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

**Sick:**
- Peter Randall
- June Jory
- Sue
- Jessica Nugent
- Margaret Fricker
- Barbara Evans

**Circle of Prayer:**
- Brian Shotter
- Jean Rees
- Sheelah Brown
- Catherine Milsom
- Alf & Jean Cummings
- Rupert Ridge
- Stephen Burnip
- Joe James
- Felicity Howden
- Neil Wilson-Barker
- David Ransley

**RIP:**
- Ivy Gladys May Hollindale
- May Bashford

**Year’s Mind:**
- Colin Read - March 6th
- David Slight - March 9th
- Barnaby Bianconi - March 10th

**Prayer Diary:**
- Ministry to Families and Young People
- Dark Lane and Boar Street

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.

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**SERVICES THIS WEEK**

**Wednesday:**
- 10.30am Holy Communion (BCP)

**Friday:**
- 8.00am Holy Communion (CW)

**Sunday 13th:**
- 8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
- 10.30am Holy Communion (CW)
- 5.00pm Lenten Worship

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**Priest-in-Charge:**
- The Rev. Carol Wilson-Barker 01747 861859
e-mail: vicar@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

**Lay Minister:**
- Mrs Christine Marsh 01747 861212

**Churchwardens:**
- Mrs Elizabeth Howden 01747 863424
- Mr Michael Marsh 01747 861212

**Parish Office e-mail:**
- office@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

**Administrator:**
- Ian Treece: 07754 524802
  administrator@stmichaelsmere.org.uk

**Website:**
- www.stmichaelsmere.org.uk

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**St. Michael the Archangel, Mere**

**Welcome to St. Michael’s**

**Sunday 6th March 2016**

**Church Electoral Roll:** The electoral roll of this parish is being revised between 26 February and 1 April. A copy of the current roll is on the table at the back of the church. If your name is not included and you would like to be on the roll, please complete one of the forms provided and return it to Christopher Stephenson, the electoral roll officer, via his pigeonhole or to The Close, Church Street (opposite St. Michael's). If you have any queries, please ring him on 01747 860278; also let him know if your address, telephone number or e-mail address has changed during the year.

**Lent Study Groups:**
- Monday 7th 10.00-1130 Methodist Church
- Wednesday 9th 7.30-9.00 in URC Church

**Lent Lunches:** contributions for the Sales Table at the lunches would be most welcome. Please leave in the box in church or deliver to the GB from 11.00 on the morning of the lunches. Dates are Saturday 12th, Friday 18th and Good Friday 25th March 12.30-1.30 in the Grove Building. All proceeds to Christian Aid and CAFOD.

**Mother’s Union Meeting:** Tuesday 8th March 2.30pm in the Grove Building with Sarah Condry (new MU Trustee and wife of the Bishop of Ramsbury) celebrating MU’s 140 years. ‘Thanks for what has been and Yes to what lies ahead’. (She is also bringing a celebration cake!). All welcome.

**Palm Sunday 20th March:** The 10.30 service begins in The Square for the Palm Sunday Procession. Please sign up for the small part you would like to read in the Palm Sunday Gospel.

**Church Cleaning:** A reminder that the monthly clean will be on Friday 18th March starting at 9am. So get out your brooms and dusters and join the happy band.

**Catering in the Grove Building:** We are sometimes asked to recommend somebody willing to provide light refreshments following funerals or baptisms in the church. If you know of anybody who might be interested please contact Ian Treece.
Collect: Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our blessed Lord and Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading: Joshua 5.9-12 After the Israelites had crossed over the Jordan river, 'The LORD said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.' And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. "While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. "On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. "The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5.16-21 "From now on, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! "All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; "that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. "So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 15.1-3,11b-32 All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. "And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' "So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. "The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." "So he divided his property between them. "A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

"When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. "So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. "He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. "But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! "I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; "I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." "So he set off and went to his father. "But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. "Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; "I am no longer worthy to be called your son." "But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe - the best one - and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. "The man returned home. "Then his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, "he heard music and dancing. "He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. "He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." "Then he became angry and refused to go in. "His father came out and began to plead with him. "But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. "But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" "Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. "But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found!"" And they began to celebrate.

Post Communion Prayer: Lord God, whose blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smiters and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Next Week's Readings:
Isaiah 43. 16-21: Philippians 3. 4b-14: John 12. 1-8