



## St Peter's Church, Westhampnett

22 March 2020 : Mothering Sunday

<https://stpeterswesthampnett.uk>

The church is open daily from 9am to 4pm

### Electoral Roll

A copy of the revised Roll is displayed on the Notice Board at the back of the church. Please check your entry and report any mistakes to Salli Douglas, the Electoral Roll Officer or to Revd Rachel.

The **APCM** is cancelled until further notice.

### Stewardship

Do please prayerfully consider your giving to the church.

### Collect

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### I Samuel 1: 20-28

Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, 'I have asked him of the Lord.'

The man Elkanah and all his household went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, 'As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear in the presence of the Lord, and remain there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time.' Her husband Elkanah said to her, 'Do what seems best to you, wait until you have weaned him; only—may the Lord establish his word.' So the woman remained and nursed her son, until she weaned him. When she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, 'Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the Lord. For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to

the Lord; as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.'

She left him there for the Lord.

### Colossians 3.12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### Luke 2.33-35

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about Jesus. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

### Post Communion Prayer

Loving God, as a mother feeds her children at the breast you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of eternal life: help us who have tasted your goodness to grow in grace within the household of faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*O God,  
help me to trust you,  
help me to know that you are with me,  
help me to believe that nothing can separate me  
from your love  
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

### **Message from Revd Rachel**

Dear Friends

This is a difficult time for all of us and will take some adjusting to. I doubt that any of our lives will be quite the same after this epidemic.

The Christian faith has, at its heart, the practice of meeting in fellowship. I know that many of you will miss being able to attend services, especially the Eucharist. However, the important thing to remember is that the Body of Christ has many manifestations which go far beyond gathering together for public worship.

There has long been a Christian tradition of Spiritual Communion, and this has been expressed in all the mainstream Churches. Throughout history, in times of

great emergency when people were unable to meet - plague and war are just two examples – the Christian community has trusted to the spiritual communion which binds it together. Drawing on this rich and beautiful history of Spiritual Communion will surely help us now. Here are two short prayers which can be said when you cannot physically receive Communion:

"Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, I beseech You to come spiritually into my heart." (From the Diocese of Malaita (Melanesia))

"Lord Jesus, come and dwell in my heart. Nourish me with the bread of life." (From the Orthodox tradition)

Your Parish Church remains in good heart and is praying for you and all affected by the present crisis, in this country and throughout the world. Fr Anthony and I will be celebrating the Eucharist together on Sundays and the sacrament will be reserved in the Lady Chapel for the rest of the day, for any who wish to come and pray before it.

If you able to, do get out and take a walk in our beautiful countryside and rejoice in the coming of Spring. Nature is regenerating around us and we give thanks for God's work in His creation and trust ourselves to His loving care.

With every blessing

Rachel

**Associate Rector, St Peter's: The Reverend Rachel Hawes 07768 875590 [rachel.hawes@outlook.com](mailto:rachel.hawes@outlook.com)**

Please note: Revd Rachel's day off is Friday.

**Assisting: The Revd Anthony Freeman 01243 783136 [anthony.jcs@gmail.com](mailto:anthony.jcs@gmail.com)**

**(Rector of the Benefice: The Reverend Canon Simon Holland 779089 [simon@stpaulschichester.org](mailto:simon@stpaulschichester.org)**

Please note: Fr Simon's day off is Monday.)