

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PARISH OF CALNE & BLACKLAND



*...keeping you in
touch with your church family.*

March 2021



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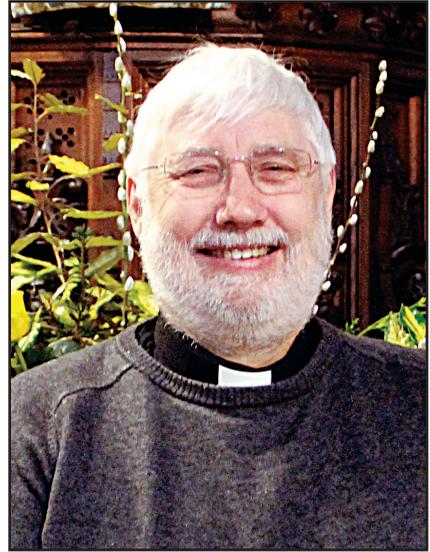
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Church House is closed during the corona virus crisis.

A Prayer for March

May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that You are at work renewing the earth. As a God of renewal, You are ever at work in our lives, too. Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives this Spring. Awaken us to new life and perspective, for we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen

Church addresses

Holy Trinity Church, Quemerford, Calne, London Rd, Wiltshire, SN11 0AR

St. Mary's Church, Church Street, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 0HU

St. Peter's Church, Blackland, Calne, Wiltshire, SN11 8UQ

Website: www.parishofcalneandblackland.org.uk

Find us on facebook @stmaryschurchcalne

Look out in both these places for information about online worship and services during the corona virus lockdown.

Drawing closer to Christ

A thought for March

Greetings to the churches of St. Mary's, Holy Trinity, St. Peter's and the other churches in the Marden Vale team. When you are reading this we shall be observing Lent and looking forward to the glorious festival of Easter. Lent, if we let it, can be a very positive time because in Lent we can seek to draw closer to our Lord Jesus Christ. When we draw closer to Christ life becomes richer and joy can fill our lives. That has to be something joyfully positive.

How we draw closer to Christ will be different for each of us but as I am a simple soul I will share with you what, over the years, I have found helpful. I don't go in for giving up lots of things, but try to be less indulgent. Ann and I eat frugally on Fridays during Lent and donate the savings to charity. I try to deepen my prayer life and so draw closer to our Saviour. Prayer tunes us in and switches us on to the Lord. In prayer we lay ourselves open to Christ, share everything with him - our hopes and joys, our sorrows and frustrations and, yes, even our doubts. We can share with Him our worries and concerns. We can be ourselves in prayer because Christ has shared our human life and he knows where we are coming from. So often I find my prayer leads me to thanksgiving because it so often helps me see what the Lord has already done for me.



I have found it useful to pay more attention to Holy Scripture and to meditate on the Gospel readings. When we read the good news of Jesus we are brought closer to His sacred heart and we can breathe into our souls the wonderful sacrificial love he has for each and every one of us.

We can see Christ mirrored in his Holy word. So why not choose a Gospel and prayerfully read it through. My own particular favourite is Luke.

I would normally try to attend a weekday Eucharist or two and, of course Sunday Eucharist. With public worship not available, at the moment, we have to rely what those clever folk produce for us to watch on line - I am not able to be a Zoom worshipper but I envy those who can. At the moment I make good use of Morning and Evening prayer from the Book of Common Prayer and Ann and I, sometimes, share communion simply at the dining room table. Wiltshire Radio offer a service at 8.00 am, and I enjoy listening to different traditions of worship. It is my hopeful prayer that we can meet in church, this year, on Easter day to celebrate the resurrection of the Lord.

Ann and I send our love to you all - stay safe - walk on with love, joy and faith in your hearts. Be positive and know that the Eternal God is thy sure refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms.

Yours in Christ Fr. Derek

Poem for Lent

Lent is a tree without blossom, without leaf,
Barer than blackthorn in its winter sleep,
All unadorned.

Unlike Christmas which decrees
The setting-up, the dressing-up of trees,
Lent is a taking down, a stripping bare,
A starkness after all has been withdrawn
Of surplus and superfluous,
Leaving no hiding-place, only an emptiness
Between black branches, a most precious space
Before the leaf, before the time of flowers;
Lest we should see only the leaf, the flower,
Lest we should miss the stars.

Jean M. Watt

Collect from the Community of the Cross of Nails (Coventry Cathedral)

Loving God you hold us steady through the storms of life.
We come to you bearing raw wounds of loss and grief, knowing fresh
fractures in our world and in ourselves, full of fear that
threatens even our peace in you.
Meet us in this strange landscape.
Give us grace, so we may sing your songs of hope and the strength to
work with you to make all things new in Jesus Christ.
Amen

Dates For March

14th March - Mothering Sunday

25th March - The annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

28th March - Palm Sunday and start of Holy Week

Look out in the Parish Notices, Facebook and the Parish website
for information about services and events during lockdown.

We hope to keep St Mary's Church open once a week on
Wednesdays for private prayer.

Bishop of Salisbury announces his retirement

The information below is a shortened version of his announcement.

The Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, will retire on the 3rd July 2021, a month short of his 67th birthday. He will have been Bishop of Salisbury for ten years.

"Being the Bishop of Salisbury has been a privilege and a joy", the Bishop said. "In present circumstances, the timing of my retirement has not been an easy decision but it feels right to me and to those I have consulted. The impact of the pandemic is going to be felt for a long time. The diocese is developing a Mission and Pastoral Plan and we have an agreed financial framework with which to face the future with confidence. We continue to be about Renewing Hope as we Pray, Serve and Grow.

"This is a testing time and the life of the Church has never been more important as a witness to Christian beliefs and values for the sake of God's world. In many ways the Diocese of Salisbury is one of God's small miracles. The energy, variety and resourcefulness of our churches, chaplaincies and schools are just three of the reasons why being the Bishop is a joy. I am full of admiration for our cathedral, for clergy colleagues and for the people of the diocese who have been extraordinarily resilient and creative in the adaptation of continued ministry and mission.

We look forward to retiring to Brighton to be closer to our children and grandchildren."

As part of the diocese's Renewing Hope - Pray, Serve, Grow, since 2015 there has been a significant increase in the number of



those exploring vocations to authorised ministry, both lay and ordained. One of Bishop Nicholas' responsibilities within the diocese is to be the Sponsoring Bishop for those seeking ordination. Bishop Andrew will take on this responsibility from the 1st March 2021 at least until the arrival of the new diocesan

bishop.

We will have to see what is possible nearer the time but Bishop Nicholas hopes to preside at the ordinations of deacons and priests on the 26th and 27th June 2021 and his last service in the diocese will be Evensong in the Cathedral on Saturday the 3rd July 2021.

During the vacancy, Bishop Karen will be the acting Bishop of Salisbury.

The Vacancy in See process will begin shortly and it is currently anticipated that the Crown Nominations Commission will meet in the autumn.

The Chair of the Vacancy in See Committee is the Dean, *The Very Revd Nicholas Papadopoulos.*



The Merton Prayer

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Wise words from the Bible

Lamentations Ch3:22-23

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
His mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning;
Great is thy faithfulness.

Hymn to sing at Home

Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me

Editorial Team:-

Sue Twyman, Jane Ridgwell and Jack Robinson.

Illustration, Graphic Design and Layout:- Alex Grenfell.



And finally...

If you organise any groups or events in the parish and would like them to be included in this newsletter then get in touch with the editors.

We would also love to have articles about the different groups in the parish to spread the word more widely and encourage people to come along.

Please Email or give copies of items to us in plenty of time for the next newsletter, the deadline is 10th of the preceding month.

email: cbp.news.editor@gmail.com