

Sunday 18th February 2024

First Sunday of Lent

8.00 a.m. BCP Communion

10.00 a.m. Morning Worship

12 noon Lent Lunch

4.00 p.m. Tea-Time Church

Collect for Today

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Service Readings

Genesis 9:8-17 (*p.7*), 1 Peter 3:18-end (*p.232*) and Mark 1:9-15 (*p.33*)

Please pray for

... Marian Bounds, Paul Fenner and Kat Gillett.

... the family and friends of Arthur Harris, Rosalind Gardner and Irene Scurfield whose anniversary of death is at this time

... those who live and work in The Oval, The Quadrangle and The Square.

... the Koens family in Papua New Guinea supporting the work of Bible translation through vehicle maintenance, teaching, missionary care.

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Donations

These are the ways we encourage everyone to give:

- The collection during the third hymn
- The collection plate at the back
- The contactless donation machine at the back
- The QR code to take you to our online giving page
- By setting up a standing order to All Saints



Don't forget to Gift Aid if you can! Thank you.

Dear Friends

On this, the first Sunday of Lent, we stand on the threshold of forty days full of symbolism and anticipation. Our readings this morning are similarly expectant and full of images of water, the spirit and rebirth. We face trials and testing, but we wait with hope, and eagerly look forward to the promise of new life.

Our trials and testing during Lent can be self-imposed, a spiritual exercise in subduing our desires in order to give ourselves more fully to God in preparation for Holy Week. Or we may find that these trials and tests have come along with life and are not of our making. However, we are being tested today, we can have the hope that Christ has gone before us to show us that even through suffering we can look for renewal and resurrection ahead.

God Bless,

Julie

Mission Focus for February: Global Hope In Action (GHIA)

GHIA is a new mission partner for us this year. It is a Christian humanitarian aid organisation and we will particularly support their work in Armenia. They have been working in the rural north near the town of Spitak since 2015. Initially helping Syrian refugees, GHIA has more recently focused on the needs of Armenian communities near Spitak which have suffered from high unemployment and social deprivation for many years. Please pray for Armenia and especially for the Calvary Church Jrashen and its pastor, Mxitar Hakobyan, as they reach out to many in need and show the love of Jesus in action. See the article in the February magazine or visit globalhopeinaction.org.uk for more details.

Notices

Thanks to everyone who helped at Saturday's work morning. It's only with your help that we can keep this place looking beautiful.

Lent Lunch: TODAY in the hall at 12 noon. No need to book, just turn up. We'll be collecting for 'Global Hope in Action' and the Koens Family (either cash or contactless).

Lent Course: begins this Wednesday from 7.30pm to 9.00pm over Zoom, and continues each week until Wednesday 20th March. Last call to book your place! Speak to Beverly or Trish if you'd like to join us.

Hard of Hearing Group: On Monday 19th February at 3pm, Graham and Rebecca Brown will be talking about their adventures in China and Africa. Everyone is welcome. This will follow the Hearing Clinic at 2pm. Ring Mike on 569825 to make an appointment for the clinic.

Orchard Project Volunteer Morning: We're meeting on Saturday 24th from 10am to plant a fruit tree, prepare the raised beds and to mend the fence around wild flower garden. Do come and help if you can, so we can see our orchard flourish!

Stewardship Sunday: 25th February. At this time every year we review our finances and set a budget for the year ahead. We'll be encouraging everyone to review their regular giving to All Saints, and asking those who don't give regularly to consider doing so. More information to follow on 25th and by email.

Youth Group: Our next meeting is next Sunday, 25th February, 5.30pm. Please let Jeanette know (jeanette.whiteman@gmail.com) if your secondary school age child would like to come. It's a lot of fun!

Are you on our Electoral Roll? – each year, prior to our annual meeting, we revise the Electoral Roll. If you're not on the roll, please think of joining. Talk to Richard Pointer (576785) to find out more. Forms are available on the website and in the foyer

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting is due to take place on Sunday 17th March, at 11.15am. This year we will be saying farewell and thank you to five of our PCC members (Peter Nicholls, Rob Crossingham, Andy Wells, Ed Gillett and Angela Rose). If you might be willing to take up one of these vacancies on the PCC, please let Trish know. Also, we're looking for two Assistant Wardens, to support Robin and Carolyn in their work; again, if you might be willing to consider this role, please let Beverly or Trish know.

Diary for the Coming Week

Morning prayer Mon, Tues, Weds 9.15am in the Reading Room and Zoom.

Thurs Holy Communion at 9.30am in the Reading Room.

Mon 19th Women's Bible Study Group, 32 Testard Road and Zoom,
12.30pm

Hearing Clinic, Reading Room, 2.00pm

Hard of Hearing Group, Reading Room, 3.00pm

Big Build Steering Group, Vicarage, 7.30pm

Tues 20th Standing Committee, Reading Room, 7.30pm

Weds 21st Dray Court Lent Service, 2.30pm

Lent Course – week 1, Zoom, 7.30pm

Thu 22nd Holy Communion, Reading Room, 9.30am

Choir Rehearsal, 8.00pm

Fri 23rd Toddler Group, Church, 9.30am

Friday Group, Reading Room, 3.00pm

Sat 24th Orchard Project Volunteer Morning, 10.00am-1.00pm

Sun 25th *Stewardship Sunday*

Family Communion with Children's Church, 10.00am

Tea-Time Church, Reading Room, 4.00pm

Youth Group, Church Hall, 5.30pm

Daily Readings for the coming week

Mon 19th Ps. 44, Genesis 41:25-45, Galatians 3:23-4:7

Tues 20th Ps. 48, Genesis 41:46-42:5, Galatians 4:8-20

Weds 21st Ps. 6, Genesis 42:6-17, Galatians 4:21-5:1

Thurs 22nd Ps. 42, Genesis 42:18-28, Galatians 5:2-15

Fri 23rd Ps. 22, Genesis 42:29-end, Galatians 5:16-end

Sat 24th Ps. 63, Genesis 43:1-15, Galatians 6

Service Readings for Sunday 25th February: Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 4:13-end and Mark 8:31-end

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