

# Parish News

**Sunday 21st February 2021**

**First Sunday of Lent**

## Parish Clergy

Revd Vicky Fleming 01543 502857 (Not Fridays)

Revd Gill Joynson 01543 502131

Parish Office 01543 502131

Mon– Fri leave message on  
machine and we will call you back

Email: [stlukesparish@btconnect.com](mailto:stlukesparish@btconnect.com)

<http://www.stlukescannock.org.uk>

It is so frustrating trying to make contact with Vicars so Vicky will endeavour to be in her study every evening except Fridays and Sundays between 6pm and 7pm so that you can be sure of speaking to her. You are welcome to ring at other times but you may have to leave a message!

## **Important Reminder**

If you like a member of the Pastoral Care Team to make contact with you, or anyone you know in need, you should inform the Parish Office. Because of Data Protection legislation access to contact details is restricted and so the person concerned must give permission.

If someone would like prayer please tell the Parish Office.

**Collect** Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,  
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:  
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;  
and, as you know our weakness,  
so may we know your power to save;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**First Reading** *1 Peter 3.18-22*

<sup>18</sup>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, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>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 persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>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, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

## **Second Reading - Mark 1.9-15**

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

Just like other families, it is wonderful when the church family can celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. We want to thank God for you, and ask him to bless you as you celebrate the milestones of life. Why not give permission to the Parish Office to publicize your special days? Just send a note or an email.

### **Happy Birthday to**

Deborah Brown who celebrates on  
27th February

Vicky Fleming who celebrates on  
28th February



## Lent Studies 2021—'In Christ'

This Lent Rev. George Fleming is taking us through a Bible Study based on the letter to the Ephesians. With Study notes and a video online each week. Join us as we study and thank God for the gifts He has given us 'In Christ'.

All the studies will be held online and accessed through our website. Please download the notes before watching the video and have your Bible's handy.

21st February      In Christ    we have redemption

28th February      In Christ    we are sealed with the  
Holy Spirit

7th March            In Christ    we have obtained an inheritance

14th March          In Christ    we have Divine Partnership

21st March          In Christ    unto good works

You may like to read the whole of Ephesians to get the 'big picture' before we start. We hope you will join us! .





We are the body of Christ and everyone is important.

Loving Lord, may we see your goodness and your glory in new ways throughout the season of Lent.

May we know the depths of your love for each of us more fully. May we feel the pain you endured for our sake, and may we rejoice that you conquered every bit of evil when you rose to life again.

Draw us closer to your heart, that we might know you better and understand you more completely. We pray that we would not only give things up for Lent, but that we would give you glory through Lent. May our actions reflect our hearts, and may we worship you through all that we say and do throughout the weeks to come.

We pray for all those who are isolated and alone, for those who feel they are in a wilderness and those whose souls are dry as a result of the Covid restrictions. Hear our prayer for springs of living water to transform our existence, refresh our relationship with you and each other .

Amen



You can still give gifts of food to the Foodbank through the Church if you take them to the Centre in the mornings Monday to Friday. Phone the Parish Office and let Mike know you are coming.

Dear Friends

As the lockdown continues to lower infection rates and deaths we are all beginning to look to the future, probably with some concern about what life will be like post covid. Many churches across the country are looking with some trepidation at what the future holds. Some commentators are predicting a bleak future for traditional churches citing as evidence ageing and declining congregations and a failure to attract and hold on to younger members.

However I was encouraged by an article I read by Tina Hodgett, evangelism and pioneer team leader in the Diocese of Bath and Wells, which I came across when I was preparing a talk about the prophet Samuel for last month's Wednesday morning service. One of the facts about Samuel I had forgotten was that his mother Hannah was barren and unable to have children. In the article Tina Hodgetts reminds us that this is a common story in the Old Testament and that other prominent people who had miraculous births included Isaac, Joseph, Moses, Samson. In the New Testament this was true of John the Baptist. The mothers of all the above were thought to be barren or beyond childbearing age and yet they conceived and bore a son who was to become an important figure in the history of Israel. Consider what Tina Hodgetts has to say about this, *"The breaking in of God's grace for each of these couples mentioned above comes as a miracle – a sovereign act of power carried out against the scientific odds in God's mysterious way and according to his unfathomable timing, and a sign – each child brings fresh hope first to the family, then to the people of*

*Israel. If we accept the image of the childless woman in Scripture as a metaphor for the church today, we can be assured that churches that seem devoid of new faith life have not been forgotten by God, abandoned, left to die.”*

We believe in a God for who works miracles. For Him nothing is impossible and if we let Him take control of our church and its affairs, if we put all our concerns into His hands and have complete faith in Him who knows what we might achieve.

David Gethin

**Please Pray for St. Luke’s School and other schools during this pandemic.**

- For the staff team.
- The administrative team
- Pray for the parents who are having to home school

Our schools and their staff impact the next generation with their influence and education. They need our prayers.

## **The Friendly Club**

The Friendly Club are still meeting—on Zoom!

Don’t miss out on this Monday morning meeting so why not email Margret Walker and ask to be put on their contact list for Zoom invitations.

MargaretGWalker@hotmail.co.uk

## PLEASE NOTE

This area is getting closer to more strict restrictions so

**remember HANDS, FACE AND SPACE**

If you take risks you are not caring for others!

Owing to the serious spread of the virus and high rates of infection in the Cannock area we have made the decision to close all our churches for worship.

Sunday Morning Prayer and Wednesday Morning Prayer will be on our website, Facebook page and on our You Tube Channel.

Please join us for these times of worship and if you know people who do not have access to a computer please tell them about the free phone service offered by the Church of England. It would be a very kindly act to print off the notice sheet for others as well.



A free phone line of hymns,  
reflections and prayers



**CONNECTIONS**