



Newsletter and Notices

Sunday 21st February 2021 First Sunday of Lent



NO 8AM HOLY COMMUNION

10am Service of the Word, in Church & via [Zoom](#)

You are welcome to share in our worship in the following ways:

1. **Come to Church** All are welcome! Remember to bring your order of service.
2. **Join with Zoom on your computer**
When you are signed in you can 'Join a Meeting'.
Derek's Meeting ID 927 480 8728, Passcode 889123.
3. **Join with Audio Zoom via phone**
 - a) Call **0131 460 1196**
 - b) Enter Meeting ID: **927 480 8728** followed by #
 - c) You may be asked to enter Participant ID: press #
 - d) Enter Meeting Passcode: **889123** followed by #

You will be muted automatically when you join the 'meeting' (service).

Whether or not you might like to do this, let's be aware of the prayerful communion in God's Spirit that we all share, wherever we are, whether or not we are able to talk, video-call or communicate with one another.

A Psalm for The First Sunday of Lent, Psalm 25

Refrain: Remember, Lord, your compassion and love.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to shame,
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.
Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you have I hoped all the day long.
Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. **[R]**
Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions,
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.
Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.
He will guide the humble in doing right and teach his way to the lowly.
All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. **[R]**

*Free us, God of mercy,
from all that keeps us from you;
relieve the misery of the anxious and the ashamed
and fill us with the hope of peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Collect for The First Sunday of Lent

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. Amen.

Gospel for The First Sunday of Lent, Mark 1. 9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

An anthem for today

On this day last year, the Choir sang *is 'O Lord my God'* (Wesley). You might like to listen to [this version](#) sung by Gloucester Cathedral Choir.

O Lord my God,
Hear thou the prayer thy servant prayeth,
Have thou respect unto his prayer?
Hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place,
And when thou hearest Lord, forgive.

Lent for Young People – Whilst it's not practical for our families to meet, do have a look and explore the links on our [Children and Young People](#) page: each week in Lent there will be fresh and inspiring resources including **prayers, games, quizzes and videos**.

Also -

- There's a [printable sheet on our website](#) which offers a prayer and activities that will help young people get to know the person of Jesus. This week's is based on the Gospel reading from Mark.
- You might like to revisit the Godly Story, 'Baptism of Jesus'. It's a fantastic visual version of the scriptures, with wondering questions for families to share together. The video's on YouTube [here](#).

If you'd like the Prayer Chain to pray for some concern which is on your heart, please make your prayer request to the coordinator: diane.pettitt@hotmail.com / 461845. Requests are strictly confidential to the Prayer Chain, who will simply pray as asked and a request won't lead to further contact or action.



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Keeping in touch – With so much disruption to church worship and activities over the past 11 months now, it has been hard to keep as connected as a community as we would like. We've tried, through general email and website messages, hard-copy delivery to those not online, plus phone calls, personal emails, letters and even Zoom-chats, to offer ways of staying in touch. Thanks to all the very many people who have played a part in that, and for all the informal reaching-out that has been going on so that we can support one another. Above all let's keep one another in our regular prayers. But if you feel you have 'slipped the net' and missed having contact with anyone from church for a while, do let the Parish Office know by phone, letter or email. A member of the ministry team will be happy to be in touch, to talk and listen, as we try to stay connected and help one another, while pandemic and lock down persist. Thank you.

Singing in Services – Due to recent changes in government guidance, we sadly cannot invite a scratch choir to sing together anymore. Would anyone be willing to offer ministry either as a lone Cantor, and/or, conceivably, as a member of a small, household/bubbled singing group? Would anyone like to sing on a Wednesday, too? Please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.

Portland Child Contact Centre – One of the charities that's associated to Churches Together in Bishop's Stortford is looking for new trustees and Saturday volunteers. See the advert on our website [Notices Page](#) for more information.

Ministry with Children, Youth and Families at St Michael's – Following discussion at a recent PCC, there will be opportunity for all who wish to share in a conversation about ministry with young people, and its challenges and opportunities. This will be at **7:45pm on Tuesday 2nd March** (ID 846 662 9590, Passcode 834900). All welcome; you may like to let the Parish Office know you plan to attend, to help indicate numbers. We hope to have a general discussion, but also consider re-activating plans for a Families Minister appointment, which has been on hold during the pandemic. Please hold all this in your prayers. Thank you, Derwyn.

The Charities Support Group is having a Lent Red Bucket Appeal – We would usually raise money through Lent Lunches at this time. We will split the money between Mary's Meals, who we always support through the Lent Lunches, and The Church Army. For more information on the charities, and details on how to donate, please see the [CSG page](#) on our website. A Red Bucket will also be in church during services on Sundays and Wednesdays.

**The church is open for personal prayer
from 11am to 1pm every day.**

An opportunity to spend some comforting time in prayer, peace and reflection.

Piano music is played on Tuesdays 11-11:30am and on Fridays 12-12.30pm.

Prayers for our Community via Zoom, Saturday 20th February 9:30am – A half hour session of informal prayer (ID 458 034 0358, Passcode 435609). All welcome.

Holy Communion, Wednesday 24th February, 10am – On Wednesday we will have a service of Holy Communion, in church and via Derwyn's Zoom. You can also dial in by phone; instructions on previous page. (Meeting ID 846 662 9590, Passcode 834900).

Lent resources –

- *Hope in the Wilderness*, a Lent message from the Vicar, is on our [Lent page](#).
- The Vicar has prepared a private prayer leaflet which enables individual act of penitence, at home or in church, either on Ash Wednesday or throughout Lent. Alternatively, you might like to use it online as a small group. The leaflet and a psalm are on the [Lent page](#).
- *'The Bible - A Story That Makes Sense of Life'*, was published last year and received with enthusiasm by the clergy team and others. The book links closely to an eight week course produced by the author and the Bible Society and, as of the start of 2021, this course can now be shared via Zoom. Again, the details are on the Lent page of our website. The clergy team warmly invite you to take the opportunity during Lent and beyond to engage with this course and, in a fresh way, to get the BIG picture of the Bible story as you engage with it day by day.
- We also offer the opportunity to share in a ten minute Zoom prayer from church, at 12noon on Tuesdays 23rd February - 30th March (ID 846 662 9590, Passcode 834900). The order, 'Prayer During the Day', is on the [Lent page](#).

Zoom prayer with June on Mondays – A support chat and prayer room each week. If you're interested in joining, do call her for more details (771756).

More details of all services and events are available on the [Calendar](#) page on our website.

Do follow us on Social Media too, for regular updates.

The Rev'd Derwyn Williams (Vicar)	653867	Churchwarden: Rosemary Thomson	758389	
The Rev'd Derek Hinge (PTO)	652173	Deputy Churchwardens:		
The Rev'd June Knight (PTO)	771756	Terry Pigram, Peter Rixson, Roger Sudbury		
Rob Klincke (Reader)	833523	Parish Office	01279 654416	
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