

# ***In & around the Benefice....***

*28th February | The Second Sunday of Lent*



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@BeneficeYardley

[www.yardleyhastingsbenefice.co.uk](http://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/83065862665?pwd=WjhoRXI4bE1RUlJoR291aUEwbDFtZz09>

Meeting ID: 830 6586 2665, Passcode: 026773

and by telephone: **0131 460 1196** using Meeting ID: 830 6586 2665 and Passcode: 026773

This month's pre-recorded **Holy Ground** service, with +Donald as our guest preacher, can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGN9nja1IPw>

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 Amanda this week, with the Gospel reading followed by the sermon.

*Find all the zoom links to the rest of the week's activities on pages 2 and 3:*

*Book Club, Coffee catch up, Lent groups*

## **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, Freddie Hogan, Mandy Bates, Jo Cawley, Michelle Wright, Peter Vaughan and family
- The recently departed, amongst them Joyce Moore and Tom Stock, and all who grieve at this time

# LENT GROUPS

## **Crafting Lent:** **Threads and reflections around the Lenten journey.**

Thank you Deborah and Liz for inspiring us to nurture growth with our decoupage plant pots this week. Look out for them in an Easter garden near you in a few weeks!



Meanwhile, here is the zoom link for **Tuesday 2nd March at 2pm:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86504072051?pwd=KzR3dmdrNnU5TlITQzhzbi9BekdTUT09>

Meeting ID: 865 0407 2051  
Passcode: 586838

## **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. So far, themes have been 'Dust', and 'Hope'. This week's theme is '**Prayer**'. Do share your photographs with us on Twitter ([@BeneficeYardley](https://twitter.com/BeneficeYardley)) or on our Facebook pages.

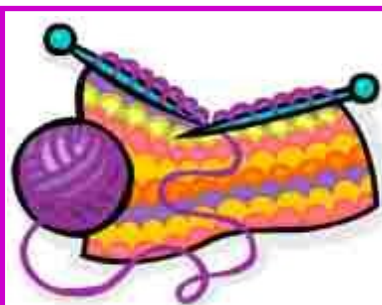
If you would like an opportunity to meet and share your photographs, we will meet over Zoom on **Thursday 4th March from 7pm:**

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!*



Calling all who crochet or knit and might be interested in a small project for Castle Ashby's Easter Garden to contact Rev Morna!!

### 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	Crafting Lent @2pm	Evening Prayer @5:30pm
Tuesday			Book Club @7.00pm
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 @7.00pm

**Morning or Evening Prayer** - all welcome to join, please email Rev Morna for a Zoom link [revmorna@gmail.com](mailto:revmorna@gmail.com)

### **Book Club** meets this week on **Tuesday 2nd March at 7.00pm**

Join Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88935125401?pwd=dTJTYnFtYS94dWhGc2JL0DhUVTFuQT09>  
Meeting ID: 889 3512 5401 Passcode: 634789

**Church coffee catch-up** is on **Wednesday 3rd March at 9.30am** please use these details to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84422624227?pwd=b1BtbkV4WCtWby9JQ2NWcHhJanVldz09>

Meeting ID: 844 2262 4227, Passcode: 231346

and by telephone **0131 460 1196** using Meeting ID: 844 2262 4227 and Passcode: 231346

### 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/>

Pre-Easter Quiet Day: 'Fig Trees and Overturned Tables' online with Launde Abbey on 29th March - more details here: <https://www.laundeabbey.org.uk/event/qd-04-21/>

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/b006wqyh> 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 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](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 - Mark 8, 31-end.

**“Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me.”**

My goodness! We have done more than enough ‘denying’ ourselves over the last year... and we are all carrying the crosses of this year of lockdowns. Staying at home in isolation, home working, home schooling, home shopping, I am tempted to see our homes as both protection and prison in equal measure.

However, this week we have seen the government’s ‘road-map’ out of this lockdown, and one that will hopefully mean that we do not have to go into lockdown again. I am so ready and grateful for this.

I am left wondering how we will emerge out into our communities.

How do we take these first steps well?

What do our futures look like beyond the pandemic?



In his January letter, Bishop Donald challenged us to think hard about these questions. And right now, we have the time to do this. The next few weeks will be difficult for some to maintain this lockdown and others will be keen to plan great things for the summer and quite rightly so. So now, in this ‘Easter Saturday’ season between the ‘Good Friday’ crisis, but before the ‘Easter Sunday’ new life beyond, can I really encourage us to think and pray hard about these few topics suggested by +Donald. There are so many questions, here are just a few to get you going.

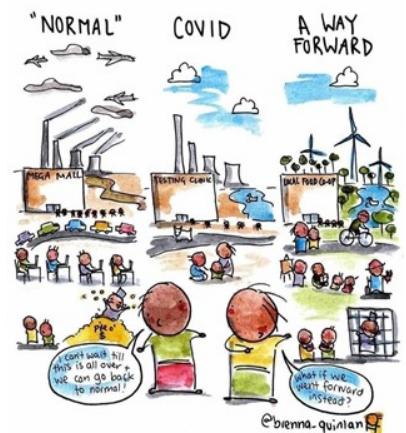
What has worked well throughout lockdown?

What might this time of so much change and pain have taught us?

How do we use this new learning going forward?

Morna and Janet are always happy to discuss these with you, communication will be key to our successful emergence from COVID-19.

I wonder what are we willing to deny ourselves to follow Jesus beyond this crisis? And how do we continue to share one another’s crosses? In the past I have mentioned how we might not consider ‘*bouncing back*’ to the old way.... But let us think about ‘*bouncing forward*’ into a new way, a new life together, one where we consider the needs of others above our own, we consider the planet as a blessing from God not to be abused, and we commit to the cost of following Jesus in the knowledge of a glorious eternity spent with him.



We continue to journey through Lent together, perhaps we are joining the crafting group, or posting pictures to the photography collection, perhaps we are committing to follow one of the many prayers and reflection apps, and online resources. Perhaps we are offering our prayer to God with more intensity and regularity, or perhaps we just do not know what to do.... that is OK too.

My prayer for each of us is that God helps us to make good use of this time, that our confidence in Him may grow and that He reveals His plan for us and our communities in a way that is life giving and life enhancing. Now is the time to reflect back, consider our learning, and prepare to bounce forward into a new world as friends and followers of our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and died that we might have eternal life.

Amen.

**Rev'd Amanda**

***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,  
by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter  
into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by  
following in his Way, come to share in his glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### **First Reading**

*Genesis 17: 1-7,15-16*

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord  
appeared to Abram, and said to him,  
'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be  
blameless. And I will make my covenant between  
me and you, and will make you exceedingly  
numerous.'

Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,  
'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall  
be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer  
shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be  
Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a  
multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly  
fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings  
shall come from you. I will establish my covenant  
between me and you, and your offspring after you  
throughout their generations, for an everlasting  
covenant, to be God to you and to your  
offspring after you.'

God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you  
shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her  
name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a  
son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to  
nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading**

*Romans 4: 13-25*

The promise that he would inherit the world did not  
come to Abraham or to his descendants through the  
law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the  
adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is  
null and the promise is void. For the law brings  
wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there  
violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the  
promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all  
his descendants, not only to the adherents of the  
law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham  
(for he is the father of all of us, as it is written,  
'I have made you the father of many nations')—  
in the presence of the God in whom he believed,  
who gives life to the dead and calls into existence  
the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he  
believed that he would become 'the father of many  
nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous  
shall your descendants be.'

He did not weaken in faith when he considered his  
own body, which was already as good as dead (for  
he was about a hundred years old), or when he  
considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No  
distrust made him waver concerning the promise of  
God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory  
to God, being fully convinced that God was able to  
do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was  
reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words,  
'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his  
sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to  
us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord  
from the dead, who was handed over to death for  
our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading**

*Mark 8: 31-38*

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

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of  
Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected  
by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and  
be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all  
this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and  
began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his  
disciples, he rebuked Peter and said,  
'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your  
mind not on divine things but on human things.'  
He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to  
them,  
'If any want to become my followers, let them deny  
themselves and take up their cross and follow  
me. For those who want to save their life will lose it,  
and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the  
sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit  
them to gain the whole world and forfeit their  
life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their  
life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my  
words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of  
them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he  
comes in the glory of his Father with the holy  
angels.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help  
ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended  
from all adversities which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and  
hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**