

Your prayers are asked for all those who are sick, bereaved or in need of God's special help, especially:

Sick:	Stephen Paterson, Charlotte Tyler, Anne Lloyd, John Berry	
Circle of Prayer:	Jean Rees, Sheelah Brown, Alf & Jean Cummings, Steven Burnip, Blanche Johnston, Peggy Collinge, Doreen Wickham, Jean Thomson	
RIP:	Anne Pester	
Year's Mind:	Joyce Page	February 26th
	Shirley Brooks	February 27th
	Janet Hazzard	February 27th
	Hazel Rich	March 2nd
	Rita Bray	March 3rd
Prayer Diary:	The Friends of St. Michael's Burton	

You are very welcome to add the names of people who are ill to the prayer list. Please be sure you have the person's permission and let us know if they would like a home visit.. Also please ask for the name to be removed from the list when appropriate.

SERVICES THIS WEEK

Friday:	8.00 am	Holy Communion (CW)
Sunday 4th:	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	10.30 am	Parish Communion (CW)
	6.00 pm	Taize Style Lent Service

Priest-in-Charge:	The Rev. Carol Wilson-Barker	01747 861859
	e-mail: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk	
Lay Ministers:	Mrs Jane Hurd	01747 860218
	Mrs Christine Marsh	01747 861212
Churchwardens:	Mrs Lynette Elliott	01747 861646
	Mrs Elizabeth Howden	01747 863424
Parish Administration:	Sherry Dixon	01747 861319
Parish Office e-mail:	office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk	
Website:	www.stmichaelsmere.org.uk	



St. Michael the Archangel, Mere

Sunday 25th February 2018
Welcome to St. Michael's

Lent Lunches: Please note the location and dates have had to be changed. The revised schedule is, all at 12.30-1.30pm :-
March 2nd in the URC. March 23rd & 30th in the Grove Building.
All proceeds to Christian Aid and CAFOD.

Lent Course & Worship: 'Same but Different: Reflections on Different Christian Perspectives'

Sundays 6pm in the Grove Building : 25th Ray Leary, Quakers:
March 4th Taize Service: 11th Deacon Michael, Roman Catholic:
18th Rev. Colin Marsh, United Reformed Church:
25th Stations of the Cross in St. Michael's Church

Church Electoral Roll is being revised between now and 2 Apr.
A copy is at the back of the church; if your name is not included and you would like it to be, please complete a form and return to Christopher Stephenson. Any queries, or if address, telephone number or e-mail has changed, please contact him on 860278.

Women's World Day of Prayer: service Friday 2nd March 11.00 am at the United Reformed Church.

The Real Chocolate Company are selling Fairly Traded Chocolate Easter eggs with the Easter Story; milk with chocolate buttons for £3.99, dark with dark chocolate squares for £5.50.

I have a small stock but can order more. If you would like one, please sign list in church or phone 860884. Many thanks Janet Way.

Sunday 4th March: the 10.30 service will be Parish Communion

Sunday 11th March: 10.30 Family Service for Mothering Sunday

Mothers' Union: Tuesday 14th March 2.30 in the Grove Building.
Jenny Wilding unlocks the mystery of the very rare coat of arms above our main church entrance. Everyone welcome.

LENT 2

Collect: 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.**

First Reading: *Genesis 17.1-7,15-16*

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' ³Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

¹⁵God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Second Reading: *Romans 4.13-25*

¹³The promise that Abraham would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations'). Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, he

believed that he would become 'the father of many nations,' according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' ²³Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him,' were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in God who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Gospel Reading: *Mark 8.31-38*

³¹Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' ³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Post Communion Prayer: 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**

Next Week's Readings:

Exodus 20. 1-17: I Corinthians 1. 18-25: John 2. 13-22