

**Chesterfield Parish Church  
Saint Mary & All Saints**

**Lent IV  
Mothering Sunday  
(22nd March 2020)**

**Imagining the Unimaginable**

For obvious reasons, I have no idea what it's like to be born blind.

However, I do have some idea what it's like to have my eyes opened to realities I did not know existed, and to possibilities I could never have imagined. It happens every day, but it does depend on having what some people describe as a sense of awe and wonder.

Wide-eyed children are the most obvious evidence of this essential human gift.

Unfortunately, life and its tediousness and setbacks tends to remove this sense in many adults.

***Recovering a sense of awe and wonder can help us see the way God brings about those things we could not otherwise imagine.***



The church building is open for you to visit and pray at the following times:

**Monday to Saturday  
10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon  
1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

**Sunday  
1.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

The usual services will take place outside these times but will not be open for the public to attend.

Please  
if you wish to be prayed for at the daily services,  
make this known by telling a steward  
during public opening times,  
by calling 01246 206506, by email to  
contact@crookedspire.org, or on Facebook or  
Twitter.

Keep safe, and keep well.

## LENT IV - MOTHERING SUNDAY

### Collect Prayer

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**

### Ephesians 5.8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

### John 9

As he walked along, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some were saying, 'It is he.' Others were saying, 'No, but it is someone like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he

does not observe the sabbath.’ But others said, ‘How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?’ And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, ‘What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.’ He said, ‘He is a prophet.’

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, ‘Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?’ His parents answered, ‘We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.’ His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, ‘He is of age; ask him.’

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, ‘Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.’ He answered, ‘I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.’ They said to him, ‘What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?’ He answered them, ‘I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?’ Then they reviled him, saying, ‘You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.’ The man answered, ‘Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.’ They answered him, ‘You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?’ And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ He answered, ‘And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.’ He said, ‘Lord, I believe.’ And he worshipped him. Jesus said, ‘I came into this world for judgement so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.’ Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, ‘Surely we are not blind, are we?’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, “We see”, your sin remains.’

**Prayer Intentions This Week:**

**Today 22nd March - Mothering Sunday**

- The work of the Mothers' Union; all mothers, mother figures and mothers-to-be
- ◊ The Anglican Church in Hong Kong

**Monday 23rd March**

- Winster, St John the Baptist
- ◊ Matabeleland (Cen Africa); Virginia (TEC); Huron (Canada)

**Tuesday 24th March - Walter Hilton;**

*Paul Couturier; Oscar Romero*

- Matlock Bank, All Saints
- ◊ Matana (Burundi); Wad Medani (Sudan); Hyderabad (Pakistan)
- ✦ *John Birks*

**Wednesday 25th March - The Annunciation**

- All women, ordained and lay, who seek to serve
- ◊ Matiosane (Sn Africa); Waiapu (ANZ & P)

**Thursday 26th March - Harriet Monsell**

- Tansley, Holy Trinity
- ◊ Mauritius (Ind Ocean); Waikato & Taranaki (ANZ & P); Wangaratta (Australia)
- ✦ *Kate Elizabeth Bennet*

**Friday 27th March**

- Those who speak about faith in the media
- ◊ Mbaise (Nigeria); Warri (Nigeria)

**Saturday 28th March**

- Retired clergy and those with PTO this Easter
- ◊ Mbale (Uganda); Washington (TEC); Ibadan, Ibadan North and Ibadan South (Nigeria)
- ✦ *George Butt, Priest; Edith Peters;*

*Matthew Revis*

- Diocesan Cycle of Prayer
- ◊ Anglican Worldwide Cycle of Prayer
- ✦ Year's Mind

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**Parish Office:** 01246 206506  
(duty priest available 24/7)

**Parish Reader:** John Gascoyne

**Churchwardens:** Colin McKenna  
Malcolm Wilkinson

**Vergers:** 01246 206860

**Saints Parish Centre:** 01246 270440

**Organist & Choirmaster:** Dr Paul Nash  
choir@crookedspire.org

**Our prayers have been asked for:**

Jane Hoskin; Charlese Cain; John Robinson; Sheila Laverick; Carol Kingham; Joan Lidgate; Teddy; June Frankland; John Herring; Michael Catton; Patricia Mitchell; Sue Hastings; Jean Madin; Jane Jackson; David Staves; Ian Mackenzie; Laura; Jean Knox; Eric Waldron; Kenneth Hughes

**If you are able to access Facebook, daily Mass is being live-streamed at the usual times each day on the parish Facebook page:**  
**facebook.com/chesterfieldcrookedspire**

**If you can't hear anything, check that the audio is on, and also that the sound is turned up.**

**You can also find Morning and Evening Prayer on the Church of England website:**  
**<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>**

**If you need support in prayer or any other way please contact the team on 01246 206506 or [contact@crookedspire.org](mailto:contact@crookedspire.org)**

**Next Sunday - 29th March - Passion Sunday**

**[www.crookedspire.org](http://www.crookedspire.org)**



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