

In & around the Benefice....

21st February | The First Sunday of Lent



Our Rector is The Reverend Morna Simpson
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@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/83153877172?pwd=NEtmNDEzaGo5OS8vb29hU0p2anU5dz09>

Meeting ID: 831 5387 7172, Passcode: 839808

and by telephone: **0131 460 1196** using Meeting ID: 831 5387 7172 and Passcode: 839808

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 Janet this week.

Julian Group meets this week on **Monday 22nd February at 7.30pm**

Joining instructions are: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89864802906?pwd=T2U0amFZaHo5NFdzekdyTjdqd1RrUT09>
with Meeting ID: 898 6480 2906 and Passcode: 054630

Our **midweek church coffee catch-up** is on **Wednesday 24th from 9:30am**

To join us via computers/tablets/smartphones:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84533763740?pwd=Sk92akxiM0hwdmFUOFJBRU5VeXg0QT09>

Meeting ID: 845 3376 3740, Passcode: 947006

and by telephone **0131 460 1196** using Meeting ID: 845 3376 3740 and Passcode: 947006

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, Peter Vaughan and family
- The recently departed, amongst them Tom Stock, Leslie Biggin, Muriel Hollis, Nicholas Vaughan, Malc Wright, Brian Binley, Christopher Burrigge, and all who grieve at this time

LENT GROUPS

Crafting Lent:

Threads and reflections around the Lenten journey.

Thank you to all those who have signed up for this activity - your delivery will arrive this weekend and we will meet over Zoom on **Tuesday 23rd February**, and the four weeks after that, from **2pm** for about an hour.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89570705399?pwd=SEpZcWNjR2VRYlhCL0JRQUozMk1QQT09>

Meeting ID: 895 7070 5399
Passcode: 364894

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.

Last weeks theme was 'Dust', and this week's theme is 'Hope.'
Do share your photographs with us on Twitter ([@BeneficeYardley](https://twitter.com/BeneficeYardley)) or on our Facebook pages.

If you would like an opportunity to meet and share your photographs, we will meet over Zoom on **Thursday 25th February from 7pm:**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83336619686?pwd=WXR0MmxDcUovYmFJUUZKcEFEEa05jZz09>

with Meeting ID: 833 3661 9686 and Passcode: 278836

[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!

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	Julian Group @7.30pm
Tuesday	Morning Prayer @8:30am	Crafting Lent @2pm	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	Lent photo meeting @7pm

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 this **Monday, 22nd February from 7:30pm**. If you would like to know more, ask Rev Morna.

Joining instructions are: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89864802906?pwd=T2U0amFZaHo5NFdzekdyTjdqd1RrUT09> with Meeting ID: 898 6480 2906 and Passcode: 054630

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84533763740?pwd=Sk92akxiM0hwdmFUOFJBRU5VeXg0QT09>
Meeting ID: 845 3376 3740, Passcode: 947006

Or dial in on this number: 0131 460 1196 with the same Meeting ID: 845 3376 3740 & Passcode: 947006

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

LENT The word conjures up many pictures in my mind. Mostly negative, I admit, but that may just be my experience... Saying “no” to all sorts of enjoyable things, no flowers in church, fasting, it’s not a joyful season! And can we really manage more denial at the moment?! That changed for me when a church I was in decided to take something up for Lent instead of giving something up. What we decided to do was gather in church for an hour’s prayer every weekday morning at 7am. Yes – that’s not a typo, 7am! Mad, I know, and one among our number came equipped with a duvet... But we did it, and I have to say, we enjoyed the experience of getting together to do something special for a period, something that was good for our souls, something that helped us grow in our faith and helped our church grow too.

During Lent we’re called to read and reflect, to journey towards the light of Easter. This year I’m not getting up for an hour’s prayer at 7am, but I’m reading a book* which asks readers to reflect on their homes and how we can seek and find God there. Just right for this lockdown period. One thing that struck me in the reading for Ash Wednesday I thought was worthy of sharing with you. The focus for the day was our door, and the author considered the passage from Revelation 3: *“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with them.”* Remember the painting by Holman Hunt based on that verse? Jesus, Light of the world, stands outside the door of our hearts, but only we can open it and let him in.

Gordon Giles then goes on:

“Generally, our front doors are not merely closed; they are locked. Thus, to open them is a two-stage process. That also assumes that our door has oiled hinges, is unobstructed and that the lock works; that is, as well as our wanting to open the door, it must be physically possible to do so. Like my door with a broken lock, our spiritual doors must be maintained and cared for. This, in a deep sense, is what the season of Lent is about..... we may like to think of it as a time for spiritual maintenance, a seven-week period for making sure that we truly are ‘at home’ to Jesus”

I wonder if we can approach Lent in that frame of mind?

Pope Francis has offered these thoughts on how we might fast during Lent – perhaps to follow this kind of Lenten discipline might do more for our souls (and those around us) than giving up chocolate??

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.**
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.**
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.**
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.**
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.**
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.**
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.**
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.**
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.**
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.**

Blessings,
Rev'd Janet

**At Home in Lent – an exploration of Lent through 46 objects* by Gordon Giles. Pub. Bible Reading Fellowship 2018

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

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and
prayer that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading

Psalm 25 : 1-10

Prayer for Guidance and for Deliverance

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed in their
schemes.

Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth
and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly.
All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.
For your name's sake, O Lord,
forgive my sin, for it is great.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Peter 3: 18-22

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the
righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to
God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made
alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a
proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former
times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the
days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which
a few, that is, eight people, were saved through
water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now
saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body,
but as an appeal to God for a good conscience,
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has
gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God,
with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to
him.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1: 9-15

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

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee
and was baptized by John in the Jordan.
And just as he was coming up out of the water, he
saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit
descending like a dove on him.
And a voice came from heaven,
'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well
pleased.'
And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the
wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days,
tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts;
and the angels waited on him.
Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to
Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and
saying,
'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has
come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living bread from
heaven; by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope, and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true
and living bread, and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen