

In & around the Benefice....

14th February | The Sunday next before Lent



Our Rector is The Reverend Morna Simpson
Tel: 01604 319902; Email: revmorna@gmail.com
Our Associate Priest is The Reverend Janet Tebby
Tel: 01933 384628; Email: jtebby@gmail.com
Our Curate is The Reverend Amanda Oliver
Tel: 01604 983003; Email: yhbcurate@gmail.com
Our Benefice Reader is Liz Taylor, Email: liztyardley@aol.com



@BeneficeYardley

www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk

This Sunday we have **Zoom Church** from **10am**.

Please do bring bread and wine if you would like to remember Jesus by breaking bread.

Here are the joining instructions for computers/tablets/smartphones:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82897599359?pwd=VEIUeUM0c2FHL1E2Yzc5d2hwN0lydz09>
or with Meeting ID: 828 9759 9359 and Passcode: 816573
and by telephone: **0131 460 1196** using Meeting ID: 828 9759 9359 and Passcode: 816573

Our Sunday sermon can be listened to via 'Dial-a-Sermon' on **01604 263361**.
This is the cost of a normal local call from either your landline or mobile. There will be a short welcome message - wait on the line for a moment and you will hear from Rev Morna this week.

Our Midweek Coffee this week on **Weds 17th from 9:30am** will include a short **Ash Wednesday** service
Please bring with you a little bit of soil mixed with oil

To join us via computers/tablets/smartphones:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84266227687?pwd=Tzk0V01WYyYyZGFaTIY2Z055OEI4UT09>
or with Meeting ID: 842 6622 7687 and Passcode: 032135
and by telephone **0131 460 1196** using Meeting ID: 842 6622 7687 and Passcode: 032135



There will be a special **Ash Wednesday Evening Prayer** at the later time of **6.30pm on 17th February**

Do join Rev Amanda for a time of quiet prayer and reflection (about 30 minutes) as we step into Lent.
"I hope to use some of the Ash Wednesday reflections and prayers and music written especially for the day.
The music will take up most of our time together. During this time, do feel free to mix a little soil and oil and quietly and prayerfully mark yourself with those elements, as we remember that
'we are but dust, and to dust we shall return'"

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83793934089?pwd=d2NLVkJrSkRPeWNOaCtqRWtobDF4UT09>
Meeting ID: 837 9393 4089, Passcode: 729363

*****Please remember to sign up for 'Crafting Lent' by Sunday 14th February *****

See Page 2 for details

LENT GROUPS

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 sign up by emailing Rev Morna with your name and address by the end of **Sunday 14th February**. (we will be delivering some materials for you to participate!) Following your delivery we will meet over Zoom on **Tuesday 23rd February**, and the four weeks after that, from **2pm** for about an hour.

This will be a 'stress-free' activity suitable for all levels - no expertise required! A chance to get in touch with your creative side whilst enjoying the company of others and thinking about the significance of Lent.

If you feel able to donate, we would appreciate a contribution towards the cost of materials - a suggested donation would be **£5** - please email yardleyhastingsbenefice@gmail.com for details of ways to make your donation. *Thank you.*



Photographing Lent



If you would like to enter into a photography challenge, Rev Morna will be offering a theme each week of Lent for you to take as many or as few photographs as you like. Following Ash Wednesday the theme will be **'Dust'**. There will be an opportunity to meet and touch base with fellow photographers each Thursday evening. The first meeting will be on **Thursday 25th from 7pm**. Watch this space for the next theme and joining instructions.

[And for the children, click here for a Lent Challenge to complete - '40 Acts of Kindness for Lent'](#)

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 Keggin, Jane Cave, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Jo Cawley, Michelle Wright, Dwain and Elaine Winter, Peter Vaughan and family
- The recently departed, amongst them Tom Stock, 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	Zoom church 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	Ash Wednesday Coffee Morning @9:30am	Ash Wednesday Evening Prayer @6:30pm
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

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.

Next **Book Club** meeting is on **Tuesday 2nd March from 7pm**
We are 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.

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.

BBC Radio 2 Good Morning Sunday - Listen each Sunday on the BBC Sounds App, here
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006wqvh> or live on BBC Radio 2 each Sunday at 6:50am.

Songs of Praise - Watch on BBC Two at 1:15 each Sunday, or catch up on iPlayer.

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 Pdraig 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

Our gospel passage this week is one of my favourites - not least because a word needed to be thought up to explain what happened! I wonder how Peter, James and John were feeling as the transfiguration unfolded before their eyes? I love that Peter reverts to his zealous, practical ways and suggests preparing a dwelling for Elijah, Moses and Jesus...I'm not sure that this would have been my first thought!

I also notice that this is the only passage in the Bible which uses the word 'bleach' though if we look at the King James Version this verse is instead expressed as 'exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.' I must admit I prefer this version, not least because it seems to communicate well that this had a character about it which had never previously been witnessed. It's one of those occasions, similar to a young virgin woman giving birth to God incarnate or God the Son - fully human and fully divine - dying on a cross only to be seen as living three days later, which makes our faith so special for me. God did something, previously unseen, to draw attention to Jesus Christ, to God with us, to God's act of love to draw us into relationship with God, through Christ.

It does strike me as one of those moments that come and go in a flash - I wonder whether Peter, James or John had to check with one another secretly that what they thought they had seen had been seen by the others. Sometimes prayer can be a little like that, can't it. In the moment, as I dwell with God, I *feel* as if something significant has happened, or that I have seen or heard something, but then later I wonder whether I actually did see or hear what I think I did. As a young child struggling with asthma I woke up one night to see Jesus sat at the bottom of my bed, calmly watching over me. I know I saw him there, I know I felt his calming presence, and yet I still catch myself wondering whether that really happened, or whether perhaps I imagined it. Such doubt is surely natural, and I do allow myself to voice it.

Where faith is about trusting without knowing, the opposite has to be doubt which, similarly to faith is not a knowing, but a wondering. My own faith has become more alive since I allowed myself to question, to doubt, to wonder. It was in those moments that I found myself relying on the times where God has been present, where I have felt a sense of peace and stillness that only comes from dwelling with God. These are difficult times indeed, and where you find yourself questioning how we find ourselves in this situation, I encourage you to light a candle and close your eyes. Focus on your breathing - breathe in God and breathe out anything that is making you anxious. Once you have found that stillness, I invite you to speak with God about all that makes your heart hurt, and allow God to meet you amongst that.

God meets us in our despair and draws us home.

Every blessing,
Morna

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

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

Amen

First Reading

2 Kings 2 : 1-12

When the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.'

But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.'

So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?'

And he said, 'Yes, I know; keep silent.'

Elijah said to him, 'Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho.'

But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.'

So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, 'Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?' And he answered, 'Yes, I know; be silent.'

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.'

But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.'

So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.'

Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.'

He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.'

As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven.

Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Mark 9: 2-9

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'

He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice,

'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!'

Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life
in word and deed, that all the world may know his
power to change and save.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen