

large rock, on which they set the ark of the LORD, is a witness to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh.

[19] But God struck down some of the men of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they had looked into the ark of the LORD. The people mourned because of the heavy blow the LORD had dealt them, [20] and the men of Beth Shemesh asked, "Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God? To whom will the ark go up from here?"

[21] Then they sent messengers to the people of Kiriath Jearim, saying, "The Philistines have returned the ark of the LORD. Come down and take it up to your place."

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Talk - Five gold tumours, rats and rulers – *Sarah Stockinger*

Hymn

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy, there is none beside thee
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
all thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity..

Blessing and Dismissal

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Let us return now to the world, for Christ is there, waiting to meet us and greet us. Let us go back with eyes open to see him, ears open to hear him, and a mind open to receive him, and a heart open to serve him, for his name's sake. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**



The Parish of Foxcote with Shoscombe

MORNING PRAISE

10am - Sunday 5th February 2012 - 3rd Sunday before Lent

'Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God?'

(1 Samuel 6:20)

Welcome

Hymn

1 Let all the world in every corner sing:
My God and King!
The heavens are not too high,
His praise may thither fly;
The earth is not too low,
His praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing: My God and King!
My God and King!

2 Let all the world in every corner sing:
My God and King!
The church with psalms must shout,
No door can keep them out;
But above all, the heart
Must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing:
My God and King!

Confession

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The collect for the 3rd Sunday before Lent

Almighty God, who alone can bring order to the unruly wills and passions of sinful humanity: give your people grace so to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, among the many changes of this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; 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

Hymn

*Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord,
Bind us together,
Bind us together with love.*

1 There is only one God,
There is only one King;
There is only one Body,
That is why we sing:
Refrain

2 Fit for the glory of God,
Purchased by His precious Son;
Born with the right to be free,
Jesus the victory has won.
Refrain

3 We are the family of God,
We are the promise divine;
We are God's chosen desire,
We are the glorious new wine.
Refrain

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray. In response to 'Receive what we are:' will you please say 'and direct what we shall be.'

Almighty and holy God, we gather as your people to worship you, to praise you for being here amongst us, and to thank you that, for all your goodness and greatness, you welcome us into your presence. We come, in all our weakness and with all our failings, rejoicing that in Christ we have been cleansed and made new; that, through him, you have set your mark upon us, and called us to be your people. Receive what we are, **and direct what we shall be.**

Forgive us when we fail you, our lives betraying our calling and your love. Forgive us when people look at us, and, instead of seeing something of you, see only ourselves. Forgive us when the things we say and do obscure and deny the gospel, rather than proclaim its message to all. Receive what we are, **and direct what we shall be.**

Help us truly to be a holy people, reflecting your love, showing your compassion, and responding to your guidance. Renew and restore us through the love of Christ and the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Touch our hearts through this time together and strengthen our faith, so that in the week ahead we may live and work for you, to the glory of your holy name. Receive what we are, **and direct what we shall be.**

Loving God, you have shown us such love and humility; we offer you our thanks and praise. Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Hymn

1 Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour
glowing;
O comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.
2 O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes, in its heat
consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my
path illuming.

3 Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness becomes mine inner
clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps
with loathing.
4 And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human
telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his
dwelling.

Reading – 1 Samuel 6:1-21

[1] When the ark of the LORD had been in Philistine territory seven months, [2] the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners and said, “What shall we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us how we should send it back to its place.”

[3] They answered, “If you return the ark of the god of Israel, do not send it away empty, but by all means send a guilt offering to him. Then you will be healed, and you will know why his hand has not been lifted from you.”

[4] The Philistines asked, “What guilt offering should we send to him?” They replied, “Five gold tumors and five gold rats, according to the number of the Philistine rulers, because the same plague has struck both you and your rulers. [5] Make models of the tumors and of the rats that are destroying the country, and pay honor to Israel's god. Perhaps he will lift his hand from you and your gods and your land. [6] Why do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh did? When he treated them harshly, did they not send the Israelites out so they could go on their way?

[7] “Now then, get a new cart ready, with two cows that have calved and have never been yoked. Hitch the cows to the cart, but take their calves away and pen them up. [8] Take the ark of the LORD and put it on the cart, and in a chest beside it put the gold objects you are sending back to him as a guilt offering. Send it on its way, [9] but keep watching it. If it goes up to its own territory, toward Beth Shemesh, then the LORD has brought this great disaster on us. But if it does not, then we will know that it was not his hand that struck us and that it happened to us by chance.”

[10] So they did this. They took two such cows and hitched them to the cart and penned up their calves. [11] They placed the ark of the LORD on the cart and along with it the chest containing the gold rats and the models of the tumors. [12] Then the cows went straight up toward Beth Shemesh, keeping on the road and lowing all the way; they did not turn to the right or to the left. The rulers of the Philistines followed them as far as the border of Beth Shemesh. [13] Now the people of Beth Shemesh were harvesting their wheat in the valley, and when they looked up and saw the ark, they rejoiced at the sight. [14] The cart came to the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh, and there it stopped beside a large rock. The people chopped up the wood of the cart and sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD. [15] The Levites took down the ark of the LORD, together with the chest containing the gold objects, and placed them on the large rock. On that day the people of Beth Shemesh offered burnt offerings and made sacrifices to the LORD. [16] The five rulers of the Philistines saw all this and then returned that same day to Ekron.

[17] These are the gold tumours the Philistines sent as a guilt offering to the LORD—one each for Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron. [18] And the number of the gold rats was according to the number of Philistine towns belonging to the five rulers—the fortified towns with their country villages. The