

The Benefice of Foremark and Repton with Newton Solney

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas) - Sunday 31st January 2021

Daily Reading Sunday 31st January to Saturday 6th February

Sunday 31st January - (Presentation of Christ in the Temple)

Malachi 3: 1 - 5

Although the Lord brings judgement, he comes to purify not to destroy, we have no reason to be afraid.

Hebrews 2: 14 - 18

Christ was able to atone for humanity's sin only because he lived a human life. In the same way, in order to conquer death for all people, Christ himself had to die.

Luke 2: 22 - 40

Mary and Joseph bring their baby to the Temple to be presented to the Lord. Jesus is recognised by Simeon as the Saviour of the world.

Monday 1st February (Brigid)

Psalm 57, Hosea 9, 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Tuesday 2nd February

Psalm 5, Hosea 10, 1 Corinthians 13

Wednesday 3rd February (Anskar)

Psalm 119:1-32, Hosea 11:1-11, 1 Corinthians 14:1-19

Thursday 4th February (Gilbert)

Psalm 15, Hosea 11:12-12:14, 1 Corinthians 14:20-39

Friday 5th February

Psalm 19, Hosea 13:1-14, 1 Corinthians 16:1-9

Saturday 6th January (Martyrs of Japan)

Psalm 23, Hosea 14, 1 Corinthians 16:10-23

Next Sunday will be The Second Sunday Before Lent



Collect

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God. Amen

FOR OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Martin, for refreshment, as he takes a break from work.

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 & family, for all affected by the coronavirus and all seeking to contain & combat this pandemic, for all providing care and support at this time.

Those who have recently died and those known to us, R.I.P.: Maggie Tennant, Averil Kerry and their families and friends who mourn them.

BENEFICE SERVICES AT ST WYSTAN'S

10.00am 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.

ATTENDANCE AT OUR ZOOM SERVICES – from Martin In the early days of the original lockdown our zoom services were beset by many technical difficulties, which by and large have been overcome. I can understand how many people tried but were put off joining us by those problems. If you haven't tried a service recently then do please try again – and if you haven't tried joining us on a Sunday morning at all then please give it a go.

The service is not just for St Wystan's – it is for us all whether our hearts are at St Saviour's, St Mary's or St Wystans. Our unity as the body of Christ is important. Our unity as we seek to keep things together in the last months of the pandemic is important. Our unity as one Benefice as we emerge from the pandemic is going to be important.

Worship on-line will never be the same as 'live' worship and we will be disappointed if that is what we expect – but if we accept it is going to be different but are open to one another and open to God uniting us then we will receive from his living word, his sacrament and from his spirit. That will strengthen us as individuals, help us cope better with all that is going on, and will strengthen our churches.

ROOF REPAIRS AND PORCH ROOF RENEWAL - ST WYSTAN'S We were delighted last week to announce a further £4,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation. This is in addition to the grant of over £19,000 from the Government's Heritage Stimulus Fund administered by Historic England and the Church of England as part of the Culture Recovery Fund for Capital projects. This now covers virtually 100% of the cost (excluding VAT) of the necessary work to repair the lead roofs and gutters and renew the porch roof. **The church will remain open as normal, [if not as pleasant to look at!!] during this time.** *Thank you to Virginia, the Building and churchyard Committee and to George Johnson who is almost daily in touch with the roofers.*

VOTIVE CANDLE STAND With the Archdeacon's approval [required by law for a Candlestand] being received we have placed the order for the Candlestand. In addition to receiving an offer to pay for the stand, another generous person has offered to pay for the stock of candles we require. Thank you again for such generosity. Vicar Martin

VICAR LEAVE I am now on leave until St Valentine's Day. Thank you to David and others for covering my duties. As I am unable to go away I shall be on holiday at home – and would therefore appreciate the space I would normally get by going away. Therefore, if you need to get in touch with someone for pastoral or other matters please contact one of the Churchwardens [George, Stephen, Ann, Heather, Brenda] or the ministry team of Stephen, Ruth, Wendy Longden and Nick Parish or the Administrator Rebecca as appropriate.

COVID SITUATION UPDATE

We recently published the situation about singing in services. Here are the current regulations about Weddings and Funerals, so that if someone asks you as a 'church goer' you know the score.

Weddings

Weddings must only take place with up to 6 people. Anyone working is not included. These should only take place in exceptional circumstances, for example, an urgent marriage where one of those getting married is seriously ill and not expected to recover, or is to undergo debilitating treatment or life-changing surgery. Weddings must only take place in COVID-19 secure venues unless in exceptional circumstances.

Funerals

Funerals may continue to happen in church with a maximum number of 30 present. In addition the minimum number of 'workers' are allowed. Crematoria have different rules in regard to numbers. The funeral director will be able to answer questions about what happens there. In church singing by a soloist is allowed.

The Burial of Ashes is allowed but only with a maximum of 6 in attendance.

In all forms of service rules for social distancing, face masks, track and trace, and cleaning are the same as they are for a Sunday service.

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.

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.

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.

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**.

CHURCH LANE, NEWTON SOLNEY.

The aptly named Lane that leads up to St Mary's Church is in a terrible condition. It has not been good for many years and despite requests from the Parish Council to the Highways Dept. at Derbyshire County Council Highways Department very little has been done. As it is used by a large number of people, from the youngsters at the Pre-and Infants Schools to those who are not so steady on their feet these days, there is a huge risk of someone breaking their ankle, leg or worse. As Vicar I have written to South Derbyshire and County Councillors as well as our MP about this. If others care to add their weight by contacting them as well, together we might get something done.

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.



A free phone line of hymns,
reflections and prayers

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