**Services for next week:**

**Hampton-in-Arden**

**Thursday 27th:**

10am Communion

**Sunday 2nd:**

8.15am Common Worship

11am All age Family service

6.30pm Healing

**Bickenhill**

**Sunday 2nd**

11am Eucharist

**Barston**

**Sunday 2nd**

9.45am Prayer Time

10.30am Holy Communion

**Readings for next week**: 2 Corinthians 3. 12-4.2; Luke 9.28-36[37-43a]

**We pray for:** Bob Middleton, David Mort, Mike Beasley, Ann Hall, Tony Worthington, Andrew and Rene Sumner, Derrick Hill, Angela Jones, Mona Cardall, Dot Barton, Richard Herne, Barrie and Mavis Thompson.

Rick Smallwood, Paul Pilkington-Birch, Gloria Stidworthy, Richard Stretton, David Scannell and Colin McDonald.

We also pray for the families of those who have died; Martin Cox, Audrey Hurdley, Moira Kyles, Coralie Cain, Pamela Wilson, Celia Heron, Richard Bibbings, Karoline Dearden, David Howells, Ivan Eley and John Vaughn.

(Please note, to keep the names of those we pray for up to date, they will be reviewed each month, so if you would like people to be prayed for do let us know at office@hamptoninardenchurch.org.uk)



**23rd February 2025- 2nd before Lent**

Revelation 4; Luke 8; 22-25.

**Thought for the week**.

There is a program on TV called The Great Pottery Throwdown. It is a competition for amateur potters. Each week they create something from clay. The best is judged as Potter of the Week, and the worst is eliminated. As the creations become more and more elaborate, and the construction more and more technical, you can’t help but be amazed at their skill. The pots have to be fired overnight, to give strength and rigidity to an inert, lifeless lump of mud. Sometimes the firing is successful, and sometimes it finds stress lines in the clay and cracks. The potters may seal up the stress cracks, or make them part of the decoration. Other times, the crack is fatal, and the potter is out of the competition.

We are that lump of clay. We can be fashioned by our God, our Creator, into something beautiful, despite the stress cracks in our lives. When we become something of beauty, we catch a glimpse of heaven, as John does in Revelation. We turn to our Creator, in worship, as John does:

“You are worthy, our Lord and God,

to receive glory and honour and power,

for you created all things,

and by your will they were created

and have their being.” Rev 4:11

**RM**

**Collect**

Almighty God,

give us reverence for all creation

and respect for every person,

that we may mirror your likeness

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

The churches of Knowle, Dorridge, Hampton in Arden and Bentley Heath invite you to celebrate this year’s **World Day of Prayer** at Knowle URC, Station Road, Knowle B93 0HN on Friday March 7th 2025 at 7.30pm.

The Lent Course this year will be following the BRF book “The Whole Easter Story” by Jo Swinney. Sessions will be on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm at St Swithin’s House, Barston and on Thursday mornings at Hampton-in-Arden in the church hall after the 10am Eucharist.



**Hampton**

* **Please support our reinstated “100 Club”** which will have monthly prizes of £50, £25 and £15 all for a one-off payment of just £25. Contact our Treasurer judithweir53@gmail.com for an application form. All money will go towards running costs of our lovely church building.
* Tonight’s Bible Study in the vestry will look at Hope, using as our Bible passage Romans Chapter 5, verses 1-8. All are very welcome.
* **Tea and Toast** this week Friday 9-10am in the church hall.
* Please contact the church office if you need a lift to the **World Day of Prayer** event (see information opposite) on 01675 442769 or office@hamptoninardenchurch.org.uk
* A reminder of our next fundraising event which is a **Lenten Frugal Lunch** on Sunday 16th March. Tickets cost £10 to include lunch and the event is being run at no cost with all proceeds to the church. Evan Grant from the **Cameron Grant Memorial Trust** will be our speaker. Everyone welcome, bookings through the church office.
* The funeral of Karoline Edith Dearden will be held at 11am on Friday 14th March in church.

**Barston**

* Thank you for the donations for the Tear Fund appeal for the terrible situation in the Congo. This will be sent in the next few days.
* FUTURE DATES: Monday 24th February at 12 noon, St Swithin’s House. Meeting of the Trustees and House Management team. Please pray for this very important meeting.
* BIG BREAKFAST IS BACK on Saturday 1st March! We are delighted!
* Shrove Tuesday is Tuesday 4th March and we have pancakes and cake from 1pm in St Swithin’s House. Please come and support this fund raising afternoon for charity if you can, we would love to see you.
* LENT COURSE at St. Swithin’s House on five Wednesday afternoons at 2pm. Dates are 12th, 19th, 26th March and 2nd and 9th April. More details to follow. It will be repeated in Hampton on Thursday mornings.
* Women’s World Day of Prayer, March 7th. Our churches together service is at St. Peter’s, Balsall Common at 7.30pm.