

COLLECTS

Merciful Lord,
you know our struggle to serve you:
when sin spoils our lives
and overshadows our hearts,
come to our aid
and turn us back to you again;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of love,
passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us
all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 SAMUEL 1:20-28

In the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, 'Because I asked the Lord for him.' When her husband Elkanah went up with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow, Hannah did not go. She said to her husband, 'After the boy is weaned, I will take him and present him before the Lord, and he will live there always.' 'Do what seems best to you,' her husband Elkanah told her. 'Stay here until you have weaned him; only may the Lord make good his word.' So the woman stayed at home and nursed her son until she had weaned him. After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, and she said to him, 'Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he shall be given over to the Lord.' And he worshipped the Lord there.

LUKE 2:33-35

Jesus' father and mother marvelled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: 'This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Chris & Ruth Ruse, celebrating their Ruby Wedding Anniversary today!

EASTER AT ST RICHARD'S

This Friday you are very welcome to join us at the St Richard's **School Easter service**, which starts at 9:10am.

On Friday April 11th at 2:30pm **Hymns We Love** is an Easter special, with a chance to choose your own favourite Easter hymns.

Our **Maundy Thursday** holy communion will take place at 10am on 17th April.

On **Good Friday** the church will be open for prayer with a rolling slide show from 12 noon till 2pm, followed by a reflective service between 2 and 3pm.

Our **Easter Day** communion service will be at 10 am as usual.

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Many thanks to all who have completed a form: the current list is at the back of church. It's still not too late, as revision continues until 19 April.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday 10 am, Morning prayer

Friday 9:10 am, School Easter service

Sunday 10 am, Morning worship
with speaker *Ursula Hodges*
4pm St Richard's @ 4

Today's Psalm: Psalm 127

NT reading: Colossians 3:12-17