

Lent in Lockdown 2021

Ash Wednesday

Service of Holy Communion
with Holy Trinity and St Chad's
on Facebook at 6.30pm

Weekdays through Lent

Tuesday: Morning Prayer, 10am
Wednesday: Night Prayer, 8.30pm
Thursday: Morning Prayer, 10am
all on Facebook

Lent Study

Wednesdays at 7.30pm on Zoom
Meeting ID: 898 4177 1241
Passcode: 206278

Sundays through Lent

10.30am on Facebook and YouTube
Our Sunday services will continue to be on
Facebook until further notice

Holy Week

More information will follow about Holy
Week and Easter. A Palm Cross is included
in your pack.

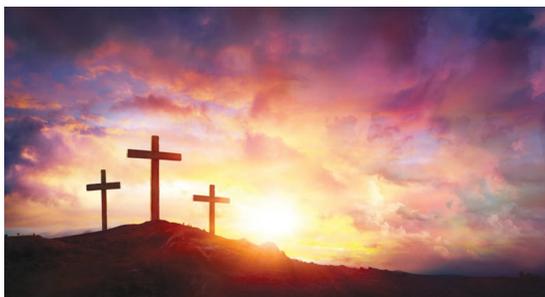
St Peter's, Maney



Lent 2021

Website: stpetersmaney.org.uk
Facebook: @StPetersManey

Reflections, prayers and readings, where not written by Becky, have been taken from various sources: NRSV Bible, NIV Bible, The Church of England, Wild Goose, Janet Morley, David Runcorn and Rosalind Rutherford. Other sources are noted throughout the booklet.



Lent 6 – week beginning 28th March

It is finished – cross

Luke 23:46

Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said: 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit'

Dear friends

As we journey towards Lent, I wanted to offer a way in which we can pray, reflect and discover together while we are apart, just as we did in Advent. It is looking unlikely that we will be back in the church building for a while yet, so we will mark Lent remembering that together, in the Spirit, we are the body of Christ.

'Lent in a bag' is mainly aimed at adults, although families will be able to share the resources together. We do have a separate pack for younger children. Please get in touch if you would like one.

You should have everything you need in your bag. With a word of caution—your ash must be mixed with oil and not water. Of course, the activities are all optional.

May this Lent be a time of reflection and nearing closer to God.

With my continuing prayers and blessings,
Becky



Reflect: Take the cross and trace your fingers over it. Hold it in your hand and feel its shape. How does it make you feel? The empty cross is a symbol of Christ's triumph over the violence of the cross, pointing us to the empty tomb. In this week though, we must just sit with the cross; a painful reminder of the torment Jesus experienced.

Act: As we enter Holy Week, make time each day to read the passion in Mark's Gospel, Mark 14 & 15.

Prayer: Eternal God, in the silence may we hear your cry of abandonment; in the shattering of your soul may our brokenness be healed. Amen

Lent 5 – week beginning 21st March Being Light – candle



Lent begins in the dimness of late winter and ends with the burst of bright spring. Jesus is, according to John's gospel, 'The Light of the world'.

John 8:12 NIV

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

Matthew 5:14 NIV

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.

Reflect: Light the candle and reflect on these Bible verses. Where do you shine? How do you keep your light lit?

Act: Each day this week, bring the light of Jesus to another. Donate to a local charity or the foodbank, phone someone who is lonely, tell someone about your faith.

Prayer: Light of the world, walk among us, illuminating God in our midst. Amen

Psalm 42

1 As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

2 My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?

3 My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me continually,
'Where is your God?'

4 Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.



Wednesday 17th February

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. On this day we are encouraged to 'Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ'. Traditionally, we give up something for Lent but this year already seems rather empty so I encourage you to take something up. Perhaps setting aside a time of prayer every day in Lent, starting a prayer journal or engaging in something locally to transform injustice. There are some ideas on the next page.

In your 'Lent in a bag' set you will find some palm ash. This has been blessed in preparation. However, you do need to mix it with oil (NOT water) in order to mark your forehead. You don't need to mark your forehead, you could mark your hand or even just feel the ash as you pray, find a stone and mark the stone, or mark something that will help you to pray.

There will be an Ash Wednesday service with the Sutton Coldfield Group of Churches at 6.30pm tonight on Facebook. You'll find the order of service on the website. If you're not able to join in, use the prayer on the card for ashing.

Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin and be
faithful to Christ.



Proverbs 23:25 NIV

May your father and mother rejoice;
may she who gave you birth be joyful!

John 19:26-27 NIV

When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Proverbs 31:25-28 NIV

She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.

Reflect: Hold the red felt heart in your hand, perhaps consider God as Mother. Give thanks for those who have "mothered" you - physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Act: Read the story of Hannah in 1 Samuel. Hannah's song (1 Samuel 2: 1-10) is a prayer or hymn of praise. It is often referred to as a Mother's Song. Try to write your own 'song'. What words might you choose to praise God?

Prayer: God of love, passionate and strong, tender and careful: watch over us and hold us all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Act: Give thanks for those who continue to help you believe. Get in touch with someone who needs to know they matter. Support a charity that works to provide clean water for all, like WaterAid, or a charity who support mistreated women, such as Women's Aid.

Prayer: O God, may we thirst for your waters of justice, and learn to deny no one the water of life. Amen

Lent 4 – week beginning 14th March Mothering Love - heart

This week the church remembers the mothering love of God. In the middle of Lent we give thanks for all who show us this mothering love; a strong love, a challenging love, an encouraging love, a healing love.



This is a beautiful collect for Ash Wednesday written by Janet Morley. Why not light a candle today and pray this prayer:

God our Father and Mother,
you create us from the dust of the earth:
grant that this dust may be for us
a sign of our penitence
and a symbol of our mortality;
and that the buds bursting and plants growing
may be a sign of the new life you offer us all
through the life and death of Jesus
for it is by your grace alone
that we receive eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.

Ideas to mark Lent:

- Start a prayer journal [How To Start Keeping A Prayer Journal - RachelWojo.com](#)
- Use a daily praying app (Daily Prayer, Pray as you go), website ([Join us in our Daily Prayer - Northumbria Community](#)) or book (The Rhythm of Life, David Adam)
- Choose Fairtrade food and drink options
- Buy local
- Find out about some local charities / organisations (YMCA, Cherished, Sutton Baptist Foodbank, [National Centre For Eating Disorders | Newbridge House \(newbridge-health.org.uk\)](#))
- Use the 'Love Yourself through Lent' poster to care for yourself this lockdown

Lent I - week beginning 21st February Into the Wilderness – Sand

Just between his baptism and the beginning of his adult ministry, Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days, “to be tested”.

Luke 4:1-11

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.’ Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “One does not live by bread alone.”’

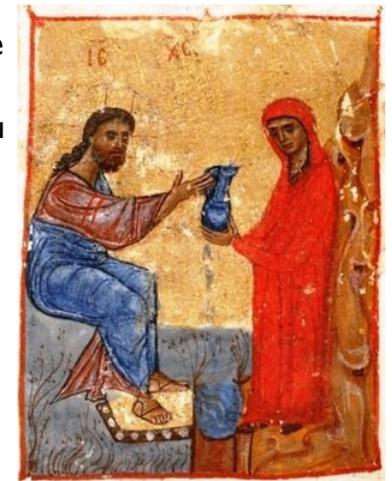
Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, ‘To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.’⁸ Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you”, and “On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.”’

Jesus answered him, ‘It is said, “Do not put the Lord your God to the test.”’ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

‘What you have said is true!’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ They left the city and were on their way to him.



Reflect: Hold the blue cloth; the colour of life-giving water. Contemplate what it meant for this woman, mistreated in her own land, to be cherished by Jesus. The woman at the well is too often deemed as a sinner, yet she couldn't have chosen who to marry or who to live with. Jesus sees her when no one else chooses to. However, the same people choose to listen when she shares the news of Jesus.

Lent 3 – week beginning 7th March

Woman at the well - blue cloth



John 4:1-30

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, ‘Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John’. although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized, he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink’. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?’ (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, “Give me a drink”, you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?’ Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’

Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come back.’ The woman answered him, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You are right in saying, “I have no husband”; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband.

Reflect: Carefully open the sand in your Lent bag and touch it. You could place a plate or bowl beneath the sand and let it run through your fingers. What does it feel like? Can you imagine walking on this sand in the hot desert?

Reflect on the passage you have just read. Have you ever felt that you have been tested? Have you ever asked God why you are suffering? Have you ever had to fight hard to keep your faith?

What did you learn? What might you learn this lockdown as you feel isolated, challenged, lonely or afraid? Ask God to be with you in the wilderness.

Act: Read some of the Psalms where the author is crying out to God (eg. Psalm 22 or 44).

Pray: Holy God, help us when we walk through the difficult places in our lives. Help us to know that the closer we walk to you, the closer you will be to us. Amen

Lent 2 – week beginning 28th February

Questions from Nicodemus – footprint



John 3:1-21

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?'

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.'

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

Reflect: Nicodemus, a religious leader, comes to Jesus to ask his questions. Lent is a good time to try to be open about our questions. Maybe we can even 'cherish the questions' and 'have patience with all that is unsolved'

Act: On the footprint, write a question as a Lent prayer.

Prayer: Walk among us, grace of God, teaching us the questions of the kingdom. Amen