



**St Andrew's Whittlesey, St Mary's Whittlesey,
St Thomas' Pondersbridge and Holy Trinity Coates
Church of England Team Ministry:**

www.wpcteam.org.uk

Sunday 14 February 2021

Service s 14 February 2021 The Sunday next before Lent Green

09.30am Zoom Morning Praise
 Holy Trinity Holy Communion

2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9

Collect. Holy God, you know the disorder of our sinful lives: set straight our crooked hearts, and bend our wills to love your goodness and your glory in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Anniversaries 7 - 20 February 2021

St Andrew's: Olive Pearl Kewish 8 Harriet Ann Green 10 Kate Brittan 11 Alistair James Jeffrey 11
Samuel Frederick Hilliam 11 Jean Mary Barnes 11 Clare Louise Wade 12
William Edward Band 12 Alma Harrison 14 James William Knigh Ellen Kathleen Wilson 18
Constance Audrey May Hilliam 19 Jane Martin 20

St Thomas': Anthony William (Tony) Howell 15

Holy Trinity: Audrey Joan Cross 8 Ella May Dale 8 Ethel Burgundy 13 Rose Mary Rippin 15
Stanley George Butcher 18

St Mary's: James George Marriott 9 Dorothy Wilson 12 Andrew Malcolm Lindsey 13

Monday 15 – Saturday 20 February 2021

Monday	M P	Psalm 44	Jeremiah 1	John 3:1-21
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 48	Jeremiah 2:1-13	John 3:22-end
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 38	Daniel 9:3-5,17-19	1 Timothy 6:6-19
Thursday	M P	Psalm 77	Jeremiah 2:14-32	John 4:1-26
Friday	M P	Psalm 3,7	Jeremiah 3:6-22	John 4:27-42
Saturday	M P	Psalm 71	Jeremiah 4:1-18	John 4:43-end

Mid-week Communion Service - Ash Wednesday 17 February 9.15am Holy Trinity

Service s 21 February 2021 The First Sunday of Lent Purple

09.30am Zoom Morning Praise
 Holy Trinity Holy Communion

Mid-week Communion Service 24 Wednesday 9.15am Holy Trinity

A Prayer for the world

God of love and hope, you made the world and care for all creation, but the world feels strange right now. The news is full of stories about Coronavirus. Some people are worried that they might get ill. Others are anxious for their family and friends. Be with them and help them to find peace. We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists, and all who are working to discover the right medicines to help those who are ill. Thank you that even in these anxious times, you are with us. Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe. Amen

A prayer for those who mourn Gracious God, as we remember before you the thousands who have died, surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion. Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair, and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus for daily use. Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Ely Prayer We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for all your gifts to us in the past. We look to you as fellow-traveller and faithful companion on the way ahead. Shelter and protect us from all harm and anxiety; give us grace to let go of all that holds us back; and grant us the courage to meet the new life you have promised us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Please remember in your prayers those who are in residential homes, hospital or hospice & those known personally to us including:

Marie Rogers, Terry Randells, Emma Aindow-Gregory, Lizzie Monk, Joan Kefford, Cheryl Tyner, Richard Willows, Mavis Connor, Joyce Jackson, Mary Widgery, Tony Barnett, Tom Cullup, Megan Randall, Eunice/Brian Smithyman

Let us remember in our prayers

- all those working for the NHS and in research and the pharmaceutical industry
- all those who cannot work from home and have no choice but to be at risk of becoming infected and infectious
- those in severe economic need and those relying on foodbanks
- those struggling with their mental health in this third lockdown
- our friends in the Diocese of Kigali
- our friends in the Diocese of Vellore
- refugees living in unsanitary conditions
- the people of those countries who are a long way from obtaining vaccine
- all those with the responsibilities of leadership during this pandemic: locally, nationally and across the world.

The families and friends of those who have recently died:

Barbara Jordan Edna May Anthony Judy Stewart Angela Cullup

Mary Childs funeral was held 4 March Cam Valley Crematorium

Ronald Harding 15 February Peterborough Crematorium 11.00am

Raymond (Keith)Bielawski 18 February Peterborough Crematorium 10.30am

Cyril Feekins 23 February St Mary's 12.45am followed by burial Whittlesey Cemetery 1.30pm

Winifred(June) Read 24 February Peterborough Crematorium 11.00am

To support you with your daily prayer and contact with the wider church please make use of the following websites.

Church of England. <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

Prayer online. <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online>

Diocese of Ely. <https://www.elydiocese.org/>

Ely Cathedral. <https://www.elycathedral.org/worship-at-home>

The diocesan prayer calendar can be found at

<https://www.elydiocese.org/growing-in-faith/prayer-calendar/>

Ministry Team - Contacts

ASSISTANT PARISH PRIEST

REV'D MICHAEL JONES. 01733-203588 - michael.jones123@sky.com

REV'D Phil Marsh 07766 314957 – phil.marsh@elydiocese.org

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS (READERS)

MR JOHN CHRISP 01733 844336 - johnchrisp@yahoo.com

MR ROGER BROWN 01733 202884 - rogerbrown41@hotmail.co.uk

MRS JANE RANDELLS 07870 942362 - jane.randells@gmail.com (Editor)

If there is anything that we can do to help, listen, collect something, pray, that will help you through this time please be assured that we will do our very best, please use contacts above.

Notices

Lent Course We are planning on holding a Lent Course with our four Churches this year, we will assume all those who came to the Prayer Course would like to attend, if not please pass your name to Laura Whitehouse or Jane Randells, if you would like to join please let us know so that zoom codes can be sent. Do feel free to share the zoom code to anyone that asks for it.

Additions to Newsletter If you have anything that you would like to share with members of our congregations through the Newsletter, please send to Jane our editor. It may be something in the parish you would like everyone to know about or perhaps something more personal - things that have encouraged me, or places where I have seen God at work. We would love to hear from you.

Help needed The ministry team would like to request assistance with the notice sheet. We are looking for someone who can take on the responsibility for editing the notice sheet each week. If you would be willing, and want to find out what would be involved please email or ring any of the ministry team.

I don't want to talk about it

It was almost time for the LORD to take Elijah by a whirlwind up into heaven... Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here. The LORD has told me to go to Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you live, I won't leave you." ... The groups of prophets at Bethel came out to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know the LORD will take your master away from you today?" Elisha said, "Yes, I know, but don't talk about it." (2Kings 2:1-3 NLT)

The fact that Elijah was soon to be taken up to heaven by God seems to have been common knowledge amongst the prophets in those days. Three times in 2 Kings chapter 2 groups of prophets approach Elisha with the same question. "Do you know the Lord will take your master away today?" Three times, Elisha replies the same way. "Yes, but don't talk about it!" The NIV renders Elisha's reply as - *'Yes, I know, so be quiet.'* The NRSV has Elisha a bit more brusque- *"Of course I know. But be quiet about it."* I suspect we can all empathise with Elisha. He's about to lose Elijah - his teacher, master and friend, albeit in glorious fashion in a flaming chariot straight up to heaven. This change that is coming is going to be significant. If we were in any doubt the narrative has them crossing the Jordan, which is in itself a symbolic act recalling times of significant change and transition for the people of God in times past. Little wonder Elisha has no appetite for talking about it. Notice though, that he doesn't run from it. He sticks to Elijah like glue, swearing on both the Lord and Elijah that he will not leave him. He stays with Elijah right up to the moment he is taken. And then he steps into a new chapter, with a double portion of Elijah's spirit upon him.

In Mark Chapter 9, at the transfiguration of Jesus, *{where Elijah puts in a reappearance}* we see the Disciples dealing with another set of complicated changes. For a start the three disciples on the mountainside see something of the nature of Jesus that they have not witnessed before and they are greatly afeared. Yet they don't flee. Instead they suggest setting up tents that they might stay in that place. Perhaps they had an inkling of what was coming, for it is from this point onwards that Jesus begins to repeatedly tell them that he is going to be taken away from them. Just as Elisha was repeatedly told that Elijah would be taken. We're not told if the disciples, like Elisha, were willing to talk about it or not. But what we do know is that the disciples stick with Jesus, all the way to Jerusalem, where Jesus is taken from them. Unlike Elijah, Jesus is returned to them gloriously three days later. And then the disciples, like Elisha, step into a new chapter, with a new portion of Jesus' spirit on them.

I notice that both stories involve followers and disciples dealing with the discomfort of change. In both cases it involves the work of God, and results in the followers and disciples stepping into new life. And we notice how hard that is for them. We notice that there is loss in their as well as newness and new opportunity. We notice too perhaps the curious way in which they do not flee but remain close to their master, teacher and friend. Do we perhaps sense change ahead in our lives? Our church? Do we at times like Elisha not want to talk about it? Do we like Elisha and the disciples experience the strange paradox of not running away, but of remaining close to the one we follow, even though we know the work of God is to work change in us, and lead us from one chapter to the next. For some of us we will be excited about that. For some of us we will feel the pain of that. And here, of course, I am thinking both about our own personal journeys, and our shared corporate experience of being church.

Lent, which starts this week, is a curious season, to which there are many approaches. One approach to lent and the discipline of giving things up is to understand the practice as an act of willingly entering into change that involves laying something down in order to take something up. At the end of lent the fasting ends. New life is embraced. It can be symbolic of a season where we are making transitions of other sorts. Moving from one chapter to another. Might we embrace Lenten discipline this year as a means of spiritually addressing the challenges that change presents us with. A willing laying down of something as a sign of the willingness of our hearts to move to a new chapter or a new season, even if it means leaving something behind.

The promise of the Gospel is that there is always new life. If we are called to die to self, it is because we are also called to rising to new life in Jesus. If we are called to lay things down, it is only so that we might take other things up. If we are asked to let things go, it is so that we can let other things come. But notice how both Elisha, and the disciples, though troubled by change that was to come, stuck faithfully to their teacher, master, lord and friend. May we, by God's good grace, find ourselves doing likewise. Amen.

Spiritual Communion – a help for those unable to attend services

Lockdown has impacted us all in many ways. As a Christian community we have perhaps felt most keenly the lack of being able to gather for worship, and within this the lack of communion. In this letter we want to share with you three things which some have found helpful to know about during this season.

Firstly communion is being celebrated within the benefice. When this third lockdown was announced decisions were taken by wardens or PCC's as to whether or not each church would need to close during lockdown, or if they could remain open safely. Of the four only Holy Trinity Coates felt they were able to open safely during lockdown. Because of lockdown restrictions on movement between communities we have had to advise people not to attend if they aren't regular members of Coates congregation. Whilst that has been difficult for some, it has meant that Rev'd Mike Jones has been able to celebrate communion within the Benefice and on behalf of all the benefice. Some people have found that immensely reassuring and so we wanted to share that with you.

Secondly we wanted to share the way in which Rev'd Mike Jones is prayerfully holding you, and ministering on behalf of you all before God in communion.

Rev'd Mike writes:

It may be difficult for some to understand why Holy Trinity is having services of Holy Communion twice a week where other churches have no services. This was the decision made either after consultation with Church wardens or PCC's. The services I take at Holy Trinity I celebrate on behalf of the whole benefice. The prayers and Eucharistic Prayer are said with all four of our churches in heart and mind and include all those who have asked for prayer. For me this is how I understand the meaning of Communion which is celebrated on behalf of the whole community

In this way through the ministry of Rev'd Mike the whole benefice is being held before God in the midst of a communion service on a weekly basis, even though we are not all able to attend in person.

Thirdly we wanted to offer everyone a prayerful way of connecting spiritually with communion even though unable to be physically present.

The Book of Common Prayer instructs us in the way of 'spiritual communion', describing the means of grace by which a person, prevented from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, can nonetheless share in the communion of Jesus Christ, declaring that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', even though we cannot physically receive the sacrament in ourselves.

The prayers overleaf are designed to help us do that.

An act of Spiritual Communion – prayers to use at home

You may wish to pray all or part of the following, as you are able, as often or regularly as you would like.

At this time when we are unable to attend church to receive communion we practice Spiritual Communion. We are encouraged by the story of the woman, in Mark 5, who comes to Jesus for wholeness and healing, only touching the hem of his garment, not Jesus himself, yet still receiving healing and blessing. We are not able to receive the bread and wine -but in a spiritual communion we still come to Jesus and he still receives us.

You may wish to find a space for prayer in front of a cross, a candle, or a special place. You might choose to make your Spiritual Communion at a particular time of day, after viewing a live streamed service, or after a time of quiet. You may find it helpful to pray out loud..

Time to reflect, to say sorry, and to give thanks

Take some time to reflect on the day and on your relationships.

What good things have come from God today?

For what am I thankful?

Where have I fallen short?

What might I do tomorrow?

With each thought that comes you may wish to say or pray:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Time to read and reflect on scripture

Read the following words from Scripture. If you have access to today's readings for Holy Communion, you may wish to read and reflect on them. Or if you have bible notes, spend some time with those.

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

John 6.35

Time for prayer and intercession

Pray for the needs of the world, for your local community, and for those close to you. End with the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father who art in heaven....

Thanksgiving and receiving Christ

Give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,

for all the benefits you have given me,

for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.

Since I cannot now receive you in the sacrament of communion,

I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,

may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,

and follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen.**

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

An act of Spiritual Communion – prayers to use at home

You may wish to pray all or part of the following, as you are able, as often or regularly as you would like.

At this time when we are unable to attend church to receive communion we practice Spiritual Communion. We are encouraged by the story of the woman, in Mark 5, who comes to Jesus for wholeness and healing, only touching the hem of his garment, not Jesus himself, yet still receiving healing and blessing. We are not able to receive the bread and wine -but in a spiritual communion we still come to Jesus and he still receives us.

You may wish to find a space for prayer in front of a cross, a candle, or a special place. You might choose to make your Spiritual Communion at a particular time of day, after viewing a live streamed service, or after a time of quiet. You may find it helpful to pray out loud..

Time to reflect, to say sorry, and to give thanks

Take some time to reflect on the day and on your relationships.

What good things have come from God today?

For what am I thankful?

Where have I fallen short?

What might I do tomorrow?

With each thought that comes you may wish to say or pray:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Time to read and reflect on scripture

Read the following words from Scripture. If you have access to today's readings for Holy Communion, you may wish to read and reflect on them. Or if you have bible notes, spend some time with those.

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

John 6.35

Time for prayer and intercession

Pray for the needs of the world, for your local community, and for those close to you. End with the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father who art in heaven....

Thanksgiving and receiving Christ

Give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,

for all the benefits you have given me,

for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.

Since I cannot now receive you in the sacrament of communion,

I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,

may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,

and follow you more nearly, day by day. **Amen.**

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Other prayers you can use

You might then add one or more of the following prayers:

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,

'I am with you always'.

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.

Hear my prayers for others and for myself,

and keep me in your care. Amen.

O God,

help me to trust you,

help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord, in these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful; in these days of challenge, make us stronger in you; in these days of emptiness, take possession of us; in these days of waiting, open our hearts to the mystery of your cross.

Angela Ashwin

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and

all the blessings of this life;

but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory, for ever and ever.

Amen.

End with the following:

Holding in mind those you love and care for and all your brothers and sister in Christ, pray

May the Lord bless us and keep us.

May the Lord turn his face towards us, and have mercy on us.

May the Lord watch over us and give us peace.
Amen



The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us
in eternal life.

Amen.