



Parish of Christchurch

We welcome you to St George's Church
this Sunday 24th February 2019,
the Second Sunday before Lent.

We welcome our President for today's service,
Rev David Lund

A COLLECT FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT:

Almighty God, give us reverence for all creation and respect for every person, that we may mirror your likeness in Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN

TODAY'S READINGS:

Old Testament: Genesis 2; 4b-9, 15-25
New Testament: Revelation 4
Gospel: Luke 8; 22-25

TODAY'S HYMNS:

514	Thou, whose almighty word
114	Eternal Father, strong to save
212	Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty
	CHOIR PIECE
413	Peace, perfect peace
9	All creatures of our God and King

A member of our church had a telephone call this week and a “canned female voice” (pre-recorded voice) told her that there was a warrant out for her arrest, and to press ‘1’ to discuss payment.. Fortunately, she was more than a little panicked and just hung up. Very disturbed, she spoke to her daughter who calmed her down by saying that the call must have been a scam. If this happens to you, whatever you do DON’T press any buttons on your phone. This is what the Moneywise website has to say:

Fraudsters are phoning victims to say an arrest warrant has been made in their name because of unpaid taxes or outstanding debts. But even more sinister, the fraudsters are cloning phone numbers used by HM Revenue and Customs so that it appears as if the phone calls are coming from the trusted authority.

The automated message asks people to press a button on their phones to speak to someone, warning that if they don’t they could face serious legal consequences.

The number is usually displayed on a person’s phone as 0300 2003300 – the official number of HMRC. On some phones, when the call comes through HMRC appears on their screen as if that is the genuine caller.

However, while the number appears to be a genuine it is in fact from fraudsters looking to trick unsuspecting victims out of their money.

“These scams often involve people receiving a call out of the blue and being told that HMRC is investigating them. If you can’t verify the identity of the caller, we recommend that you do not speak to them.”

Known as spoofing, there has been a surge in this type of scam in recent years. As well as cold calling, fraudsters also leave voicemails and use text messages asking victims to call back on the number provided.

When victims call back, they are told that there is a case being built against them for an outstanding debt and they must pay immediately.

“Don’t assume anyone who has contacted you is who they say they are. If an email, phone call or text message asks you to make a payment, log in to an online account, or offers you a deal, be cautious and report it to Action Fraud.”

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE,
PRAYING FOR SLOVENIA Prepared by the Christian women of
Slovenia.

This year’s service is to be held at High Cross Church, Amethyst Road, Somerford on Friday March 1st at 2.00pm. The service will be followed by refreshments, and all are welcome.

As we will be supporting WATER AID during Lent this year, I have asked them for some stickers to put on our “Jars of Coins”. Don’t forget to keep an empty jar back for your contributions to Water Aid.

Graham and Angela Newton have organised the next of our series of quiet days for Saturday 13th April. It will be held in the St Luke’s Church and Hall in Burton from 10.00am till 3.00pm and will be led by the Revd Canon Nick Fennemore (Chaplain at Winchester Cathedral). More details are on the noticeboard at the back of the church. The sheet to put your name on to book your place is on the table at the back of the church. There are 20 places available to the first 20 people to sign up.

Please DON’T FORGET the PANCAKE LUNCH PARTY AND BEETLE DRIVE ON NEXT SATURDAY. The cost of admission will be £3.00 and all profits will go to the Church Urban Fund.

Please remember in your prayers: Isaac James Milton Broadwell who is to be baptised here at 11.30 this morning. Also for his parents Sarah and Daniel and his Godparents: Tom, Alex, Laura and Sarah-Jane.

A SUNDAY SMILE

There was this little boy who was scared of the dark. One evening his mother asked him to go out onto the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy said, "Mama, please don't make me go out there. It's dark and you know I'm scared of the dark."

His mother smiled at him and said reassuringly, "There's no need to be afraid of the dark. Jesus is out there and he'll look after you and protect you."

The little boy seemed unsure and said, "Are you sure Jesus is out there?"

The mother said, "Yes, I'm sure. Jesus is everywhere and is always there and ready to help when you're in need."

The boy thought for a moment, then went to the back door and opened it a tiny amount. He looked out into the darkness and called out, "Jesus - if you're out there, please pass me the broom."

A preacher arrives in a small town in order to preach a sermon, but he's early and with some time to spare he wants to post a letter. He can't find the post office so he asks a young boy where it is. The boy shows him, after which the preacher thanks him and says to him, "If you come to the church this evening, you'll be able to hear me telling people how to get to heaven." The boy replies, "It's ok thanks, I think I'll give it a miss. You don't even know your way to the post office."

Every ten years, the monks in the monastery are allowed to break their vow of silence to speak two words. Ten years go by and it's one monk's first chance. He thinks for a second before saying, "Food bad." Ten years later, he says, "Bed hard." It's the big day, a decade later. He gives the head monk a long stare and says, "I quit."

"I'm not surprised," the head monk says. "You've been complaining ever since you got here."

**Any articles for inclusion in next week's St George's News must be in by Friday evening please to Bob Savage at:
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