.com Payments for St Nicholas Church have now been clarified and these are the amended bank details for St Nicholas Church:

St Clements Parish 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.

March 13th, 2025

Dear friends of St. Clement and St. Nicholas,

It only seems like a week or so since announcing my retirement but time seems to fly. 'You must be winding down' people suggest - the opposite is true. Past, present and future are normally juggled with delayed or slow tasks rescheduled but they now become urgent or put in the 'never / handed over box'. I am forever correcting my 'we need to do' to 'you - if you wish to - after I have gone'. Quotes for churchyard sheds will be ticked off but could financing issues could consign the plans to a filing drawer? Building control, costings and building to start on St. Nicholas toilets for the nursery needs to happen, if I delay some deanery admin jobs perhaps they will go away? As for retirement future housing I can still confidently write zero in almost all the boxes on the rates form: bathrooms-zero, kitchen-zero apparently you need a working kitchen and bathroom for a certificate of occupation - do they allow tents in the garden?

Meanwhile the present continues as usual but with the strange experience of each service or event being the last - for me - and perhaps in their current format for you as well, as we all need to pray that the right person is found and the church will change and evolve in new ways as all living things do. Whether retiring or not, this Lent let's give thanks for the good things of the past, make the most of the present and trust God for the future.

We hope you are keeping well,
David

Welcome to St Clement's Parish Church Service of Holy Communion in Lent

Notices for this week: March 16th, 2025

9am Holy Communion at St Nicholas Church
10.30am Holy Communion at St Clement Church

Lent Lunch in Caldwell Hall. Thursday March 20th, 2025 Noon – 1.30pm

Delicious homemade soup, bread and cheese, fresh fruit, tea and coffee.

Minimum donation of £5 per person. Proceeds to Street Pastors

CA 756

Ye servants of God,
Your Master proclaim,
And publish abroad
His wonderful name;
The name all victorious
Of Jesus extol:
His kingdom is glorious
And rules over all.

God ruleth on high,
Almighty to save;
And still he is nigh
His presence we have:
The great congregation
His triumph shall sing
Ascribing salvation
To Jesus our King.

Salvation to God
Who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud,
And honour the Son.
The praises of Jesus
The angels proclaim,
Fall down on their faces,
And worship the Lamb.

Then let us adore,
And give him his right:
All glory and pow'r,
All wisdom and might,
And honour and blessing,
With angels above,
And thanks never-ceasing,
And infinite love.

The Greeting

The Lord be with you. and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your Holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this:

'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

We sit or kneel

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on 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.

The Collect for the Second Sunday in Lent: Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Readings: *We sit for the first reading*

The First Reading is taken from Philippians, Chapter 3, beginning to read at the seventeenth verse (Philippians 3 17-4:1)

Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the

power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

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

CA 467

**New ev'ry morning is the love
Our wak'ning and uprising prove;
Through sleep and darkness safely brought
Restored to life and pow'r and thought.**

**New mercies, each returning day,
Hover around us while we pray;
New perils past, new sins forgiv'n,
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heav'n.**

**If on our daily course our mind
Be set to hallow all we find,
New treasures still, of countless price,
God will provide for sacrifice.**

**Old friends, old scenes, will lovelier be,
As more of heav'n in each we see;
Some soft'ning gleam of love and prayer
Shall dawn on ev'ry cross and care.**

**The trivial round, the common task,
Will furnish all we need to ask,
Room to deny ourselves, a road
To bring us daily nearer God.**

**Only, O Lord, in thy dear love
Fit us for perfect rest above;
And help us, this and ev'ry day,
To live more nearly as we pray.**

Gospel Reading: *We remain standing*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke **(Luke 13: 31 -35)**
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."

He replied, "Go tell that fox, 'I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.'"³³ In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say,

'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

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

Sermon: Martin Here in this passage from Paul's letter to the Philippians, he is concerned that Church is under threat from those who are teaching that Christians should keep the whole of the Jewish law. Thanks largely to Paul, the idea of following rules as a means of salvation is no longer an issue for us, but we do have other threats to our faith today. Paul's arguments are therefore relevant for us as we seek to overcome the difficulties of following Jesus in our day. Paul uses the metaphor of a citizen of a country or state to explain that the important thing in our lives is not the practice of holiness (doing good works, and going to church), but the state of holiness – the inward disposition. The path to holiness is not about doing, it's about being. In the words of the old jazz song: "T'aint what you, it's the way that you do it, that's what gets results". Doing (or not doing) things during Lent is important, but it should come from what is in our hearts, that's what gets results!

The Creed: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession We sit or kneel

May all find a welcome waiting for them when they enter church and may they know God's love and peace for them. May all who govern seek wisdom and peace between nations. Spend time praying for a just peace for the people of Ukraine, Gaza, Syria and the Congo.

May we use our abilities wisely and creatively for the benefit of our community. Spend time praying for home-grown charities (perhaps remember the Sanctuary Trust who we are supporting through the first Lent lunch) together with others that are close to our hearts.

May all who suffer chronic ill-health know the hope that God brings and receive the strength they need to get through each day with some joy. Spend time praying for someone you know.

May we find joy in the knowledge of our home in heaven and may all who grieve find the comfort and love they need. Spend time praying for someone who has been bereaved.

Lord, in your mercy. **hear our prayer.**

And at the end Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour**

Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace: *We stand to share the Peace*

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace. The peace of the Lord be always with you and also with you.

All: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

Preparation of the Table

A&M 448

**I come with joy, a child of God,
Forgiven, loved and free,
The life of Jesus to recall,
In life laid down for me.**

**I come with Christians far and near
To find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
In Christ's communion bread.**

**As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
Each proud division ends.
The love that made s, makes us one,
And strangers now are friends.**

**The Spirit of the risen Christ,
Unseen, but ever near,
Is in such friendship better known,
Alive among us here.**

**Together met, together bound
By all that God has done,
We'll go with joy, to give the world
The love that makes us one.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance; that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and mind we bless you for your mercy

and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We sit or kneel

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer. 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.

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Giving of Communion: We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear

Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Please come forward to receive communion.

Prayers after Communion. Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home.

Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Dismissal: Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

CA 572

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise;
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.**

**O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight,
And to the rescue came.**

**O wisest love! That flesh and blood,
Which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against the foe,
Should stive and should prevail.**

**And that a higher gift than grace
Should flesh and blood refine
God's presence and his very self,
And essence all divine.**

**And in the garden secretly,
And on the cross on high,
Should teach his brethren, and inspire
To suffer and to die.**

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise;
In all his words most wonderful
Most sure in all his ways.**

**We say the Grace together. May 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.**