



12th February 2023
2nd Sunday Before Lent

St James' Church
www.stjamesexeter.org Exeter

Rector

Fr Henry Pryse 01392 431297
Off duty until Tuesday 14th February

Assistant Priest

Fr Martin Poolton 01392 477488
Day off: Saturday

Parish Office

Mount Pleasant Road, Exeter. EX4 7AH.
01392 420407. office@stjamesexeter.org
Charity register number: 1128877

Notices

Electoral Roll

St James' electoral roll will be revised after 27th February. To join, please complete a form from the table at the back of the church and return it to a churchwardens by the end of February. If you are already on the roll, no action is required.

For the Beauty of the Earth

Spring will soon be here, when the grass around the church begins to grow. Once every few weeks, could you spare an hour or so to help with mowing? Please speak to one of the churchwardens.

Collect

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever.

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.

10.00 am Music

Entrance hymn	386	Let Us, With a Gladsome Mind
Offertory hymn	392	Light's Abode, Celestial Salem
Recessional hymn	499	O Lord, My God

This Week

Morning Prayer is said at 8.30 am

Online: Mon, Wed

In the church: Tue, Thu, Fri

Mon 13th February Mark 8: 11 – 13
7.00 pm No Choir Practice

Tue 14th February Mark 8: 14 – 21

Wed 15th February Mark 8: 22 – 26
12.00 noon Holy Communion
7.30 pm PCC meets

Thu 16th February Mark 8: 27 – 33

Fri 17th February Mark 8: 39 – 9: 1
2.00 pm Craft Group in the hall

Sat 18th February Mark 9: 2 – 13
6.30 pm Postponed Harvest Supper

Next Sunday: 19th February

Sunday Next Before Lent

Matthew 17: 1 – 9

8.00 am Holy Communion

10.00 am Parish Eucharist

6.00 pm Evening Worship

Sharing God's love through worship, fellowship and service

First Reading: Genesis 1: 1 - 2: 3

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so. God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.' And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.



Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Psalm 136: 1-9 & 23-26

*Give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious, for his mercy endures for ever.
Give thanks to the God of gods, for his mercy endures for ever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords, for his mercy endures for ever;
Who alone does great wonders, for his mercy endures for ever;
Who by wisdom made the heavens, for his mercy endures for ever;
Who laid out the earth upon the waters, for his mercy endures for ever;
Who made the great lights, for his mercy endures for ever;
The sun to rule the day, for his mercy endures for ever;
The moon and the stars to govern the night, for his mercy endures for ever; [...]
Who remembered us when we were in trouble, for his mercy endures for ever;
And delivered us from our enemies, for his mercy endures for ever;
Who gives food to all creatures, for his mercy endures for ever.
Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his mercy endures for ever.*

Second Reading: Romans 8: 18-25

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6: 25-34

Jesus taught his disciples, saying, 'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'





Lenten Poetry Recital

St Stephen's Church, Exeter High Street
1.00 pm, Thursday 30th March
Refreshments from 12.30pm

Accompanied by fellow poet Helen Evans and musician Bee Harley, Richard Skinner will read his extended poem, Utterly Staggering, based on the Gospel accounts of the first Easter.

Lenten Study

The flyer at the back of the church gives details of the Lent courses across Exeter. From 28th February, the Tuesday course in St James' church hall at 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm follows the *Rhythm of Life* course. Its five sessions focus on *Resting, Creating, Sharing, Encouraging* and *Celebrating* with Jesus. All are welcome. For more information, please speak to Joan Ridgway.