



**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 28 February 2021

Services 28 February 2021 The Second Sunday of Lent Purple

09.30am Zoom Morning Praise
 Holy Trinity Holy Communion

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-end 1 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38

Collect Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Anniversaries 28 February-6 March 2021

St Thomas': Florence Emma Edwards 1

Holy Trinity: John Brian 2 Ellis Randall 3 Phyllis May Hill 4 Alec William Cowling 6 Andrew Walpole 6

St Mary's: George Henry Gray 28

St Andrew's: Rev Geoffrey Alder Field 28 James Henry (Harry) Green 28 William Alfred Buckman 28
Frank Stratton 3 John Frank Derek Stratton 4 Brenda Alice Elizabeth Dockerill 4 Margaret Jean Beck 6

Monday 1 – Saturday 6 March 2021

Monday	M P	Psalm 32	Jeremiah 7:21-end	John 6:41-51
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 50	Jeremiah 8:1-15	John 6:52-59
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 35	Jeremiah 8:18-9:11	John 6:60-end
Thursday	M P	Psalm 34:	Jeremiah 9:12-24	John 7:1-13
Friday	M P	Psalm 41	Jeremiah 10:1-16	John 7:14-24
Saturday	M P	Psalm 25	Jeremiah 10:17-24	John 7:25-36

Mid-week Communion Service -3 March 9.15am Holy Trinity

Services 7 March 2021 The Third Sunday of Lent Purple

09.30am Zoom Morning Praise
 Holy Trinity Holy Communion

Mid-week Communion Service 10 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, Eunice/Brian Smithyman, John Stutely, Liz Tuckey, Janet Dale

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: Barry Coleville

Frank Wheatley 3 March Fenland Crematorium 11.30am

Rachael Greenwood 4 March Fenland Crematorium 2.30pm

Mary Childs 4 March Cam Valley Crematorium

Cheryl Tyner 5 March Slough 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/liv Lent-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 to continue Newsletter Our editor Jane is standing down in two weeks and help is need to produce the Newsletter please. It would be beneficial to have a team of two or three people who could arrange to do this. We have had a limited response to the previous item in the Newsletter but need more volunteers please. If you think you could assist in any way, please contact one of the Ministry Team by email or phone. We do look forward to hearing from you. In this regard Jane writes;

There will be a newsletter dated 7th March edited by me, Jane. I will not be doing any more, as it stands there will be none after this as no one else has stepped forward. I wish to spend Friday's in my garden this year rather than at my computer, my good eye and bad eye make real hard work of moving from lectionary to computer screen. And, we have usually moved on about now so I don't like having jobs that have no end. I am happy to stand in for holidays and to help where needed. Jane, present editor

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.

2021 Lenten Collection -UNICEF Vaccination programme For our Lenten collection this year, in light of this current world wide Covid 19 pandemic, we will be supporting UNICEF. UNICEF are trying to have as many of their volunteers vaccinated so they can carry on with their worldwide vaccination of children. UNICEF says that - with help - they will deliver 2 billion Covid 19 vaccines for health workers and the most high risk people on our planet. From buying & transporting supplies through to administering the vaccine, financial donations will help deliver history. Our donations would help to ensure the vaccines get to even the remotest places in the world. £45 will provide 'cold chain' equipment to safely store 500 doses of vaccines - How many of these units could we manage to help them with? Pat Marston (07443867424) will be arranging the collection this year, so please decide in your hearts what you would like to give to this project, contact Pat to let her know, and when it is safe to do so arrange for your donation to be given to Pat who will collate the collection and keep track of how many units of 'cold chain' equipment we are able to help with. Roger will also be able to collect monies and cheques as he delivers newsletters.

Reflections for the 2nd Sunday in Lent. Genesis 17.1-7,15-16. Mark 8.31-38.

Abraham described as the “human father of all nations” is where the legacy of Judaism starts. In a world full of diverse pagan gods, Abraham held a firm belief in the ONE God and the ONE Creator. According to God’s promise, in return for this, the descendants of Abraham became the chosen people of God through whom the whole world would be blessed.

The guiding principles of this faith are handed down through Moses and the Prophets and it was Judaism which Jesus himself inherited. However, Jesus came into what was a rigid organised religion with little flexibility to let the Spirit of God through. Jesus came with a message to give true meaning to the will of God where there was a tendency to privatise God and exclude the rest of the world from his grace. Jesus emphasised that, although we owe a vast debt of gratitude to Abraham and his descendants and that salvation will come through the Jews, Israel had lost its way. Through him came a new emphasis on God’s loving relationship with us as our Father in Heaven in a world where established learned Jewry, the Chief Priests, Elders, Pharisees and Scribes had organised religion strictly so as to administer the law slavishly and smother that loving relationship which God wants us to have with him.

The power of God is interpreted by Jesus as the power of love, service and suffering for the good of humanity, implicit in the words of the ancient prophets and, in particular, the Suffering Servant from Isaiah. This flies in the face of the rigid application of religious law often with hurtful consequences, as for example the criticism of Jesus for healing on the Sabbath, and which put Jesus on a collision course with the religious authorities. The heart of the matter is the Power of Love against the Love of Power through the system.

In today’s Gospel Reading, Peter starts with a basic misunderstanding of the Messiahship which Jesus talks about in relation to his predestined destiny. Poor Peter sees no further than the immediate prospect of danger for Jesus which he vows to defend Jesus against. In so doing he misses the point that Jesus must die to take away our sin and to rise again to overcome evil and give us new life. The love of God comes to us as a supreme act of love through the Cross on which Jesus suffered and died. Jesus is cruelly direct in his rebuke of Peter but he is trying to say that love sometimes will require sacrifices by us all if we are to do God’s will. Jesus’ message is that love compels us all to go the extra mile for those who need our help, compassion and concern.

At this stage of Lent, we are preparing for a rigorous journey with Jesus in the wilderness, hungry and thirsty, resisting the temptations of the Devil. Then joining him during Holy Week firstly with the triumphal journey into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, at the cleansing of the Temple, in the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday with Jesus’ demonstration of selflessness through the washing of feet and the inauguration of the Lord’s Supper. We join Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, witness his arrest by the High Priest’s servants, the trials, and his suffering on the way to the Cross, and finally his agonising death. All this enables us to join in thanksgiving for his sacrifice for us and to experience joy on Easter Day when we celebrate our Risen Lord in the spirit of rebirth.

The journey through Lent starts with love and finishes with love at Easter.

Jesus through Easter shows love, devotion and hope for the future. Jesus lays down his life for us as an act of love so that we may do his bidding by loving one another as he has loved us. We sing during Lent and Holy Week that lovely hymn which talks about Jesus’ supreme love for us; “My Song is Love Unknown, my Saviour’s love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be. O who am I that for my sake, my lord should take frail flesh and die”. JC.