



**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 21 February 2021

Service s 21 February 2021 First Sunday of Lent Purple

09.30am	Zoom	Morning Praise
	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
5.00pm	Zoom	Shared Spiritual Communion

Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-9 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-1

Collect 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

Anniversaries 21 - 27 February 2021

St Thomas':

Holy Trinity: Ebenezer Bates 27 Ron Anker 27

St Mary's: John William Fawcett 27

St Andrew's: Pamela Mary Andrew 21 Ivy Norfield 21 Ronald Woodcock 23 Effie Anderson 24
Christopher Thomas Rogers 27

Monday 22 – Saturday 27 February 2021

Monday	M P	Psalm 71	Jeremiah 4:19-end	John 5:1-18
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 73	Jeremiah 5:1-19	John 5:19-29
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 77	Jeremiah 5:20-end	John 5:30-end
Thursday	M P	Psalm 78:1-39	Jeremiah 6:9-21	John 6:1-15
Friday	M P	Psalm 55	Jeremiah 6:22-end	John 6:16-27
Saturday	M P	Psalm 76	Jeremiah 7:1-20	John 6:27-40

Mid-week Communion Service -24 February 9.15am Holy Trinity

Service s 28 February 2021 The Second Sunday of Lent Purple

09.30am	Zoom	Morning Praise
	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion

Mid-week Communion Service 3 March 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, Richard Willows, Mavis Connor, Joyce Jackson, Mary Widgery, Tony Barnett, Tom Cullup, Megan Randall, Eunice/Brian Smithyman, John Stutely, Barry, Liz Tuckey

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: Cheryl Tyner

Ronald Harding Raymond (Keith) Bielawski

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

Frank Wheatley 3 March Fenland Crematorium 11.30am

Rachael Greenwood 4 March Fenland Crematorium 2.30pm

Mary Childs 4 March Cam Valley Crematorium

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

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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 This year's Lent Course will be held on Wednesday evenings from 24 Feb starting at 7.30pm. Each week we will send out the zoom codes with the Newsletter and Sunday service e-mail. There will be a Bible passage to read through and a link to follow, this will enable folk to study independently and those who may be busy for an evening to keep up. We look forward to travelling through Lent together. Here is a link to more information about the course.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story>

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.

APCM Reports We don't know if these will be virtual or in person at this stage, where possible please submit reports as normal please.

Fenland Youth Radio - Whittlesea Australia On Friday 12th February Fenland Youth Radio had an International Day for their Breakfast Show from 8 to 10 am. The Chief Executive Officer (equivalent to a mayor) of Whittlesea Australia spoke to the Fenland Youth Radio station at 8.30 am. I was given just a few hours' notice from Robert Windle about this taking place so unable to suggest that you might like to tune in. Craig Lloyd the CEO was interviewed for almost 20 minutes. The City of Whittlesea (previously the Shire of Whittlesea) has grown in size from around 80,000 people in the 1980's to 250,000 today. This population covers the whole of City Council area (similar to a county here) with Whittlesea itself having a population of just over 6,000. Whittlesea is the third largest council in Victoria Australia with a staff of 1,500 and the third growing fastest in Australia. He spoke of Melbourne as being the home of sport with tennis, cricket and the Grand Prix. Craig said it was 22C at 7.30 pm (it had been 29C during the day) whereas here in Whittlesey it was -1C. Craig said that it had been a cooler wetter summer and so hadn't prompted the bushfires. Reference was made to the connection we have maintained with the church at Whittlesea and Kinglake. The painting presented by the late George and Ann Bates to Whittlesea several years ago showing the War Memorial, Buttercross, Market Place and St Mary's church was also referred to. Robert mentioned to Craig about the visit of Gill Lawrence and the late Bob Allen after the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfire when they were presented with a key for the freedom of the citizens here for all that they did in raising money

following that devastating bushfire. Craig was told that the key was centrepiece of the new Council Chamber at Peel House. Craig said that his family came from Essex and that when it becomes easier to travel, he looked forward to coming to Whittlesey on his next visit to England. In the meantime, they were just starting a five-day lockdown with a few Covid-19 cases having popped up. My friend in Melbourne told me that eight hours' notice for the lockdown was not at all popular as it was Valentine's Weekend and florists and restaurants were badly affected. Roger Brown

Reflection for 1st Sunday of Lent on the Old Testament Reading:

Genesis Chapter 9 verses 8 to 17

This passage of scripture is the story of the covenant God made with Noah, and 'every living creature... and for all generations to come.' Seven times in this passage the term 'Covenant' appears. When something is noted seven times in such a short passage it is important. This sacred use of 'seven' results from the conviction by the Jews that at creation God hallowed the seventh day. We see this sanctity in scripture with Wisdom's House having seven pillars [*Proverbs Ch 9 v 1*], with Samson's hair having been braided in seven locks [*Judges Ch 16 v 13*], with the atonement for a broken vow requiring seven sacrifices [*Samuel Ch 21 v 6*] and hanging on the cross, Jesus spoke seven times; 1) 'Father forgive them..' 2) 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise' 3) 'Woman, here is your son' 4) 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.' 5) 'I am thirsty' 6) 'It is finished' 7) 'Father into your hands I commend my spirit.'

'Covenant' then appears seven times in this Old Testament reading. A covenant is a binding agreement, made between at least two parties and could be conditional or unconditional. In the Bible covenants are often featured between God and his people. The covenant here is unconditional bearing witness to the love and grace of God. There are no conditions attached, such as, 'If you love me,' or 'if you obey me,' or 'if you do good deeds.'

Note, however, that the covenant is made not only with Noah and his descendants, but with 'every living creature,' the sign of the covenant being 'the bow in the clouds.' Our place on earth is intricately linked with the survival of other living creatures. God wants to help us, not destroy us but we also must respond to the warning signs that indicate that every living creature is under threat from the way the planet's resources are misused.

The visible sign of the rainbow helps both God, and us, to remember the promise of the covenant. What a fabulous sight the rainbow is, appearing when it rains and the sun remains shining at the same time. The sun captures the drops of water and then the light bursts into seven different colours – violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red. The sanctity of seven is seen again. The fact that the rainbow is formed out of rain and sunshine, should remind us of our own lives where we face times of storms and times of peace and quiet yet together, they can produce something quite wonderful.

The rainbow should also remind us of Jesus and the cross. Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world.' [*John Ch 8 v 12*] When light is examined it reveals itself as seven colours. So, in Jesus, the Light of the world, we have an everlasting covenant for it is because of his shed blood on the cross that we can all have forgiveness of sins and that wonderful relationship with God.

As we travel on our 2021 Lenten journey may the visible sign the rainbow lead us to the visible sign of the cross.

And as we reflect on the sanctity of seven, recall words from one of George Herbert's hymns; 'Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee.' Amen.

Roger.