



Setting the scene...

With the start of a New Year come fresh starts and new beginnings, and what better time to get back to basics with an aspect of discipleship that is central to who we are as Christians, namely worshipping our Heavenly Father. A loving Father who longs to live more closely with us, and as St Paul once wrote: 'is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to the power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen' (Ephesians 3:20).

And when it comes to our services and the worship gatherings we offer up in St Mary's, this is why we hold a wide range of services, from the more traditional to the more contemporary, because we want everyone to feel able to worship our Heavenly Father and know more of the many blessings he wants to pour out upon us.

At the start of another year, I wonder what your hopes and dreams are? Mindful of missionary William Carey's words, 'Expect great things from

God, attempt great things for God' may we all be blessed in this year as we worship God the Father, through Jesus our Lord, and in the power of the Holy Spirit!

Week Three: Living sacrificial lives of worship

'Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me.' *Psalm 86: 6-7*

When we are suffering, what does worship look like?

In the changes and challenges of our lives, how do we remain steadfast in faith and resourced by worship?

Today we will be look at the Old Testament character, Hannah, to learn how she lived with her suffering - we read her story in the first book of Samuel.

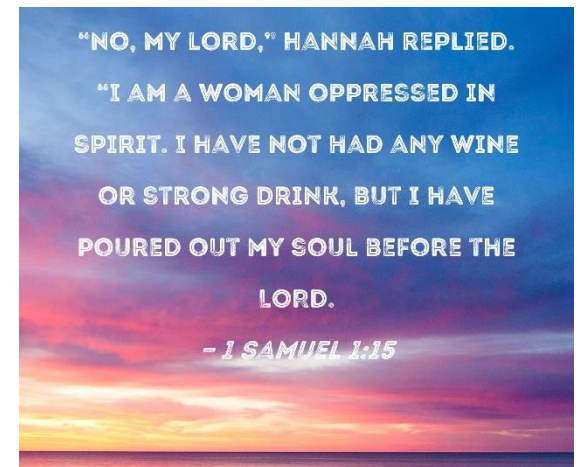
In our own lives, we will examine how God might call us to sacrifice something or someone we hold dear, and how that impacts us in our worshipping life.



Questions to consider personally or in your Life Group:

In the light of this, some questions you might like to consider are:

1. Who have been the most significant 'sign post' role models in your life? What was it about them that reflected Jesus to you?
2. At the most difficult times of your life, how - or did - God bring you solace and comfort through worship?
3. What strikes you most about the character of Hannah?



4. What has most impacted you from this Worship Series?



Time to talk...

If this sermon series raises questions for you, David, Andrew and Sue would be only too pleased to take the time to explore the themes further with you.



Life groups have an important part to play in our church community.

Meeting together in small groups to pray and study God's word supports Christian growth, friendship, and mission.

If you would like to join a Life Group or are interested in hosting a new group, please speak to Claire Barbary: clairebarbary@hotmail.com.



Find out more about the courses and resources on offer at St Mary's on our new website:

<https://discipleship.stmarysrisborough.org.uk/>

New Year Sermon Series 2024

Worship

January 7 with Tim Horton

Going Deeper in Worship: Our Sunday Offering

Readings: Leviticus 1:1-17

Mark 12:41-44

January 14 with Alex Rees

Wholehearted, whole life Worship

Readings: Psalm 23: 1-6

Acts 2: 42-47

January 21 with Chris Stoddard

Yesterday, Today and Forever – worshipping in Spirit and Truth

Readings: Psalm 150: 1-6

John 4: 1-26

January 28 with Jo Williams

Living sacrificial lives of Worship

Readings: 1 Sam 1: 1-18

Romans 12: 1-2

Contact us:

St Mary's Parish Office

Tel: 01844 273300

Email:

parishoffice@stmarysrisborough.org.uk

Website:

www.stmarysrisborough.org.uk



Sermon Series

Worship

**Week 4: Living sacrificial
lives of Worship**

January 28 2024