



**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 7 March 2021

Service s 7 March 2021 The Third Sunday of Lent Purple

09.30am	Zoom	Morning Praise
	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion
4.30pm	Zoom	Coffee and reflection details in Notices

Exodus 20:1-17, Psalm 191, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

Collect Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

Anniversaries 7-13 March 2021

St Thomas':

Holy Trinity: Amy Hilliam Bates 9 David West 10 Fred Jackson 11

St Mary's: Robert James Dowsing 7 Dorothy Ivy Fitzjohn 9 Florence Rosa (Rose) Edey 11

St Andrew's: Alfred Furbank Stafford 8 David Winston Larking 11

Monday 8 – Saturday 13 March 2021

Monday	M P	Psalm 7	Jeremiah 11:1-17	John 7:37-52
Tuesday	M P	Psalm 9	Jeremiah 11:18-12:6	John 7:53-8:11
Wednesday	M P	Psalm 38	Jeremiah 13:1-11	John 8:12-30
Thursday	M P	Psalm 56	Jeremiah 14	John 8:31-47
Friday	M P	Psalm 22	Jeremiah 15:10-end	John 8:48-end
Saturday	M P	Psalm 31	Jeremiah 16:10-17:4	John 9:1-17

Mid-week Communion Service 10 March 9.15am Holy Trinity

Service s 14 March 2021 The Fourth Sunday of Lent Purple Mothering Sunday

09.30am	Zoom	Morning Praise
	Holy Trinity	Holy Communion

Mid-week Communion Service 17 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, Ken Slote

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 Rachael Greenwood Mary Childs Cheryl Tyner

Alan Harris 17 March 11.45am St Mary's followed by Peterborough Crematorium 1.00pm

May Hearn 19 March 10.30am Peterborough 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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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 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/livlent-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.

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. **Review of Electoral Rolls** Please contact your electoral roll officer if you want to included or to change/delete your details from your respective Electoral Rolls.

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.

Payments can be made at any time to Pat Marston. Ring her on 07443867424 to arrange delivery/collection. Cash in envelope please – just with the name of your church on the outside (your name is not necessary unless you wish to give it). Cheques – via Pat please (so we can accurately assess how many 'cold chain' units @ £45 we will have managed to contribute) made out to UNICEF UK – COVAX. If anyone is able to gift aid – just add 'gift aid – I am a UK taxpayer' to the back of your cheque or on your envelope. Our total will be announced mid/end April. Thank you all, Pat.

Please Support Our Raffle. St. Andrew's Church-The Thursday Club. We are having an Easter Raffle – an Easter Basket - to raise funds for our Thursday Club which is an outreach helping those who are lonely and socially isolated in our local community. Once a month the group meets to share a meal with our guests and transport is provided for them. We have not been able to meet since February 2020 but keep in regular contact with our guests. Due to the pandemic we envisage an even greater need for the club, and currently are trying to build up funds to ensure the meals and transport are free for our guests. If you would like to take part in our raffle (booklet of five tickets for £1.00)

please call or email Chris McGowen <tel:351867> or email: cmcg993@gmail.com The raffle will take place on Easter Sunday. We really would appreciate your help. Roger Brown has very kindly agreed to collect any donations for raffle tickets as he delivers the Church Newsletter. Please have ready in an envelope marked for Easter Raffle with your name and telephone number. If there is any difficulty in sending money or cheque (made out to St. Andrew's Church) he is willing to come and collect it from you. Call Roger Brown tel:202884.

Reflections for the Lent 3-John 2:13-22

John reminds us once again that Jesus was a Jew, He travelled, as he would have done every year since he was twelve, to Jerusalem to join in with the Passover, in fact, it was the law that every adult male Jew who lived within fifteen miles of Jerusalem had to attend the feast ; I think that there is a prayer that Jews nowadays say on Passover, next year in Jerusalem, it is one of their lives ambitions to celebrate Passover in Jerusalem, it is that important.

Why was Jesus so angry this time, he had been there before and seen all the selling and noise in the temple, why did he become so upset here? These merchants were providing a service, especially for folks who have travelled a long way and would find it harder to travel with live animals with them. The money changers had always been there, Jews from all over the world would have attended and needed to change their coins to shekels.

There are a lot of people who like the image of Jesus to be one of the little child all meek and mild, the one who sits and tells stories, the one who spends time in the desert and teaches his associates while not bothering anyone else. Here Jesus makes a weapon. Jesus doesn't just pick up something that has been left around, he has to find cords and then spend the time to make a whip, not something one can do in moments. His actions are not spontaneous, He takes time to prepare, He has equipped himself with the right tool for the job and He has the words for those who He is dealing with. What is wonderful about this is that at no point did Jesus use violence to make people enter the temple or to follow Him.

My favourite commentator Barclay explains is that these actions of Jesus in coming to and purifying the temple are all signs that this man Jesus is indeed the Messiah who was foretold by the prophets. He was to come to cleanse the sons of Levi, the priests and to cleanse the worship of men, this was what Jesus was doing. What Jesus does and says would have in no way made Him popular with those in charge in the temple. Those people making a living in the temple would have not been impressed either, nor those who had gone to worship and make their presentations and sacrifices.

The stalls selling these birds and animals were positioned within the confines of the temple itself. The noise of the animals, the sellers and the buyers, the smell, all would make it really hard for those who were trying to be with God. All animals being used in the sacrifices had to be perfect and were examined for blemishes, the inspection had to be paid for and not many animals from outside the temple were passed and much higher prices were charged for each animal or bird inside the temple than outside. The money changers were actually making a huge profit on the exchange rates that they were using, the pilgrims were being robbed blind.

Why did he do these things? He did them because the people no longer had reverence for what they were doing, He did it to confirm what the prophets had been saying for a long time, that animal sacrifices were no longer necessary, that no animal sacrifice was going to cleanse anyone of their sins, but, what I think is the most wonderful reason is the where this was going on.

All this was going on where those who were not Jews could come and be with God, the court of the Gentiles; Jesus making His Father's house clear of all this clamour and noise for the likes of you and me just gives me a real shot in the arm. Those of us not born Jews had a place, even then, the Jews had forgotten this and Jesus shows them and us that we are welcome. The Jews, way back when had in fact been told to tell the world about God, but, somehow they forgot this and kept the good news to themselves.

As we make our confession in each of our services, we cleanse ourselves as Jesus cleansed the temple we can do this with no other outside help. The laws given to the newly freed peoples on Mount Sinai had been intended to keep them together as a nation, to enable them to live together and to worship together; they had been taught that to be hung on a cross was the worst death possible, they had forgotten why the outer court for the gentiles had been built.

Jesus came to replace the laws, to show clearly the way for both the foolish and the wise, He came that anyone who chooses to turn to face the cross and admits their errors, their sins, are forgiven at the cost of His blood and nothing else, and for this we can say, Thanks be to God, Amen