



The Parish of
Mitcheldean and Abenhall

Parish News

Lent 2017



LENT†

Worship with us

St Michael and All Angels', Mitcheldean

1st Sunday of each month: 8.30am **Said Holy Communion** followed by

10.00 am **Family Service** (inc. Holy Communion)

Remaining Sundays: 10.00 am **Sung Eucharist**

Tuesdays: 10.30 am Holy Communion (said)

9.00am Tuesday, Wednesday: **Morning prayer**

Fridays: 12noon Midday Prayer

St Michael's, Abenhall

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month: 3.00 pm Holy Communion

2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month: 3.00 pm BCP or CW Evensong

For Saints Days and other Holy Day services, please see the porch noticeboards or view the website: www.stmichaelmitcheldean.co.uk

(Children and families are very welcome at all of our services)

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Lent 2017

So what is Lent all about.... Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' time in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic themes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan. Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday. Liturgical dress is the simplest possible. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration. *Gloria in excelsis* is not used. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (*Laetare* or Refreshment Sunday) was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent; these breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gave to the Fifth Sunday its name of Passion Sunday. There are many devotional exercises which may be used in Lent and Holy Week outside the set liturgy. The Stations of the Cross, made popular in the West by the Franciscans after they were granted custody of the Christian sites in the Holy Land, are the best known.

From the Common Worship introduction to the season...

Flower Festival. A date for your diary, there will be a flower festival in Mitcheldean church on 17th 18th and 19th of June in Mitcheldean church.

Christian Aid Week May 2017

Just as Christmas seems to come round more quickly each year so does

Christian Aid Week! The dates are May 14th to 20th.

The plight of those fleeing from Syria and the thousands of people leaving North Africa in precarious boats, seeking a new life in Europe, daily remind us of the need to help. Jesus said that the greatest two commandments were to love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves. To go to the aid of those refugees is a most obvious way of fulfilling these two commandments. In Mitcheldean we will again be collecting House to House and we will need helpers to do this. If you could give just half an hour of your time to deliver a Christian Aid envelope and collect it a day later, you would be joining the thousands of people from all denominations throughout this country who are seeking demonstrating, in a practical way, their love of their neighbours.

Please contact me on 01594 825282 if you are willing to help. **Chris Wagstaff**

100 Club Winners

December 2016

First Prize	No 45	Mrs F Forrest
Second Prize	No 96	Esther Rhodes
Third Prize	No 24	Mrs J Batt

January 2017

First Prize	No 13	Mrs C Jones
Second Prize	No 28	Mrs H Hopkins
Third Prize	No 63	Mrs June Smith

February 2017

First Prize	No 16	Tony Davies
Second Prize	No 2	Mr Sid Jones
Third Prize	No 69	John Knight

Items for the next News Letter to Fr David by 15th of this month please.

Don't forget this news letter is available by email or on the church website. If you'd like it emailed please send an email to Fr David

Daily Bible readings:

March.

1st Matthew 6. 1-21

2nd John 4. 1-16

3rd John 4. 27-42

4th John 4. 43-end

5th Matthew 4. 1-11

6th John 5. 1-18

7th John 5. 19-29

8th John 5.30-end

9th John 6. 1-15

10th John 6. 16-27

11th John 6. 27-40

12th John 3. 1-17

13th John 6. 41-51

14th John 6. 52-59

15th John 6. 60-end

16th John 7. 1-13

17th John 7. 14-24

18th John 7. 25-36

19th John 4. 5-42

20th Matthew 1. 18-end

21st John 7. 53-8. 11

22nd John 8. 12-30

23rd John 8. 31-47

24th John 8. 48-end

25th Luke 1 26- 38

26th John 9

27th John 9. 18-end

28th John 10. 1-10

29th John 10. 11-21

30th John 10. 22-end

31st John 11. 1-16

Dates.

14th March. PCC Rectory

15th, 22nd and 29th March. 2.00pm and 7.00pm Lent Course. Rectory

25th March. Spring Clean. Mitcheldean Church.

Holy Week. 2017

April 9th Palm Sunday

9.45am Procession of Palms. Starting at the Rectory

10.00am Eucharist and reading of the passion

3.00pm Evening Prayer. Abenhall

Monday in Holy week

7.00pm Eucharist: Mitcheldean

Tuesday in Holy Week

1030am Holy Communion: Mitcheldean

7.00pm Eucharist: Mitcheldean

Wednesday in Holy week

7.00pm Eucharist: Mitcheldean

Muandy Thursday

11.00am Chrism Mass: Cathedral

7.30pm Eucharist of the last supper; Mitcheldean

Followed by The Watch

Good Friday

9.00am Morning Prayer. Mitcheldean

12.00noon Good Friday Liturgy: Abenhall

2.00pm Good Friday Liturgy: Mitcheldean

Holy Saturday

8.00pm Vigil, Easter ceremonies and Eucharist: Mitcheldean.

Easter Day

10.00am Family Eucharist: Mitcheldean

3.00pm Holy Communion: Abenhall.

The Diocesan Messenger,

The Messenger, March 2017

Living as adventurous followers of Jesus Christ

Enabling people to discover new depths to prayer and spiritual growth, individually and together.

During the many conversations that took place around the Diocese last summer, the theme of prayer and longing for God was immensely strong: 'We'd like to know more of God', 'I would love to be able to pray more, and more deeply', 'Help us to find the "One thing necessary"'.

When Jesus is at the home of Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42) Martha is busily cooking and serving, Mary sits at Jesus' feet. Both sisters are very close friends of Jesus – this is his 'home from home' and he spends a good deal of time in their company. On this occasion, in his love for Martha, he tells her she is distracted by many things, and that Mary has chosen the better part – she has found the one thing necessary.

This priority is at the very heart of our life together in this Diocese. It is about keeping company with Jesus just as he longs to keep company with us. It is about making our hearts and lives and communities his 'home from home' just as he invites us to find our home in him. It is about recognising the distractions and being still for long enough to find that God is here, right here, in the heart of it all. And that is the adventure.

Archdeacon of Gloucester, The Ven Jackie Searle

Pray with a Bishop this Lent

Bishop Rachel and Bishop Robert will each be praying in three churches across the Diocese of Gloucester. Following on from last year's Ascension Day prayers at Gloucester Cathedral, and as part of the LIFE vision, you are invited to join them at whichever church and date suits you for a mixture of active, creative, and reflective prayer stations, reading from scripture, and concluding with a time of prayer with the Bishop.

The bishops will be at the following churches on the following dates:

March 5th +Robert. 6Pm St John Wickwar Road. Chipping Sodbury

March 12th +Rachel 3pm Holy Trinity Badgeworth.

March 19th +Rachel 6pm Christ Church, Cheltenham.

+Robert 6pm Ruardean St John the Baptist

March 26th + Rachel 6pm Holy Trinity, Stroud

+Rpbert 6pm St Peter and St Paul, Blockley

Thy Kingdom Come: Join the global wave of prayer

R From 25 May to 4 June, Christian communities and families around the world will be joining together to pray that their friends and neighbours come to know Jesus. You, your family and your church can pledge to pray and add your prayer light to a map of the world., There are resources for churches, individuals, families and young people that will help to focus your prayer and inspire you. Visit www.thykingdomcome.global to find out more.

#Pledge2Pray

Events and training

Saturday 4 March

Let your inner self grow strong: A quiet day for Lent

Christ the King Roman Catholic Church Parish Hall, Thornbury, BS35 1HA, 10am to 3pm

A Spirituality Network for Gloucestershire event, led by Sr Anna O'Connor SP. £10. To reserve a place contact the Revd Canon Michael Cozens on mgcozens86@btinternet.com or 01453 546459 www.snfglos.org.uk

Saturday,18 and Sunday 19 March

Kempley Daffodil weekend

Kempley Village Hall, 10.30am to 5pm for refreshments. Guided walks at 10.45am, 11am and 2pm and a free daff and ride bus every 30 minutes. Homemade refreshments, plant stall and raffle. Donations and proceeds to St Edwards Church Fabric Fund and Kempley Village Hall Restoration Fund. www.daffs.org.uk

Thursday 23 March

Preventing Prison Suicides

University of Gloucestershire, Francis Close Hall, GL50 4AZ, room TC001. Positive Justice Gloucestershire meeting with Lorraine Atkinson, Senior Policy Officer for the Howard League for Penal Reform. Free. Free parking after 5pm. All welcome. www.pjglos.org.uk or 01453 759438.

Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 April

Crosslight: Riding Lights Theatre Passion Play

A communal experience of theatre and worship. The disciple chose to lead, is in pieces. Crosslight draws us into the dramatic events of Christ's Passion and into the experience of one disciple who failed, despite everything he believed so passionately. Tickets £10 for adults, £5 for under 16s, from Ruth on 01531 670196.

Have your say

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