

Together @ Lent

It is traditional to give something up for Lent. This year why not take something up instead with our Together at Lent challenge. Take on one of these challenges for each of the 40 days of Lent (take a day off each Sunday!) and commit to spending time together as a family with God.

You can complete them in any order and colour them in as you go.

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| Read a favourite Bible story. | Look through family photos together. Thank God for the happy memories. | Encourage one another with kind words. | Phone a family friend and remind them they are loved! | Pray for your friends. | Play a board game together. | Write a letter of encouragement to somebody in your church. | Be still before God. |
| Pray for your teachers. | Plant some seeds together. | Spend some time waiting and listening to God together. | Pray for another country. | Wash one another's feet | Build a den together and hang out with God. | Dance to a favourite worship song. | Use toys to act out a story from the Bible. |
| Sing a favourite worship song together. | Pray for your neighbours. | Give a gift to bless somebody. | Have a Bible race - who can find John 3:16 the fastest? | Draw a picture of a perfect world. | Pray for keyworkers. | Play hide and seek together. | Go for a walk in God's wonderful creation. |
| Draw a picture of Jesus. | Act out a story from the Bible together. | Memorise a Bible verse together. | Pray for the government and those in power. | Put an encouraging message for others in your window. | Encourage one another with words of truth. | Donate to and pray for your local food bank. | Make a joyful noise to the Lord! |
| Share your hopes and dreams for 2021. | Pray for your church leaders. | Pray with another family via video call. | Give to and pray for the work of a charity. | Read a Psalm. | Write a letter of encouragement to someone who blesses you. | Pray for one another. | Write a song together. |

St Peter's, Maney

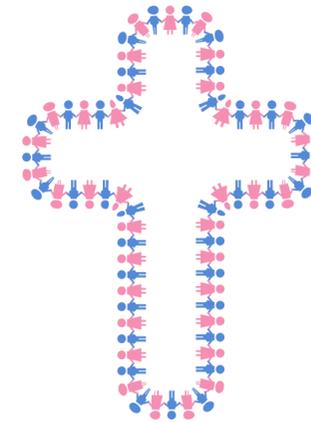


Lent 2021
For children

Website: stpetersmaney.org.uk
Facebook: @StPetersManey



Lent 6 – week beginning 28th March The cross



Hi everyone

I hope you're all okay. It feels like a really long time since I saw you. I really enjoyed the Christmas activities we did together so I thought we'd do some for Lent too.

Do you know what Lent is?

It is the time when we think about what Jesus did for us when he died and rose again from the dead.

Lent is 40 days long (actually, it is a bit longer but we don't count the Sundays). It is 40 days because that is how long Jesus spent in the desert after he was baptised.

At the end of Lent, we celebrate Easter which is a really exciting time in the church. It is the day Mary Magdalene found Jesus' tomb was empty because he had risen again.

I hope you will enjoy doing some of the activities in this book. I'd love to see what you create—we could even put it on our Facebook page if you'd be happy for us to do so.

Have a good Lent, I will be praying for you,

Becky

The cross is the symbol of the Christian faith. This is because Jesus died on the cross. It seems a bit strange that we focus on the cross when it is a sad symbol, but actually it is a good symbol to choose because Jesus beat the cross and came alive again—a miracle!

In your bag you have a cross, called a holding cross. If you hold this cross in your hand it can help you to pray. The cross reminds us of how powerful Jesus is and how much Jesus loves us. Perhaps this cross could be put by your bedside and you can use it to help you pray every night.

Prayer:

Dear God

Thank you for sending Jesus to us, thank you that Jesus died and rose again to show us how much you love us.

Amen.

Lent 5 – week beginning 21st March Being Light



In John's Gospel, Jesus is described as '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."

Help from an adult

Safely, with the help of an adult, light the candle. Turn the light off so you can just see the candle flame. Even when we feel it is too dark, Jesus lights our way. When we are scared, Jesus can be our comforter.

Prayer:

Jesus, Light of the world,
walk among us,
light up our lives
so that we might see you in the darkness.
Amen

Wednesday 17th February Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. It is always the day after Pancake Day—how many pancakes did you eat yesterday?

On Ash Wednesday we usually have a church service where we have the sign of the cross drawn on our forehead with ash. This is because God said to Adam and Eve, 'You are dust, and to dust you will return' (Genesis 3:19). The ashes (like dust) remind us that we are created by God to live this human life. During Lent we try to make sure we live that life as best we can.

Help from an adult

In your 'Lent in a bag' set you will find some palm ash. This has been blessed ready for you to use. However, you do need to mix it with oil (NOT water) in order to mark your forehead or your hand.



When you mark the cross say,
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

Lent 1 - week beginning 21st February Into the Wilderness

Just after Jesus was baptised he went into the wilderness (the desert) for 40 days.

This was time for Jesus to prepare for his life as a teacher and leader. While he was there he was tempted by three things. Each time, Jesus used writings from the Bible to help him to stay focussed and not be tempted.

1. When Jesus was really hungry, the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, make this stone into a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'
2. Then the devil took him high up and showed him all the lands of the world and said, "If you worship me instead of God, I will give you all of these things." Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'
3. Then the devil took him to the top of the temple in Jerusalem and said, 'If you are the Son of God, jump off here and see if the angels will catch you.' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

Activity:

Colour in the picture on the next page, can you see the three things which Jesus was tempted by?

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.



Action:

Hold the red felt heart in your hand, perhaps consider God as Mother instead of Father. Give thanks for those who have "mothered" you - physically, emotionally and spiritually. This may be your mum, but it could equally be your dad, nan, friend or neighbour. Receiving a motherly love is a real blessing.

Prayer:

God of love, passionate and strong,
tender and careful:
watch over us and hold us like a Mother
all the days of our life. Amen

Lent 3 – week beginning 7th March

Keep telling the story

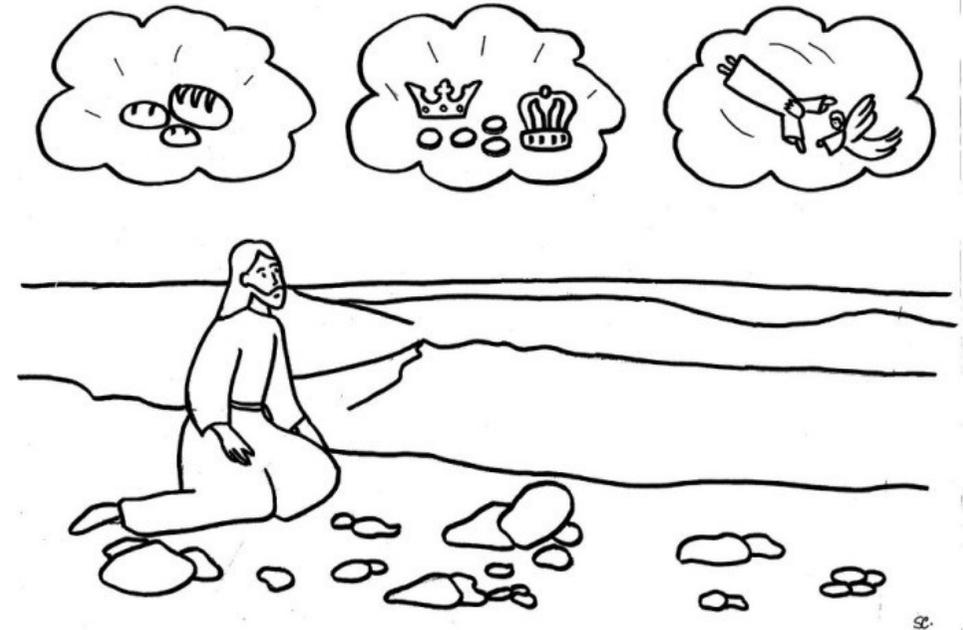
Jesus told his disciples that they must share the Good News with everyone. The Good News is that Jesus was born and raised as a human being even though he was the Son of God. He lived an amazing life, healing people and teaching them about God. Jesus died to save us but he rose again from the dead, the greatest miracle of all.

We now need to keep telling the stories so that everyone knows about Jesus.

One way we can tell stories is through pictures. Have you ever looked at the windows in church? They tell the stories that we read in the bible. Next time you're in church, have a look.

Activity:

In your bag there is a cross which you can make into a stained glass window. Cut up the tissue paper and stick different colours all over one side of the cross. When you're finished, turn it over. Now you have your own stained glass window. Maybe you could stick it on your window to help people to see the story of the cross.



Act:

Some people give something up for Lent but this year already seems rather hard, so why not take something up? Perhaps you could say a special prayer every day in Lent. Maybe you could write to a friend, teacher, someone in your family or someone in a care home with no family. Maybe you could take up gardening or learn a new skill. There are some ideas on the back page of this booklet.

Pray:

Holy God,
Help us when we are going through a hard time in our lives.
Help us to know that the closer we come to you, the closer you will be to us.

Amen

Lent 2 – week beginning 28th February Growing with God

As we go through Lent we are learning and growing in our faith. By now you might have been saying prayers every day, if you haven't you could start today. Here is a prayer you could use:

Dear God
Help me to grow closer to you
Help me to care for others
Help me to love myself like you love me.
Amen.

As we pray, we get closer to God because we get to know God a little better each time.

Activity:

In your bag there is a small pot, some soil and some seeds. Put the soil in the pot and plant the sunflower seeds. You will need to water them, take care of them and then, as they grow, you will need to plant them outside. Take photos when you have planted your seeds and then each week to show how your sunflower grows. This is how your relationship with God is growing too.



Lent 3 – week beginning 7th March Care for our planet

God made the world and everything in it.

God made you and me, God made the land and the sea, God made the sun, the moon and the stars and all the animals on the earth.

Our job is to take care of our planet and all of the animals.

Activity:

In your bag there is a little pack of bird seed. If you have a bird table or feeder, you could put them in there. If not, just sprinkle them on the ground in your garden.



We must take care of the earth that God created for us. Ways we can do this are:

- Always clean up our litter
- Turn lights off when we leave a room
- Recycle our plastic, glass and paper
- Buy Fairtrade and Eco friendly products when we go shopping
- Make a compost heap in the garden