



# South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

## 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 - Mothering Sunday

Hello Everyone, I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. Between last weekends snow, a couple of proper downpours and then a couple of really warm Spring days this week, it's hard to tell if March is coming in like a lamb or a lion, making it more difficult for the amateur meteorologist to predict what will be going on by the end of the month. Weather forecasting may not seem like a necessary skill for clergy and ministers, but it would be really handy. Every other Friday there is a little conversation about whether we should hold our communion service outside or retreat into the Community centre. We try to stay outside if we possibly can, if it is just cold – after all everyone is in their coats anyway – or a bit windy – which sometimes means a special liturgical role for someone to crouch beside the GoPak altar holding the order of service and linen and silver in place. A clerical weatherperson would be handy.

It would also be really handy to know ahead of time whether the weather will interrupt our Palm Sunday procession or the dawn service on Easter day. Ideally there would be very specific weather for the dawn vigil – warm and dry until 6:10am for the bonfire, lighting the candle and entry into church, followed by a heavy shower whilst the service goes on, extinguishing the bonfire so we don't have to worry about it and then fine again by 7:30am for everyone going home from the post-service bacon sandwiches. Although that precise combination doesn't happen often, it would be really useful to know what weather to plan for.

The weather is equally a source of worry for those planning weddings at our churches. The relationship between wedding photographers and clergy has been in the news lately, but we try hard to be welcoming which usually includes offering that if the weather is dreadful, the group and family photos could be taken in Church. Of course, a bit of rain need not spoil the day, but it can be difficult to convince a bride of that when she has been planning for two years.

Our reading from Colossians on Sunday is one that is often used at weddings, allowing the preacher to talk about it as advice for how the newly-weds should live together – with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forbearance and forgiveness – 'clothed with love.' Which is all very lovely – and a bit of a gift for preaching really – but that advice is actually given not to couples, but to a community. This being Paul, it's not really advice either, it's more of an instruction. "This is how you should live together as a worshipping community of Christians."

So not just an instruction, but a challenge! Whatever the weather, whether we are going through a sunny period as a church – or a family or other community - or if things are a bit more stormy, we should bear with one another. As the saying goes, there is no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong clothing. If we are really clothed with love, if the peace of Christ really rules our hearts, then we will be prepared to weather the weather – whatever the weather.

*With every blessing,*

*Anne*

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## **Family and Community News**

### **Services at Belmont Community Centre**

If you live in or near Belmont and find the journey to St Martin's difficult, or if Sunday mornings are not easy for you, you might like to join us for Friday Communion at Belmont Community Centre.

We celebrate a said service of Holy Communion at 12:30pm on the Second and Fourth Fridays of each month, following FoodShare. Everyone is very welcome to this service. The hall has level access and good ventilation – and if the weather is good we celebrate outside.

**The next services at Belmont are: 12.30pm Holy Communion – 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 12<sup>th</sup> April**

### ***Toastie and Warm at St Martin's***

On Tuesday afternoons the Narthex at St Martin's is a busy and welcoming space.

From 1pm there is a Bible Study group, all welcome.

From 2pm there is a coffee afternoon, full of conversations and information, with chocolate biscuits and, usually, home-made cakes.

Everyone is welcome to come along to any – or all – parts of the afternoon.

### **Catching up with friends – or making new ones!**

**Young at Heart -** First Thursday of each month – Lunch at the Wye Inn (contact the office so that we can book the table)

Third Thursday of each month at 2pm – Meeting in St. Martin's Church – talks, games, refreshments and friendship – everyone welcome!

### **BINGO - Thursday 21st March at 6pm in The Hereford Academy**

#### **Everyone welcome**

Hereford Academy Prom Committee are holding a fundraising Bingo. Our goal is raise money to keep Prom ticket prices as low as possible to ensure that everyone can participate.

At the end of March, Christine will be retiring from the Team Office after over 20 years as our administrator. She has seen many clergy and parishes come and go in that time, and her gifts of administration and knowledge of the patch, as well as her experience in financial management have helped her make a notable contribution to the mission and ministry of the team.

We will be formally thanking Christine at an afternoon tea at 3pm on Saturday 23rd March and everyone is very welcome to join us.

### **Lent Group – Caring for Creation**

**Every Thursday at 11am in St. Martin's Church - All welcome.**

*Making Room* is a new initiative based at St Martin's which, whilst it will not offer any formal professional mental health treatment, will offer a safe space to express any worries you may have. *Making Room* is intended for people of working age, and is about making room to have safe discussions about our mental wellness, making room to support one another, making room for mindfulness and to start or share any hobbies and interests and making room to offer hope. If you are interested in joining us please contact us and we can discuss plans further. If you wish to volunteer equally please do get in touch. Rev'd Lauren Bell [curate@stmartinshereford.org.uk](mailto:curate@stmartinshereford.org.uk) 07429 862444

## **For our Prayers**

### ***Those who are ill or in need of your prayers, including:***

James	Joan	Paul	Sheila	Ann W	Brenda B	Sue
Brooke	Christina	Betty	Mandy	Hazel	Gholam	Hugo

### ***Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:***

Dorothy..	Robert.	Ronald	Leslie	Margaret
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***Anglican Communion:*** The Episcopal Church.

***Hereford:*** Pray for our welcome offered to all who visit our churches as tourists, pilgrims or returning families. May they be both informed and challenged by buildings that tell stories of their past and also witness to a living and vibrant faith for today.

***Porvoo:*** Denmark: Ribe; England: Bath & Wells, Bishop Ruth Worsley.

***South Wye:*** Please pray for all those working locally to keep children safe.

### ***The Wider View:***

Pray that conversations at and following the Kirchentag in Nuremberg regarding curates and those in training, and possible exchanges, may bear fruit. Exchanges in the past have been very positive, and our churches face many of the same issues, problems and challenges, so there are many ways in which we can learn from each other.

On Mothering Sunday, pray for all mothers, and for all who share in the work of mothering and protecting children. Pray for the work and witness of the Mothers' Union.

In World Glaucoma Week, pray for all living with this condition, and for the work of eye specialists.

British Science Week prompts prayer for all that helps introduce school pupils to the world of science and technology, and for all who teach science subjects. The theme of the week this year is "Time."

Wednesday is National No Smoking Day. Pray for all who are trying to give up smoking, and for all whose health has been damaged by smoking.

Thursday is National University Mental Health Day. Many students face mental health problems during their time at university, and most places of higher learning now aim to offer high quality advice and support where needed. Pray for students affected by mental health issues.

In the week of Red Nose Day, pray for all taking part in fund-raising activities or responding to the appeal in other ways.

Saturday next is Disability Access Day. Pray for all those in our world who because of disability are unable to participate fully in the life of their community.

Pray for church and community choirs preparing Easter music.

## **Services on-site, online and on TV and Radio For the week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> March**

### **South Wye Services Through the Week:**

8pm Night Prayer from Common Worship – on St. Martin's Facebook page  
(Lenten Compline every Wednesday during Lent)

### **Sunday**

9:30am Holy Communion at St. Martin's  
11.15am Holy Communion at St. Peter's

### **Thursday**

10am Said Communion in St. Martin's Lady Chapel

The 9.30am service will be streamed on St. Martin's Facebook page and will be available on the St. Martin's and the St. Peter's Facebook pages and the St. Martin's YouTube channel later in the day.

### **Diocese of Hereford**

Diocese of Hereford Facebook: Sunday Service 10am.

### **Church of England**

National Weekly Service Facebook at 9am.

### **TV and Radio on Sunday;**

BBC H&W	8am	Sunday Worship.
Radio 4	8.10am	Sunday Worship- Mothering Sunday
BBC 1	1.15pm	Songs of Praise- Mothering Sunday

### **Prayer for the day:**

The Church of England website has audio and text of the Prayer for the Day.

### **Prayer for the Nation**

The Archbishops continue to invite all to call on God in Prayer. We invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love. Find more details at [churchfengland.org/resources/prayer-nation](http://churchfengland.org/resources/prayer-nation)

### **Collect for Mothering Sunday**

God of compassion, whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary, shared the life of a home in Nazareth, and on the cross drew the whole human family to himself: Strengthen us in our daily living that in joy and in sorrow we may know the power of your presence to bind together and to heal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## Readings for Mothering Sunday

### Numbers 21: 4-9

<sup>4</sup> From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup> The people spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.' <sup>6</sup> Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.' So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, 'Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.' <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

### Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures for ever.  
<sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, those he redeemed from trouble  
<sup>3</sup> and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.  
<sup>17</sup> Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities endured affliction;  
<sup>18</sup> they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.  
<sup>19</sup> Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress;  
<sup>20</sup> he sent out his word and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.  
<sup>21</sup> Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.  
<sup>22</sup> And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices, and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

### Ephesians 2: 1-10

<sup>2</sup> You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

### Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### John 3: 14-21

<sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'



## Bible Study

The perspective of the world portrayed in John's Gospel is one of contrasts: life and death, light and darkness. There is no 'in between', no shadows, no half-light. People choose: life or death, light or darkness. John picks up the imagery of the bronze serpent in this week's Old Testament reading. Just as anyone who chose to look up at the bronze serpent would live, so anyone who believes in Jesus will live. The act of looking at the serpent was an act of faith, of looking for healing; so too is looking to Jesus for healing which brings life. John's explanation of this is God's unconditional love.

The newly formed people of God in the Old Testament reading needed tangible ways to understand God and to express themselves to God. So, they were given ways of doing this – the sacrificial system, offerings, the bronze serpent. The need persists; but now, says John, God loves the world so much that God comes to the world in person – a truly tangible way of demonstrating how to live in the light.

### Reflection

'What is that noise?' Ben thought to himself as he heard the third crash coming from Sophie's bedroom followed by, once again, the sound of little feet running around. As he opened the bedroom door he saw Sophie, running full pelt up and down the length of the room, arms waving. The room was in darkness, the thick curtains closed, shutting out the sunlight. As he watched, Sophie cannoned into the bag of toys, sending one flying into the side of the wardrobe, which, as it wobbled, dropped the game balanced on its top, causing yet another crash. Ben caught Sophie as she flew past once again, and asked what was going on. 'I'm trying to get rid of the dark!' she explained. 'There's no need to chase the dark,' said Ben, as he drew the curtains. 'Look, we can let in the light!'

### Questions for reflection



### Questions

- What is this pet doing?
- Why is it desirable to stay in the light?
- What actions and behaviours might be markers of someone walking in the light of God?

# Sudoku (Easier!)

7			6	4				
				1	7	6		
	9			8	6			7
	7				1			
	4			5		1		9
			5	7		3		1
5							4	
8		6	3			5		

	3					5		
4					5	9		
8								7
9	6		4	3			8	
	8		7	1				
	4	3						
			6		7			
	9	5	1					
	1			8		7		9

8	1	6	3	9	4	5	7	2
5	3	7	1	6	2	9	4	8
9	2	4	5	7	8	3	6	1
6	4	2	7	5	3	1	8	9
3	7	8	9	2	1	4	5	6
1	9	5	4	8	6	2	3	7
2	6	9	8	3	5	7	1	4
4	8	3	2	1	7	6	9	5
7	5	1	6	4	9	8	2	3

6	1	4	5	8	3	7	2	9
7	9	5	1	2	4	8	6	3
3	2	8	6	9	7	4	5	1
1	4	3	9	5	8	6	7	2
5	8	2	7	1	6	3	9	4
9	6	7	4	3	2	1	8	5
8	5	6	3	4	9	2	1	7
4	7	1	2	6	5	9	3	8
2	3	9	8	7	1	5	4	6



Trickier!

			4	3	8		1	9
9								3
			1			6		
				5	2			
	4				6	2		
	5	3	9				8	
			6		4			1
						5	3	
8						9	6	

					8		5	
	6	4			5	9	2	
					1			
9		2	3			4		
		5				6		
		3	8		4			7
2		7		4		5		9
							1	
				6	9			

8	1	4	5	7	3	9	6	2
6	7	9	2	8	1	5	3	4
3	2	5	6	9	4	8	7	1
2	5	3	9	4	7	1	8	6
7	4	8	3	1	6	2	9	5
1	9	6	8	5	2	3	4	7
4	3	7	1	2	9	6	5	8
9	8	1	7	6	5	4	2	3
5	6	2	4	3	8	7	1	9

3	5	1	2	6	9	8	7	4
4	9	6	5	8	7	3	1	2
2	8	7	1	4	3	5	6	9
6	1	3	8	5	4	2	9	7
8	4	5	9	7	2	6	3	1
9	7	2	3	1	6	4	8	5
5	2	8	6	9	1	7	4	3
1	6	4	7	3	5	9	2	8
7	3	9	4	2	8	1	5	6

Wordsearch based on Ephesians 2: 1-10

J	M	Z	C	B	T	R	N	D	L	R	O	W	P	H
N	E	C	N	O	I	B	Y	H	S	E	L	F	Q	W
N	G	N	I	W	O	L	L	O	F	R	H	H	I	E
E	K	R	I	A	N	Q	N	Z	F	A	I	T	H	C
R	R	I	C	H	E	S	E	D	E	I	C	D	B	R
D	H	A	Y	Y	C	D	V	W	V	S	D	E	G	H
L	O	W	N	V	P	L	A	D	L	E	L	V	I	G
I	T	I	R	I	P	S	E	P	A	D	S	A	F	U
H	T	A	R	W	L	T	H	D	V	N	E	S	T	O
C	O	U	R	S	E	C	L	A	O	P	O	W	E	R
D	E	S	I	R	E	S	D	I	G	R	A	C	E	H
B	X	B	Q	S	Z	R	S	W	G	S	H	A	X	T
Z	L	P	F	E	I	S	R	R	N	A	T	U	R	E
M	K	S	D	I	A	N	A	F	C	Y	U	T	X	J
P	L	E	H	P	Y	W	S	A	V	D	D	R	D	R

DEAD  
SINS  
LIVED  
NATURE

POWER  
SPIRIT  
FLESH  
FAITH

WRATH  
SAVED  
HEAVENLY  
WORLD

THROUGH  
ONCE  
FOLLOWING  
COURSE

AIR  
PASSIONS  
DESIRES  
CHILDREN

GRACE  
RAISED  
RICHES  
GIFT