

Diocese of Chester Cycle of Prayer

Sunday, 26 December 2021 to Tuesday, 1 March 2022

Sunday, 26 December 2021

First Sunday of Christmas; St Stephen

O Come All Ye Faithless

You might like to sing this little reflection to yourself as you pray for all those who might benefit from being reminded of God with us.

O come, all ye faithless, joyless and defeated,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

God from God, Light from Light,
Now he invites you to come out from the dark;
Kneel down before him, heal before his gaze.

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of sinners, sing in exultation,
Sing, all in poverty and destitution,
Glory to God, who made himself the lowest;

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Adapted from lyrics usually attributed to John Wade

Jonny Masters, Youth, Children and Families' Adviser

Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

Monday, 27 December 2021

St John

0803 Frankby with Greasby

C: Ken Owen, Danny Sedano.

Northern Indiana, The Episcopal Church, USA

Tuesday, 28 December 2021

The Holy Innocents

0804 Great Meols

C: Gillian Rossiter, Fran Skinner. LM: Lesley Young, David Moss, Chris Branch, Julia Johnson, Sheena Wilson.

Please give thanks for our community who are working hard for the good of others. Pray especially for our growing numbers of families.

Indianapolis, The Episcopal Church, USA

Wednesday, 29 December 2021

0805 Heswall

C: Martin Cannam, Josh Carlson, Dan Harris. LM: Jennie Hewitt, Peter Twin, Brenda Wilson, Michael Barritt.

Please pray for:

- the progress and safety of workers on site, building The Lighthouse Church in the heart of Heswall;
- Grace and wisdom in restructuring leadership and developing ministries to utilise The Lighthouse Church alongside St Peter's;
- Love Went Out – a preaching series from 1 John shaping our love for God, love for one another and love for our neighbours.

Heswall St Peter's CofE school.

Iowa, The Episcopal Church, USA

Thursday, 30 December 2021

0806 Higher Bebington

Iran, The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

Friday, 31 December 2021

0807 Hoylake

Father help us to learn from the past and walk with you into the future – together in peace and love as one in Christ. Amen.

Hoylake Holy Trinity CofE School.

Irele - Eseodo, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Saturday, 1 January 2022

The Naming and Circumcision of Jesus

0809 New Ferry

C: Andy Greenhough. LM: Jim Cartwright.

Pray as we begin preparing for a week of evangelistic events in late March, together with other Wirral churches. Pray for midweek church member training and prayer through January and February, and for hearts and minds of unbelievers to be transformed into good soil for the seed of the Word to be planted and grow.

Isi mbano, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Sunday, 2 January 2022

Second Sunday of Christmas

What we might call the season of 'resolution-making' is brief, perhaps just a day or so. The cynical among us might suggest that 'resolution-keeping' season is even shorter! The turn of the year offers a regular opportunity for reflection, either in advance or on the day. When I discovered that part of a poem by Pulitzer Prize winner Mary Oliver began with the words "Instructions for living a life" it seemed appropriate. Her three instructions could easily be instructions for Christian disciples too: "Pay attention. Be astonished. Tell about it."¹ Certainly these words might be used to summarise the story of the Magi in Matthew's Gospel. Paying attention led them to follow the star. Being astonished led them to worship. And they told about it – which provoked an unfortunate reaction at least in some.

We don't know what 2022 will bring; certainly there will be challenges politically, theologically, environmentally. But at the start of the year, perhaps we could heed Mary Oliver's instructions. Pay attention to the needs of the world around us, and to where God is active. Be astonished by the works of the Spirit. Above all, tell about it.

¹ From Sometimes by Mary Oliver

Liz Shercliff, Director of Studies for Readers

Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Monday, 3 January 2022

0810 Newton West Kirby

C: Cheryl Coverley, Ailsa Whorton. LM: Martin Smith, Anthony Hart.

Isiala-Ngwa, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Tuesday, 4 January 2022

0811 Thurstaston

C: Jane Turner. LM: Alan Jones.

Like many churches, we have had to make many changes and have been fragmented and scattered but we are trying to come back together. We pray for wisdom as we continue to reflect on ways of doing things, sometimes releasing the old in order to embrace the new. We pray for God's vision to become clear as we seek ways to re-engage with families and the wider community. Give thanks for those who have (and continue to) faithfully served in the parish over many years and pray for new people to take on responsibilities.

Thurstaston Dawpool CofE School.

Isial-Ngwa South, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Wednesday, 5 January 2022

0812 Upton (Overchurch)

C: Nicola Eastwood, Alec Ham. LM: Laura Arnold, Rhonda Anson, Alison Collins, Gaynor Kydd, Lorraine Williams, Graham Morris, Malcolm Haigh, Dave Wood, Kenneth London.

Isikwuato, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Thursday, 6 January 2022

The Epiphany

0813 West Kirby St Andrew

C: Vacant. LM: Ken Jones.

Northern Izon, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Friday, 7 January 2022

0814 West Kirby St Bridget

C: Alex Williams, David Chester. LM: John Smith, Graham Crowder, Brian Dodd.

West Kirby St Bridget's CofE School.

Western Izon, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Saturday, 8 January 2022

0815 Poulton Lancelyn

C: Roger Wiles, Paul Lewis. LM: Alan Jones, Michael Clarkson.

- Pray for any follow-up courses from our Carol and Christmas services;
- Pray for the launch service on 12 January at St Andrew's for our joint Wirral Gospel Partnership 'Life' mission at the end of March with Glen Scrivener (March 28 – April 1);
- Pray the church family will be very intentional in praying for now, and then at mission time, inviting people to hear Glen explain the gospel;
- Pray many people on Wirral will come to faith over the next few months.

Jabalpur, The (united) Church of North India

Sunday, 9 January 2022

The Baptism of Christ

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Luke 3.21-22

We are probably still just about in the season of new starts, with not all new year resolutions completely broken or forgotten. And here we have a very significant new start – what will be the start of Jesus' public ministry (in the next verse Luke says this is "when he began his work"). And how does it start? Well, it does start with the sort of personal commitment we might have been having a go at ourselves at the start of a New Year. Jesus, along with the rest of the crowds coming to John, comes to be baptised and to pray. But it also comes with a commitment and a word from on high.

For Luke this is indeed a new start, a point so significant in Jesus' life that it's here he lays out something that really matters to him (even if it's the bit we often skip); the genealogy that tells us in human terms who Jesus is, what the story of his family is. But also this is the point where Jesus hears another side of the story of who he is; he hears these words – "You are my child, and I love you, and I am pleased with you". The Holy Spirit comes on Jesus in power – yet this is also the Spirit whom Paul says tells us that we are children of God and loved. In a season where people make lots of resolutions, often because they feel anything but pleased with themselves, perhaps we need to hear these words. They are the words that will carry Jesus through 40 days in the wilderness, the words that, when echoed in Luke 9.35, are part of what carries Jesus through the road to the Cross. This day, as we commit ourselves to God for yet another new start, may we hear the words that the Spirit speaks into our hearts – that if we are in Christ

we are adopted as daughters and sons of the living God. That as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus we too may be empowered and sustained by the Spirit that says we are God's children and we are loved. The road ahead will not be easy – yet we are not alone in it. And we are loved.

Simon Chesters, Director of Ministry

Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

Monday, 10 January 2022

Nantwich Deanery

Jaffna, The (united) Church of South India

Tuesday, 11 January 2022

1701 Acton

C: Anne Lawson.

Acton CofE School.

Jalingo, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Wednesday, 12 January 2022

1702 Audlem

C: Alison Fulford. LM: Anne Draper, Jill Williams.

We would appreciate prayers for school communities – we have four church schools across the Benefice.

Audlem St James' CofE School.

Jamaica & The Cayman Islands, The Church in the Province of the West Indies

Thursday, 13 January 2022

1703 Baddiley

C: Amanda Pike, Dorothy Woods. LM: Ron High, Elizabeth Falding, Cynthia Gorton, Roger Haworth.

Jebba, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Friday, 14 January 2022

1704 Burleydam

C: Amanda Pike, Dorothy Woods. LM: Ron High, Elizabeth Falding, Cynthia Gorton, Roger Haworth, Debbie Rowlands.

Jerusalem, The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

Saturday, 15 January 2022

1705 Church Minshull

C: Anne Lawson.

San Joaquin, The Episcopal Church, USA

Sunday, 16 January 2022

Second Sunday of Epiphany

What makes church life, family life, friendships work well? It's the race to the bottom. That seems to be the thinking in one of our lectionary readings today. How are the Christians in Rome to treat one another well? By each putting others above themselves. 'Be devoted to one another... honour one another above yourselves... share... practice hospitality... bless those who persecute you... mourn with those who mourn... I live in harmony... do not be proud'.

Perhaps the word race sounds a bit competitive, but this is to be our instinct and our determination. And how important it is at the moment, as frustration and restriction colour our daily lives and we find it hard not to be short with other people. This is difficult, but we are greatly helped by remembering Jesus Christ, the one who got to the bottom before us, who took the very nature of a servant, who first loved us.

As we pray today, perhaps we might think of him, devoted, honouring us, sharing all with us, blessing those who persecuted him, mourning with us in our suffering. And perhaps we might use this prayer, written by the novelist Jane Austen:

'Give us grace to endeavour after a truly Christian spirit
to seek to attain that temper of forbearance and patience
of which our blessed Saviour has set us the highest example;
and which, while it prepares us for the spiritual happiness of the life to come,
will secure to us the best enjoyment of what this world can give.'

Peter Froggatt, Director of Outreach

The Church of England

Monday, 17 January 2022

1706 Coppenhall

C: John Leal.

Johannesburg, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

Tuesday, 18 January 2022

1707 Crewe All Saints and St Paul

C: Oliver Igwe, Peter Bennett, Suzanne Eddleston. LM: Anne Marshall.

We give thanks for all those who work so hard to continue mission and ministry in this parish during a time of such global and national challenge. Please pray for guidance as we continue to explore safer ways of proclaiming God's love and serving our communities. Please pray for the new phase of ministry in this parish as this year we welcomed a new Associate Minister and Curate. Pray that our diverse outreach programmes will flourish and that we will have adequate resources to reach out to people in need in our communities. Pray that our ministry with children, young people and schools will be fruitful.

Jos, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Wednesday, 19 January 2022

1708 Crewe St Andrew with St John the Baptist

C: Oliver Igwe, Peter Bennett, Suzanne Eddleston.

We give thanks for all those who work so hard to continue mission and ministry in this parish during a time of such global and national challenge. Please pray for guidance as we continue to explore safer ways of proclaiming God's love and serving our communities. Please pray for the new phase of ministry in this parish as this year we welcomed a new Associate Minister and Curate. Pray that our diverse outreach programmes will flourish and that we will have adequate resources to reach out to people in need in our communities. Pray that our ministry with children, young people and schools will be fruitful.

Juba, The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Thursday, 20 January 2022

1709 Crewe St Barnabas

C: Ralph Powell.

Kabba, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Friday, 21 January 2022

1712 Crewe St Peter

C: Oliver Igwe. LM: Jim Shepherd.

We give thanks for all those who work so hard to continue mission and ministry in this parish during a time of such global and national challenge. Please pray for guidance as we continue to explore safer ways of proclaiming God's love and serving our communities. Please pray for the new phase of ministry in this parish as this year we welcomed a new Associate Minister and Curate. Pray that our diverse outreach programs will flourish and that we will have adequate resources to reach out to people in need in our communities. Pray that our ministry with children, young people and schools will be fruitful.

Kadugli & Nuba Mountains, Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

Saturday, 22 January 2022

1713 Crewe Green

C: Jane Lloyd. LM: Ron Taylor, Linda Clarke, Anne Thompson.

Please pray for the growth and flourishing of the parish churches and the United Benefice.

Kaduna, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Sunday, 23 January 2022

Third Sunday of Epiphany

New Year's Resolutions!

Before Covid we regularly attended our local gym. One of the interesting things about being a member of a gym is the January rush. From early January we usually had the challenge of queuing for machines as all the new members were either inducted on the fitness equipment, or were just using it. However, by mid-February more space became available and the gym much less crowded. The New Year's fitness resolutions had lost their appeal!

We often start January with resolutions to maybe spend more time in prayer, read The Bible through the year, or even get fitter but, after only a few weeks, things start to slip and we make excuses and feel guilty.

In 2022 my plan is two-fold. The first is to set a new spiritual goal for each month, either reading The Bible in a different way or praying using a new technique. This should give me twelve different experiences and enable me to meet the Lord in different ways. Secondly, having bought an exercise bike because we couldn't go to the gym, maybe we should try using it again in 2022 – it takes a lot of dusting!

One thing you may want to consider is asking the Lord what He is calling you to do. This could be attending the 'Called to Serve' day [Called to Serve Tickets, Sat 29 Jan 2022 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#).

Whatever, we look forward to welcoming you to Foxhill in 2022.

Jonathon Green, Director of Foxhill

Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui

Monday, 24 January 2022

1714 Doddington

C: Alison Fulford. LM: Anne Draper, Jill Williams.

We would appreciate prayers for school communities – we have four church schools across the Benefice.

Bridgemere CofE School.

Kafanchan, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Tuesday, 25 January 2022

The Conversion of Paul

1715 Haslington

C: Jane Lloyd. LM: Ron Taylor, Linda Clarke, Anne Thompson.

Please pray for the growth and flourishing of the parish churches and the United Benefice.

Kagera, The Anglican Church of Tanzania

Wednesday, 26 January 2022

1716 Leighton-cum-Minshull Vernon

C: Vacant. LM: Elizabeth Morris.

Kajiado, The Anglican Church of Kenya

Thursday, 27 January 2022

1717 Nantwich

C: Mark Hart, Paul Wheeler, Vanessa Layfield. LM: Paul Ramsey, Dot Roxby, Mary Harris, Herbert Roswell, Sue Caunt.

Kajo-Keji, The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Friday, 28 January 2022

1718 Weston

C: Rachael Griffiths. LM: Margaret Hodgkinson, Ginny Lewis, Gaynor Bracey.

Kamango, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Saturday, 29 January 2022

1719 Wistaston

C: Mike Turnbull, Paul North. LM: David Illing, Ann Stubbs.

Kampala, The Church of the Province of Uganda

Sunday, 30 January 2022

Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Her silence screams through this story. Voiceless amid the raging hormones, she presents herself and her child: vulnerable but strong.

This is Candlemas. A scene unfolding around the healing body of a woman who would have been torn open in childbirth, and who was about to hear the terrifying prophecy of a sword piercing her soul at the pain she would watch her son encounter as he grew.

Luke doesn't tell us how Mary felt as she embarked on motherhood. How much did this vulnerable, sleep deprived girl sweat or hold back tears as she handed her baby over to Simeon? How much did her heart plummet as Simeon spoke of a piercing sword?

Luke says only that she was amazed. How much did her amazement overwhelm her? Thrill her? Frighten her? What would she have said, using her own words, if she had been given a voice to tell this story?

I doubt Mary was silent that day. But through the centuries since she has rarely been given a voice. One of the most prominent figures of the Christian faith, she is also perhaps one of the most idolized, silenced, and mistranslated. Dehumanised in her veneration; stripped of all that joins her with the experience of bringing life into the world: the blood, the mess, the tears – the very stuff of the Incarnation.

Seeing the light; being the light: these things are not just about who we are, what we say and do. They are about who we give a voice to. Who stands among us, gagged from telling their own story? Bringing light into the darkness of this world means making space for the silenced.

Candlemas becomes not just a festival of light, but of song. Rich, harmonised melodies both on and off beat, as thousands join their voices to Simeon, to Mary, and sing their

own stories in their own words. Purification becomes liberation. Peace becomes freedom. Salvation becomes song: the fullness of human experience shared as we who have a voice give way to the voiceless.

Jenny Bridgman, Director of Studies for Pastoral Workers / Interim IME Officer

The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean

Monday, 31 January 2022

1720 Worleston

C: Anne Lawson. LM: Ann Nicholas, Isobel Burnley.

St Oswald's Worleston CofE School.

Kano, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Tuesday, 1 February 2022

1721 Wrenbury

C: Amanda Pike, Dorothy Woods. LM: Cynthia Gorton, Ron High, Elizabeth Falding, Roger Haworth, Debbie Rowlands.

Kansas, The Episcopal Church, USA

Wednesday, 2 February 2022

Candlemas

1722 Wybunbury

C: Alison Fulford. LM: Anne Draper, Jill Williams.

We would appreciate prayers for school communities – we have four church schools across the Benefice.

Wybunbury Delves CofE School. Stapeley Broad Lane CofE School.

Western Kansas, The Episcopal Church, USA

Thursday, 3 February 2022

1723 Wettenhall

C: Anne Lawson. LM: Ann Nicholas, Isobel Burnley.

Kanyakumari, The (united) Church of South India

Friday, 4 February 2022

1724 Warmingham

C: Vacant. LM: Helan Isherwood, Elizabeth Morris.

Pray for us during our vacancy; pray for the right person to come to work with us in our lovely church and community. Pray for our village school and our monthly Saturday Church held in the Village Hall; that through these, families will be drawn into our church.

Warmingham CofE School.

Kapoeta, The Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan

Saturday, 5 February, 2022

1725 Wheelock

C: Jane Lloyd. LM: Patrica Baker.

Please pray for the growth and flourishing of the parish churches and the United Benefice.

Kapsabet, The Anglican Church of Kenya

Sunday, 6 February 2022

Fourth Sunday before Lent

When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." Luke 5.4-5

"Sorry, we tried that before and it didn't work". Maybe it is just me, but I have a suspicion I'm not the only one who will have heard these words spoken in church life when something is suggested as a possible course of action or new initiative – and I have a nasty feeling I've said it myself as well.

The fact is that Peter, an experienced fisherman, might be forgiven for wondering if a man whose area of professional expertise is wooden objects is exactly qualified to give him advice on fishing. We know better. We've tried that, thank you very much, and we can say out of long and hard experience that it didn't work.

Peter has the grace and wisdom to entertain the idea that this strange carpentry expert dispensing advice on fishing might actually be worth listening to. To haul his tired body and his maybe equally sceptical colleagues back to the nets for one last go. To be surprised (and even slightly endangered) by the blessing that comes their way when, against their better judgement, they do what Jesus is asking them to do. And for Peter and his colleagues it's a time when they hear a call to leave the thing they know about, their area of comfort and expertise, and strike out into really deep water, following Jesus into a very unclear future. In a time when many of us are tired, the future is far from clear and we as a church will need to think what God is calling us to do, can we, like Peter, dare to think that, whatever we have experienced before, maybe we need to listen to what might on the face of it sound like stupid advice from unlikely sources? Can we dare to hear God's call and respond?

Simon Chesters, Director of Ministry

The Church of Ireland

Monday, 7 February 2022

Wirral South Deanery

Karachi, The (united) Church of Pakistan

Tuesday, 8 February 2022

0901 Backford

C: Steve Mansfield.

Mollington St Oswald's CofE School.

Karamoja, The Church of the Province of Uganda

Wednesday, 9 February 2022

0902 Bromborough

C: Jenny Gillies. LM: Lynne Whittaker.

Please pray for the recovery and development of our outreach work and for the continuing development of discipleship within those who attend worship.

North Karamoja, The Church of the Province of Uganda

Thursday, 10 February 2022

0903 Burton

C: Vacant. LM: Ann Rudd, Ruth Abbott, John Morris-Best, Basil Keys.

As we write this, St Nicholas' Church, Burton in Wirral, is in a period of vacancy. We pray that The Lord will continue to bless the church as we come together as a congregation to prepare our services and also as we restart many of the activities that had been suspended during lock down. In particular we pray for our connections with young families and our youth group, The Burton Youth (TBY).

We also ask for discernment as we seek a new vicar and ask for your Guidance Lord in this process.

As we re-start our connections in the villages of Burton and Puddington and beyond after lockdown, we ask for encouragement that we might continue to be a visible face of your Kingdom to all, churched or unchuched.

We also pray for the local schools were members of this and neighbouring parishes participate in 'Open the Book' (OTB) dramatised Bible stories. During lockdown these were provided to the schools via video recordings. We pray that we might continue to reach out to the young pupils, their families and teachers as we prepare our new year of OTB presentations.

Burton Bishop Wilson CofE School.

Karimnagar, The (united) Church of South India

Friday, 11 February 2022

0904 Capenhurst

C: Steve Mansfield. LM: Jo Pemberton.

Capenhurst CofE School.

Karnataka Central, The (united) Church of South India

Saturday, 12 February 2022

0905 Eastham

C: Beth Glover, Mark Turner. LM: Anne Tork, Ray Bonnard, David Colenso, Andrew Bradley-Gibbons, Nikki Matthews, Simone Llewellyn.

Millfields CofE School.

Karnataka North, The (united) Church of South India

Sunday, 13 February 2022

Third Sunday before Lent

Think of a willow tree by a river, its long branches swaying in a summer breeze. No, that's not quite it. It's a bit too commonplace. The picture in Psalm 1 is more extraordinary. We are taken to the Middle East, to a dry land where water comes and goes. Here is a favourite fig tree, which has found itself a place by a river and so can always be counted on when the harvest comes. So many others struggle – this one flourishes. How wonderful, blessed, it is to be such a tree, rooted in the word of God and so bearing fruit reliably.

At the very start of the book of Psalms we are told why reading, pondering, soaking in these words will be worth it. Through these words, words about God and about us, about our relationships and our future, God will work to feed and refresh us. He will cause us to bear fruit, to prosper in the things of God.

Gracious and Holy Father,
give us the wisdom to discover You,
the intelligence to understand You,
the diligence to seek after You,
the patience to wait for You,
eyes to behold you,
a heart to meditate on you,
and a life to proclaim You,
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

St Benedict of Nursia

Peter Froggatt, Director of Outreach

The Nippon Sei Ko Kai

Monday, 14 February 2022

0906 Ellesmere Port

C: Gordon McGuinness, Gordon Welch, Gill Foster. LM: Frank Mawdsley, Julia McGuinness, Sue Johnson.

Ellesmere Port Christ Church CofE School.

Karnataka South, The (united) Church of South India

Tuesday, 15 February 2022

0907 Great Saughall

C: Steve Mansfield. LM: Robert Brook.

Saughall All Saints CofE School.

Kasai, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Wednesday, 16 February 2022

0908 Great Sutton

C: Antony Dutton, Ricky Montgomery.

Katakwa, The Anglican Church of Kenya

Thursday, 17 February 2022

0909 Hooton

C: Keith Howard. LM: Peter Vaughan.

Little Sutton CofE School.

Katanga, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

Friday, 18 February 2022

0910 Neston

C: Vacant, Judith Calvert. LM: Richard Lewis, Tony Cooke, Elizabeth Joyce, Lesley Irvin.

Katsina, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Saturday, 19 February 2022

Joseph of Nazareth

0911 Shotwick

C: Vacant. LM: Ruth Abbott, Basil Keys, John Morris-Best.

Kebbi, The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Sunday, 20 February 2022

Second Sunday before Lent

Roald Dahl, beside writing macabre books beloved of children around the world, was a keen gardener. He loved to know that moles were busy under his feet as he went around his garden, but did not like them building mole hills on his lawn! When that happened he would bury an empty wine bottle near the molehill, leaving only the neck of the bottle sticking up. The wind blowing across the open bottle would make a soft humming sound that persuaded the mole to move on.

Luke tells a story about Jesus' disciples experiencing a powerful wind as they sailed across Lake Galilee. It wasn't unusual, it almost certainly wasn't anything they hadn't dealt with before. Yet, like the mole, the wind causes them to re-evaluate. "Where is your faith?" Jesus asks them at the end. They have already demonstrated that by turning to him in their time of crisis; his question simply drives home what they already know.

Wind is always uncertain. Although we can use it we cannot control it. The past two years have shown that life is similarly uncontrollable. Perhaps one of the biggest shocks has been to hear skilled, knowledgeable scientists tell us they don't know. Perhaps the pandemic graphs and prevalence maps are designed to help us feel a bit of control. The truth, though, is that life is uncertain, and in its uncertainty Jesus is with us.

Liz Shercliff, Director of Studies for Readers

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

Monday, 21 February 2022

0912 Thornton Hough

C: Vicky Barrett.

Kentucky, The Episcopal Church, USA

Tuesday, 22 February 2022

0913 Willaston

C: Vacant, Lyndon Bannon.

We pray for good leadership and strong support from our church family to enable us reach out in love and service to our community. We pray for wisdom and guidance in our efforts to reorder our church building and create a more welcoming environment for all.

Willaston CofE School.

Mount Kenya Central, The Anglican Church of Kenya

Wednesday, 23 February 2022

The Ellesmere Port CofE College

Mount Kenya South, The Anglican Church of Kenya

Thursday, 24 February 2022

Stockport Deanery

Mount Kenya West, The Anglican Church of Kenya

Friday, 25 February 2022

The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

1801 Stockport with Brinnington

C: Vacant, Jessica Piper, Marie Flint. LM: Brenda Baxendale.

Brinnington St Paul's CofE School. St Thomas CofE School.

East Kerala, The (united) Church of South India

Saturday, 26 February 2022

1802 Offerton

C: Christine Rablen.

South Kerala, The (united) Church of South India

Sunday, 27 February 2022

Shrove Tuesday

As we prepare for Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent, we have joy of marking Shrove Tuesday. In a previous role we had the privilege to be part of an international Christian Community and every Shrove Tuesday we stopped to enjoyed pancake races as well as eating pancakes and other international delicacies and learning about the different ways Shrove Tuesday is celebrated in other cultures. The members of our community would prepare food and share their experiences, so it was an evening of fun before Lent started.

This year as we prepare for Lent, and possibly to eat our pancakes, why not take some time to consider how you can mark Shrove Tuesday differently and how to prepare for Lent. Sometimes we suddenly arrive at Shrove Tuesday before we have thought about how we are going to mark Lent.

So, next Tuesday as you think about the batter, the fillings (mine is still lemon and sugar!) why not look at the different resources available this Lent. At Foxhill we have a variety of retreats from quiet days to Individually Guided Retreats. information can be found at: <https://www.foxhillchester.co.uk/whats-on/>

I hope you have a great Shrove Tuesday, and we look forward to welcoming you to Foxhill soon.

Jonathon Green, Director of Foxhill

The Anglican Church of Kenya

Monday, 28 February 2022

1803 Edgeley and Cheadle Heath

C: David Brewster. LM: David Brown, Heather Adams.

Edgeley St Matthew's CofE School.

Kericho, The Anglican Church of Kenya

Tuesday, 1 March 2022

1808 Stockport St Peter

C: Vacant.

Khahlamba, The Anglican Church of Southern Africa
