

In & around the Benefice....

7th February | The Second Sunday before Lent



Our Rector is The Reverend Morna Simpson
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@BeneficeYardley

www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk

This Sunday our service will be live-streamed from St Andrew's, Yardley Hastings
Please watch it by following this link from **10am on Sunday 7th February:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tndT2dZohnU&feature=youtu.be>

Do join us for coffee afterwards by using these joining instructions:

Topic: Zoom Coffee Time: Feb 7, 2021 10:45 AM

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88936945764?pwd=UFMvYUZtR29TMEZxQnhPVjVIVEZidz09>

Meeting ID: 889 3694 5764 Passcode: 651541

Or by telephone: 0131 460 1196 with the Meeting ID: 889 3694 5764 and Passcode: 651541

Our new '**Dial-a-Sermon**' is up and running, so for those who would like to hear a homily from our Reader, Liz Taylor, you are able to access that by dialling **01604 263361** from either your landline or mobile. There will be a short welcome message in an American accent - please don't be put off by that, wait on the line for a moment and you will hear Liz begin with the Sunday gospel reading.

Do let us know if you have any feedback.

St Mary's, Grendon will be open for private prayer as usual

Crafting Lent: Threads and reflections around the Lenten journey.

This year we will be crafting for lent. As this will take a bit of preparation, please could you sign up for this by emailing Rev Morna with your name and address (we will be delivering some materials for you to participate!) by the end of **Sunday 14th February**. Following your delivery we will meet over Zoom on **Tuesday 23rd February**, and the four weeks after that, from **2pm** for about an hour. We are very much looking forward to journeying together!

Please hold in your prayers this week:

- Each of our village communities in lockdown
- All who are lonely, fearful and anxious
- All who are ill in body, mind or spirit
- All those who are affected by COVID-19 in any way
- Pubs and other businesses in our area who may be finding these times difficult
- Our schools (Grendon C of E Primary School, Denton Primary School and Yardley Hastings Primary School), their Headteachers, teachers, staff and pupils
- Young people struggling with doing schooling in challenging conditions
- The parents within our benefice, trying to work from home whilst teaching their children and keeping the home running
- The government and wider MPs as they lead our nation through these complex times
- Our friends in the US, those who believe that there has been a conspiracy, and those who do not; prayers for wisdom for President Biden and his office as they seek to bring healing
- Those struggling in body, mind or spirit, among them: Jean Eldred, Judith Keggins, Jane Cave, Tom Stock, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Jo Cawley, Michelle Wright, Dwain and Elaine Winter, Peter Vaughan and family
- The recently departed, amongst them Leslie Biggin, Muriel Hollis, Nicholas Vaughan, Malc Wright, Brian Binley, Christopher Burridge, and all who grieve at this time

What Can I join in with in our Benefice?

Sunday	Morning Prayer @8:30am	Live stream service at 10am	Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Monday	Morning Prayer @8:30am		Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Tuesday	Morning Prayer @8:30am		Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Wednesday	Morning Prayer @8:30am	Coffee Morning @9:30am	Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Thursday	Morning Prayer @8:30am		Evening Prayer @5:30pm

Morning or Evening Prayer - all are welcome to join, please just ask Rev Morna for a Zoom link - email: revmorna@gmail.com

If you would like to join **Church coffee catch-up** on Wednesday at 9.30am please use these details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86486979836?pwd=QTV1VkpnUk1mUmRsWWgzU2dodkpQUt09>

Meeting ID: 864 8697 9836, Passcode: 272762

Or dial in on this number: [0131 460 1196](tel:01314601196) with the same Meeting ID: 864 8697 9836 & Passcode: 272762

Julian Group is about joining together for 30 minutes of silent prayer, and will be meeting **monthly**, with our next meeting on **Monday 22nd February from 7:30pm**.

If you would like to know more, ask Rev Morna.

Thank you so much to those who came to **Book Club** and helped to shape our choices for this month.

We will be reading **'The Discomfort of Evening'** by Marieke Lucas Rijneveld and/or **'Listening In'** by Jenny Eclair if you would prefer a lighter read for these times.

We will next be meeting on **Tuesday 2nd March from 7pm** - apologies for the time omission last week!

What Can I join in with further afield?

Lent online retreat on 13th March 2021 - for more information: <http://www.turveyabbey.org.uk/pilgrimage/events/>

A virtual prayer walk from Turvey Abbey <https://youtu.be/Y37XaiKi6A8>

Services at Peterborough Cathedral - for more information please click here:

<https://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/services.aspx>

Church of England Church Online - for more information please click here:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/news-and-media/church-online>

The Church of England's free phone line with hymns, reflections and prayers - call 0800 804 8044

Listen and sing along to the hymn for the day - <https://www.rscm.org.uk/our-resources/hftd/>

Download the Daily Prayer app or Time to Pray app from your App Store which gives you services of prayer with set readings for the day.

BBC Radio 4 Prayer for the Day - Listen each day via the BBC Sounds App, here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000r3q5> or listen live on BBC Radio 4 at 5:43 each morning.

BBC Radio 4 Daily Service - Listen each day via the BBC Sounds App or listen live on BBC Radio 4 at 9:45 each weekday morning.

BBC Radio 2 Pause for Thought - Listen each weekday on the BBC Sounds App, here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p015nm0y/clips> or live on BBC Radio 2 at 9:20am.

Something Interesting to Read or Listen to?

If you haven't discovered it yet, please take a look at Rev Morna's blog, which she's aiming to keep up to date with a mixture of photographs, reflections and poems: <https://teaandtheology.org>

On Being (<https://onbeing.org/>) is full of interesting things to read or listen to with interviews from so many marvellous minds.

Poetry Unbound (<https://onbeing.org/series/poetry-unbound/>) is a series of podcasts with Padraig O Tuama reading and exploring a poem - they are wonderful and Rev Morna highly recommends them to you.

A few beautiful songs to encourage: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1fXA1B7Pkc and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTb7Q9c6lgY>

This second song came out at New Year, but I wonder whether it is still a message we need to remind one another of.

REFLECTION

What a difference a week makes. Last Wednesday, as I sat to write last week's reflection, tears were rolling down my face as I tried to come to terms with the vast number of deaths claimed by COVID-19. They were real tears of loss. Tears that soaked my sleeve, and eventually a hanky. 100,000 souls lost.

Today, I find myself reaching for the tissues once more.... But these tears are different. They are not the uncontrollable hanky soaking tears of raw grief, but tears of a rainbow of emotions, as we remember the wonderful soul of Captain Sir Tom. These are thankful tears, tears of amazement at the sheer response, humility, and graciousness of the man. The man who changed the world. An extraordinary man doing ordinary things. I cannot quite believe it.



Capt. Sir Tom lit up our worlds by being himself at a point in our history when things were dark.

He simply wanted to help.... *'what can I do to help?'*, he said.

'I won't make much difference, but I can do a bit', he remarked in his first television interview. And we all know the rest of the story.

Tom's smile lit up the world, Tom's simple efforts lit up others to do their bit, Tom lit up the hospitals and all those who work in them, Tom lit up the nation. Tom's desire to serve his country and countrymen, lit up his own world and ours too.

As we celebrate the end of the Christmas season with Candlemas, as we take the light of Christ into our worlds, may we find our light shining in the small things we do. In the things we do for ourselves, being kind to ourselves, indulging in a good book, or boxed set, a treat from the supermarket, a chat with a friend on the phone.

Taking care of ourselves is the best way to rekindle God's light within us, then, taking His light with us, connect with others. As Sir Tom said, *'I can't do much, but I can do a little'*.

So, may I encourage you to take a candle each day, and light it, and sit with it.

Watch it flicker.

Listen to it crackle.

Smell the burned match, and the fragrance of the wax.

Feel the heat (do be careful).

Relax, sit back and watch.

Be in the moment.



Then ask God to speak to you, to whisper to you and bring you His peace.

A peace that passes all understanding, and a peace that we know Sir Tom now rests in.

Thank you, Sir Tom, for being you, for your courage, your love of your country and your example.

Thank you, God, for bringing Tom into our lives with impeccable timing, and for loving each one of us so much that you sent your Son to be a light to the nations, and to bring us home to you.

Amen

Are you baptised but not yet confirmed? Would you be interested in confirmation classes?

Whilst we may not be able to be clear on when the Confirmation Service will happen just yet, if this is something you would like to explore further, please be in touch with Rev Morna to register interest.

The Collect

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading

Proverbs 8: 1, 22-31

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding
raise her voice?

The Lord created me at the beginning of his work,
the first of his acts of long ago.
Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the
beginning of the earth.
When there were no depths I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.
Before the mountains had been shaped, before the
hills, I was brought forth—when he had not yet
made earth and fields, or the world's first bits of soil.
When he established the heavens, I was there,
when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above, when he
established the fountains of the deep, when he
assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might
not transgress his command, when he marked out
the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him,
like a master worker; and I was daily his delight,
rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited
world and delighting in the human race.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Colossians 1: 15-20

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn
of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on
earth were created, things visible and invisible,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—
all things have been created through him and for
him. He himself is before all things, and in him all
things hold together. He is the head of the body, the
church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the
dead, so that he might come to have first place in
everything. For in him all the fullness of God was
pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased
to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or
in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his
cross.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

John 1: 1-14

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according
to John. **Glory to you, O Lord**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was
with God, and the Word was God. He was in the
beginning with God. All things came into being
through him, and without him not one thing came
into being. What has come into being in him was
life, and the life was the light of all people. The light
shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not
overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was
John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so
that all might believe through him. He himself was
not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The
true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming
into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being
through him; yet the world did not know him. He
came to what was his own, and his own people did
not accept him. But to all who received him, who
believed in his name, he gave power to become
children of God, who were born, not of blood or of
the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a
father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

God our creator,
by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the
earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of
your Church:

may we who have been nourished at your table on
earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's
cross and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen