

The Benefice of Foremark and Repton with Newton Solney

The Sunday Next before Lent - Sunday 14th February 2021

Daily Reading Sunday 14th February to Saturday 20th February

Sunday 14th February

2 Kings 2: 1 - 12

The vision of Elijah being taken into heaven confirms his greatness, and also encourages Elisha in his calling, giving him confidence to begin his own powerful ministry as a prophet.

2 Corinthians 4: 3 - 6

Paul's words reflect today's Gospel and tell us that all the fullness of God dwelt in the person of Jesus Christ. The words remind us that Jesus came to bring reconciliation between humanity and God.

Mark 9: 2 - 9

Jesus' true nature and identity is revealed to a select group of disciples who are able – albeit just – to recognise him for who he is.

Monday 15th February (Thomas Bray)

Psalm 44, Jeremiah 1, John 3:1-21

Tuesday 16th February (Shrove Tuesday)

Psalm 48, Jeremiah 2:1-13, John 3:22-36

Wednesday 17th February (Ash Wednesday)

Psalm 38, Daniel 9:3-6, 17-19, 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Thursday 18th February

Psalm 77, Jeremiah 2:14-32, John 4:1-26

Friday 19th February

Psalm 51, Jeremiah 3:6-22, John 4:27-42

Saturday 20th February

Psalm 71, Jeremiah 4:1-18, John 4:43-54

Next Sunday will celebrate The 1st Sunday of Lent



Collect

Holy God,
you know the disorder of our sinful lives:
put right our crooked hearts,
and bend our wills to love your goodness
and your glory
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Martin, as he returns to work following his break.

All continuing to provide spiritual and pastoral care to our parishes and those within the wider community during this period of COVID-19.

All our Church, Messy Church and Youth Alpha families that they may continue to deepen their faith.

Those serving God, here and abroad: Nick Parish training for ordination, Sarah Attwood as she continues her ministry with the church in Bosnia.

Those in need of long-term prayerful support: Andrew Pitchford, Lynn Wells, Ian Tennant, Samantha Taylor, Ted Weston, Alf Booth, Kay Howard, Claire Rose, Audrey Morris, Joan Taylor, Robin Nelson, Carl Baker, Shirley Wells, Lorna Griffiths, Karen Perks.

Prayer requests: Nazanin that she may be released in March when her sentence is due to end, for her family awaiting that day; all affected by the coronavirus and all seeking to contain & combat this pandemic.

Those who have recently died and those known to us, R.I.P.: Averil Kerry and her family and friends who mourn her.

BENEFICE SERVICES AT ST WYSTAN'S
10.00 am on SUNDAYS
Will continue during this lockdown.

PLEASE NOTE LIVE-STREAMING WILL BE ON ZOOM

These are the instructions for joining

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7855049461>

Meeting ID: 785 504 9461

Telephone: 0203 901 7895

Enter the Meeting ID: 785 504 9461 when prompted. There is no password required.

The service will be uploaded to YouTube and Facebook afterwards.

WINTER OPENING TIMES - OUR CHURCHES CONTINUE TO BE OPEN FOR PRAYER

ST MARY'S [EVERY DAY] 10.00 – 3.00pm.

ST WYSTAN'S [WEEK DAYS] 10.00 - 4.00pm

St Wystan's is open on Saturdays 10.00AM – 3.00pm then it will be cleaned and set up ready for Sunday.

On **Sundays** the church will be cleaned after the service and then open for prayer until **4.00pm**.

DAILY PRAYER – A small group of us continue to say Morning Prayer each weekday from 9.00 – 9.30am

We use a Service Order from Iona Abbey. We 'meet' on Zoom and the telephone link works for this as well. If you wish to join us, then you are most welcome. Please ask Rebecca for a copy of the service order and a Zoom link.

LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP - DO SO BY SUNDAY EVENING PLEASE

ASH WEDNESDAY - COMING TO YOU

Ash Wednesday is on February 17th this year and marks the beginning of the season of Lent. In our churches we have long had the tradition of receiving a 'Cross' of ashes and holy oil on our foreheads at a special service on that day. The Cross is both a sign of our commitment to Christ and of our embarking on a Lenten journey of self-exploration and learning about our faith. Travelling with Christ for the 40 days of Lent prepares us to celebrate the joy of Easter.

With the restrictions on us we are unable to offer such a service in our churches. We would not be able to touch you to sign the Cross if we could worship together! However, we are using this opportunity to bring the church out to you in your local communities, indeed to your front door!

If you would like me to, I will come to your home on Ash Wednesday. You can choose to stand at an open front door if you wish [suitably distanced and masked of course] and I will do three things:

- give a brief reminder about the importance of the Cross of Ash and of Lent,
- pray a slightly adapted version of the 'ashing' prayer, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return, Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ"

WHILE - I make the sign of the Cross on your doorpost in ash and holy oil.

- Then we can pray the Lord's Prayer together and I will ask God's blessing on you before I move on to the next home.

If you are not going to be at home or don't wish to stand at an open door I can still come and perform the rite and will drop in a card to remind you that it has been done [you might notice the Cross anyway!]. If a lot of people request this, I may have to complete the task the day after.

If you would like to mark the start of Lent in this way, please contact our Administrator Rebecca de656fh@gmail.com or 07817997419. She will require your name, address and telephone number, as well as an indication of whether you want to be present [open door] or for me come, perform the rite and leave a card.

The telephone number is needed so that I can phone ahead and say I will be with you in 5 or 10 minutes.

LENT GROUPS will all be on Zoom this year

We will be using the Methodist Church 2021 Lent course available as a PDF download. Its title is **WOVEN, God's story, Your story, Every Story**.

It is a simple and straightforward Course. It is very open to participants [and the Spirit] making it special by and through what we share.

There are three groups on offer, two based on the existing Bible Study Groups and an extra one offered by Martin the Vicar. We anticipate each meeting will last about an hour.

Stephen's Group Thursdays 7.30 Can accommodate a few more participants.

Feb. 18th, 25th, March 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th

Ruth's Group Wednesdays 7.30pm Can accommodate a couple more participants

Feb. 17th, 24th, March 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th

Martin's Group Mondays [and one Wednesday] 7.00pm Can accommodate about 8-10 participants

Feb. 22nd, March 1st, 8th, 22nd, 29th and on Wednesday March 17th.

Book your place with Stephen, Ruth or Martin direct for the zoom invite and if you need it a link to the booklet.

THE LEPROSY MISSION

For the last few years we have shared a service with the U.R.C. when they have celebrated and supported the work of The Leprosy Mission. As that is not going to happen this year Christine Gibbs has sent through this link to a World Leprosy Sunday Service that you may care to watch. It is 27 minutes long.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVoapETx3gg&feature=youtu.be>

DAILYHOPE PHONE LINE

DailyHope, a free national telephone line, offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of the phone.

A Church of England initiative in partnership with CONNECTIONS at Holy Trinity Claygate, and Faith in Later Life.



The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services during the period of restrictions in mind; to provide comfort and spiritual nourishment to the most isolated in our society.

"With many in our country on lockdown, it's important that we support those who are feeling lonely and isolated, whatever age they are."

Archbishop Justin Welby

DO YOU HAVE:

SLEEPLESS NIGHTS, NIGHTMARES, DISTURBED SLEEP OR SIMPLY AWAKE FEELING EXHAUSTED???

You are not alone in this and I have begun a pattern prayer directed at helping me sleep better.

I have on my bedside table a card with the following two prayers on.

When I am ready to go to sleep I try to relax as much as possible [without falling asleep!!!]

I remember good things which have happened that day and give thanks to God for them.

I then pray the two prayers.

Then switching off the light, with my eyes closed, imagine just above my eyes on the inside of the front of my forehead a simple Cross.

As I do that I repeat in my mind in time with my breathing the name Jesus, or a mantra of Lord Jesus I bow to you, or the statement Jesus, I love you.

It does not guarantee 100% success - and I sometimes fall asleep before doing it!! – but feel I have been sleeping better as a result.

God our Father, by whose mercy

the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light:

I place in your hands my unfinished tasks,

my unsolved problems, and my unfulfilled hopes,

knowing that only what you bless will prosper.

To your love and protection

I commit myself and all those I love,

knowing that you alone are our sure defender,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

“Angels bless, and angels keep, Angels guard me while I sleep

Bless my heart and bless my home,

Bless my spirit as I roam,

Bless my thoughts and bless my dreams,

Guide and guard me through the night and wake me with the morning’s light.”