



South Wye Team Ministry Newsletter

Sunday 28th February 2021

Lent 2

Hello Everyone - I hope that you are safe and well and that your feet are dry!

As I write this, the Prime Minister is announcing the 'road map' towards lifting C-19 restrictions on social and other gatherings. The plans seem to be very measured and careful, which is reassuring. When I was a youngster, one of the highlights of the Summer holidays would be a day trip, or maybe two, to Borth. The whole journey was really exciting, and there was a competition to see who could be the first to see the sea. Long before that, though – sometimes somewhere around Rhayader – Mum would take a deep breath as she claimed to scent the 'sea air.' As we look forward with excitement to the lifting of the rules and restrictions, we are not yet able definitely to see the ocean, but we can maybe start to smell the sea air.

We will need to take some time now to work out the direct implications of these changes for us as a community and a church and we will await guidance from the national Church and the Diocese about our activities and services, but are likely to err on the side of caution. It looks as though I have the exciting prospect of a return visit to our Risk Assessments too, which is always thrilling, as you can imagine. We are also working out how we can ensure that we maintain our online provision when we eventually return to onsite services.

Are you joining our *Wye Lent* journey? If you are using the Bible Study in your household, or the family reflections, please let us know about any questions that arise. The study from the booklet is also included in this newsletter. Send in a 'photo of your crafts and makes too. If you have not joined the online study group yet, you are welcome to join in later weeks, just get in touch for the link.

Lots of journeys and maps this week. The national journey towards an end to lockdown, our Church journey through Lent towards Holy Week and Easter, our community journey towards reopening and recovery and our own individual journeys, which can sometimes take us through rocky and deserted high places before we turn the corner and see the glittering sea spread out before us. There is a huge comfort in the knowledge that whether we know it or not, whether we like it or not, Christ is alongside us every step of the way. As we seek to follow his path this Lent, it is a good time to look around for others who might be finding their journey tricky at the moment. Who do you know who needs a companion on the road? How can you help them to know that they are not travelling alone?

Thank you all, for all that you do as part of our Church family.
With every blessing to you all,

Anne
rector@stmartinshereford.org.uk
07864938898

Family and Community News

Marian Wilce has been admitted to Wye Ward at the County Hospital after being taken ill at home. We are keeping Marian in our prayers and hope that she is feeling more comfortable soon.

We have had the sad news that Simon Ranyard, Michael's son, was found dead in his flat last week. The cause of death has not yet been established. Please keep Michael, Sue and the whole family including Simon's children Harry, Jack and Sam in your prayers.

Don't forget **Tuesday Morning Coffee over Zoom** – although you do have to bring your own coffee these days! Everyone is welcome! find the links on Facebook at *Cosy Cuppa and a Chat* or contact Jo for details

It's lovely to welcome Andy and Carolyn Dodwell and their family, who have moved into the Vicarage at 1 Holme Lacy Road. Andy is the Associate Vicar of St Peter's, across the river and since he started his role in November they have been living in the Rectory at St Nicolas whilst works were carried out at the Vicarage. Please say hello to Andy and Carolyn if you see them around and about the parish. Although Andy's work is not based here, we are likely to see quite a bit of him – I am anticipating that Rev Andy Dodwell at the Vicarage and Rev Anne Dowdeswell at the Rectory will be getting quite a bit of one another's mail and parcels (and, with a bit of luck, pizzas!) *Anne*

Volunteers needed Are you resuming your Lockdown walks? Would you be able to include a covid safe doorstep delivery. of our newsletters or monthly Superstars packs to addresses near you? Please let me know if you are able to help. Many thanks *Anne*

I know how much Gillian's previous book was appreciated so it's lovely to see that she has a new one out for Easter. Anne

'The Promised Saviour' book by Gillian Pegler This Easter devotional (written for prisoners but applicable to everyone) begins on Mothering Sunday with a short chapter to read each day for the following 26 days. The book investigates Old Testament prophecies about the death and resurrection of the Suffering Servant and how they were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the Promised Saviour. The final chapters look at events immediately after the resurrection – the Emmaus Rd conversation, the Great Commission, Jesus' ascension to heaven and Pentecost – and consider our own journey of discipleship. Copies cost £5 each and are available from the Team Office.

St Martin's Food Share Every Monday at 10am at St Martin's Church and at 11am at the Scout Hut we have surplus food which has given to us to share with our community. As well as the spare produce from Supermarkets, we will also be sharing some of the FareShare Winter Support Package from Defra. Everyone is welcome - Tell your neighbours and come along with a bag – and a mask! The list usually includes bread, fresh veg, packets and tins. Check St Martin's Facebook Page for extra slots and sites for distribution. Thank you to our volunteers who help to make this possible. *David*

Family and Community News

I know that I don't say it nearly often enough, but I'd like to say thank you to everyone who helps with our on-line services, especially our readers and intercessors, Jo who films the services and John who plays and cantors. Thank you.

Anne

I hope that you are enjoying our monthly Aspiration magazine during lockdown. If you are not receiving one and would like to, please leave a message on the office phone (01432 353717) and we will try to put you on our distribution list. Our distributors are obviously unable to collect any money at the moment but if you would like to put the money into the Team Office letter box that would be very helpful. Otherwise we will see you when circumstances allow.

Gillian

ECHO have been part of the St Martin's Church Family for a long time, based in the St Martin's Centre.

Handmade Ear Savers If you have to wear a mask for any length of time, you probably have found that your ears get sore. These relieve the pressure on the ears and also stop the mask going astray if you have to pull it down to eat or drink. They are made of acrylic yarn; they are then washed in the washing machine before being individually packaged and quarantined for 72 hours. I'm using leftover yarn and repurposed buttons. If you require a specific colour, let me know, and if I have it available, I will do my best to oblige. £35 raised so far, but I'd like to raise lots more. Tell your friends and family! Or better still, buy ear savers for them all - trust me, they'll thank you for it. To order, email Lyndsay at lyndsay.maples@echoherefordshire.co.uk £2 each plus 90p for first class postage and packaging (payable via PayPal) Buy 4, get one free. Contactless pick up can be arranged (cash on collection). All money raised will go to ECHO Herefordshire, a charity that looks after the wellbeing of people with learning disabilities.



The Wednesday crafting group would like to have a Christmas installation at St Martin's, see pic for idea. We need knitters, and help from gents and ladies with carpentry skills, and ideas as we don't want to copy. A suggestion is that we incorporate knitted scarves which could be distributed after Christmas to those in need, once washed and dried!

If you would like to be involved please contact Sue Cockroft or Jackie Nevill, we can supply yarn.

07754 952053

suecockroft@googlemail.com

07552 384702

jackinevill1940@gmail.com



For our Prayers

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

Gaynor C	Ann W	Carol	Lee	Roger	Dot G	Marcia R
Oliver	Chrissie	Hana	Joe D	Nick D	Brenda B	Immie B
Bob	Harry	Viv	Helen	Barbara W	Andrea	Marie
Emma	Marcia	Beris	Daphne	Yvonne	Rob	Marian

Those who have died and those who mourn their loss:

Eileen	Jeannette	Gordon	Pamela	Clifford	Leslie	Edward
William	Ronald	Simon	Phillip			

Anglican Communion: Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America

Porvoo: England: Ireland: Down & Dromore,

Hereford: Pray for the care, conservation and creative use of our church buildings, as places of worship and fellowship, and at the heart of the local community. Pray for all working to ensure safety, cleanliness and Covid security in these challenging times.

South Wye: Pray for those suffering from the consequences of the flooding, especially those who were badly affected in 2020.

This Week: The last Sunday in February is kept as Rare Disease Day. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness of rare diseases with policy makers and the public. Though each disease may be rare, some 300 million people worldwide suffer from these diseases. Those with these diseases - over 6000 different conditions, each of which is experienced by only a small number of people - may experience misdiagnosis or even a refusal to take reported symptoms seriously. Pray for greater awareness and research.

On St David's Day, Monday, pray for our neighbour the Church in Wales, for the people of Wales, and for the fifteen Welsh churches in our own Diocese.

Tuesday is the day of St Chad, the first bishop of our neighbour diocese, Lichfield

The Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal happens at this time too: pray for the work of Marie Curie nurses in our communities, for those supported by their work, and for its funding.

This is also Eating Disorders Awareness Week. Many young people - perhaps in growing numbers - suffer from eating disorders such as Anorexia and Bulimia, which may be linked to bullying, body image issues, or stress. Pray for better understanding of the varied causes of these disorders, and for effective response and treatment. Another issue affecting many young people is self-harming. Self Injury and Harm Awareness Day (SIAD) aims to focus attention on this issue worldwide, and always takes place on 1st March.

This is also National Careers Week. The economic downturn resulting from Covid will have impacted on young people considering career choices, and will also require many people to retrain and change direction. Pray for all who offer advice, support and funding for training or retraining.

World Hearing Day on March 3rd prompts prayers for all who live with hearing loss, for research and development to help with hearing issues, and for those within our churches who struggle to hear.

Pray for the work of our Diocesan Synod and Board of Finance, as its members meet this week

Services online and on TV and Radio

South Wye Services

Through the Week: 8am and 8pm daily Morning and Night Prayer on St Martin's Facebook.

Sunday 28th February;

10:00am Holy Communion for Lent 2 - St Martin's and St Peter's Facebook pages and the St Martins YouTube channel. An audio version of the service is also available by calling 01432806066

There will be no onsite Sunday Services in St Martin's or St Peter's this Sunday. To listen to an audio version of the Communion service, call 01432 806066 after noon on Sunday – the service will be available for the whole week. This will cost you the same per minute as a local 'phone call. There is a message and then some silence before the service starts – don't panic, if you have heard the message then the service will start before long.

Tuesday 2nd March: 7:00pm Online Bible Study Group Wye Lent – email david.bland@hereford.anglican.org for details of how to join the online group

Thursday 4th March: 10:00am My Perspective reflection as part of the Wye Lent course

Diocese of Hereford

Diocese of Hereford Facebook: Sunday Service 10am.

Diocese Freephone Prayerline: Dial 0800 304 7052 to hear a prayer.

Church of England

National Weekly Service Facebook at 9:00am.

TV and Radio on Sunday 28th February;

BBC H&W 8am Sunday Worship.

Radio 4 8.10 am Sunday Worship The Archbishop of Wales leads a service marking St David's Day

BBC 2 1:15pm Songs of Praise – from Tintern Abbey Monmouthshire.

Prayer for the day:

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

Prayer for the Nation

In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer. Starting on 1 February 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 [churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation)

Bible Study

This week's study from our Wye Lent course – please contact David on david.bland@hereford.anglican.org for details of how to join the online group on Tuesday evening.

Reading Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them 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.'

Bible notes We have heard that Abraham and Sarah are universal figures, giving rise to the multitude of nations. Here Jesus as 'the Son of Man' is the prototype of a humanity that is God's delight (Psalm 8.4), the one whose faithfulness and love will triumph over the forces of oppression and destruction. The Scriptures characterise Satan as the source of this opposition to God's purposes, and as resentful of God's delight in humanity's holiness (see Job 1-2). We heard in last week's reading that as soon as God had said to Jesus, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased', Satan tested him in the wilderness (1.11-13). Now Jesus recognises Satan at work again as Peter tries to deflect him from his faithfulness to God in his service of others. Jesus refuses to succumb to this temptation to disobey God by focusing on human ambition rather than divine providence. This seems to reverse the story of Adam and Eve's succumbing to the serpent's temptation to disobey God (Genesis 3.1-7).

That disobedience led to recriminations that fractured relationships, but Jesus' obedience establishes a new community as he invites others to follow his generous way of self-giving to others, letting go of selfish ambition 'for the sake of the good news' of God's glorious purpose for humanity. Despite the necessary rebuke, six days later Peter is included in Jesus' transfiguration, helping him to see that the way of the cross is indeed the path to glory.

Reflection How do you cope with disagreement? For lots of reasons, each of us reacts differently when people disagree with us or one another. Perhaps you know people, especially leaders, who you'd be frightened to disagree with because they might reject you! Jesus seems to have created an atmosphere among his friends where they weren't afraid. Peter is quite confident in his contradiction of Jesus. And Jesus is comfortable to disagree with Peter – very strongly. But is Peter kicked out of the group? Is Peter rejected? Far from it – in fact, just a few verses further in chapter 9, we read that Jesus chooses Peter with James and John for a special experience. If we are to grow as people of faith, we need to be able to create an environment where we feel safe enough to disagree but know we will not be rejected. How can we do that?

Questions

- ❖ How easy would you find it to speak up in a situation like this?
- ❖ What topics would you be prepared to speak up about, even with fear of rejection?
- ❖ How do you react when there is conflict or disagreement?
- ❖ Does this reading help you to find light in following Jesus?

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Lent 2

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HOLINESS
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HUMANITY
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PETER
PROFIT
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RELATIONSHIP
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SATAN
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SON OF MAN
SUFFERING
TEMPTATION

