

REFLECTIONS

Lent is traditionally a time of reflection and preparation, just like Advent (except with a higher probability that it might actually happen). In the ancient Church it was when new Christians would be prepared for Baptism, and for when those separated from the Church through sin would repent and prepare for readmittance to Communion. The Church today tends not to function in the same way; we baptise throughout the year; and, we're not so hot on holding Church members accountable for their conduct, although Prayer Book Communion requires us to. However, this year is somewhat different: As we begin to move away from the confines of Covid we are required to examine ourselves and our Church life. What have we learnt from the past year? What have we missed about the practice of our faith together? What, maybe deservedly, has been consigned to the list of forgotten traditions? Our world has changed. How will the Church?

Jeremy Trew

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES IN CHURCH AND ONLINE

The following services are available across the team - full details on the website and the email bulletin.

SUNDAY 7TH MARCH

St Mary's Saffron Walden

8.00am Holy Communion 1662 President: Jeremy Trew
In church and on YouTube

6.30pm H2H Youth Led Service Leaders: Katy & Ed Jones
Zoom

St Botolph's Hadstock - Zoom

9.30am Holy Communion 1662 President: Paula Griffiths

All Saints Ashdon - Zoom

9.30am Holy Communion President: Caroline Curren

All Saints' Wimbish - Zoom

9.15am Sunday Praise Leader: John Saxon

Cam Villages - Zoom

10.00am Family Service Home Team

TUESDAY

5.00pm Evening Prayer Leader: Paula Griffiths
Zoom only

WEDNESDAY

9.30am Holy Communion President: Jeremy Trew
Zoom only

See St Mary's Church, SW, website at www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org to find out more.



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The Grapevine

COVERING THE PARISHES OF SAFFRON WALDEN,
WIMBISH, DEBDEN, ASHDON AND HADSTOCK.

Welcome to our services today

Third Sunday of Lent

7th March 2021

Collect

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.' Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel: John 2.13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' They then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Post Communion

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

In March please pray for: **Abbey Lane & Newport United Reformed Church, incorporating the Methodist Church, Dame Bradbury's School**
The family and friends of those who have died recently:
Mary Mileson, Gerald Agnew, Beryl Searle, Wendy Nicolson

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

So, I'm standing at my desk (no chair yet) in the Rectory study as workers unload an improbably parked lorry of all the detritus we brought with us from Devon. Legally I am still Vicar of Seaton and Beer, so not actually your Minister yet. That's for the third of March, and my eagerly anticipated licensing. Well, eagerly anticipated by myself. I hope you're at least ambivalent.

My thanks to everyone for the very kind cards and gifts, especially the edible ones. We have had a very warm welcome and are grateful. It makes all the difference, especially as all this is going on under the limitations imposed by Covid. I am aware that this means that many of you who are part of the life of St Mary's have not met me yet, nor are likely to do so in person for some time. Please know that you are in my prayers, and will remain so. Please also, if you see me around town do come up and introduce yourself. I might not always remember names and faces at first go, but I will get there in the end.

So, until we meet.

With love and prayers,
Yours,
Jeremy

PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Almighty God, who inhabits and sustains all things, dwell with your people through this season of Lent. And inhabit our being that, in all we are and do, Christ may be found, by others and by ourselves, as we journey towards the new life and hope of Easter. Amen.

BIBLE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Mon 8th	Morning Psalm 5 & John 7:37-52 Evening Psalm 17
Tue 9th	Morning Psalm 9 & John 7:53-8.11 Evening Psalm 64 & Hebrews 5:11-6.12
Wed 10th	Morning Psalm 38 & John 8:12-30 Evening Psalm 39
Thurs 11th	Morning Psalm 56 & John 8:31-47 Evening Psalm 59
Fri 12th	Morning Psalm 22 & John 8:48-end Evening Psalm 69
Sat 13th	Morning Psalm 31 & John 9:1-17 Evening Psalm 116

NEWS

REOPENING OUR CHURCHES:

St Mary's, Saffron Walden is now able to open to restricted congregations for some Sunday services and private prayer. Please look at the table of services for details. If you wish to attend St Mary's in person, please book your place in advance by telephoning the Parish Office by noon on Friday or by booking online (link on the bulletin).

Village church services remain online only this week.

PRIVATE PRAYER St Mary's, Saffron Walden will be open for private prayer on Sundays (starting this Sunday) and Wednesdays from 2pm-4pm.

All Saints, Ashdon, remains open every day. St Botolph's, Hadstock will be open by appointment only.

ONLINE SERVICES are listed on the back page. Full joining details are available on the weekly email bulletin and on the website. Please email Dawn if you would like to be added to the bulletin distribution list.

LIVE WORSHIP by phone - you don't need a computer or tablet to join our services from home. If you would like to know more please contact Judith Hasler on 525041 or John Saxon on 541619.

This month's **H2H** will be led by Katy and Ed Jones on Zoom as we explore the theme of Hope. Everyone is welcome, young and old, so please join us and support Katy and Ed.
Matt Williamson

A LENT ZOOM QUIET MORNING Saturday 13th March from 10am (Zoom opens from 9:50) to noon led by the Rev Hilary Davey. **LOVE IN THE TIME OF COVID:** finding God's Hope in difficult times. This will be an opportunity to reflect on our personal experiences of Covid, on what we have learnt and want to retain, and find hope for a still uncertain future. Please sign up at the Parish Office with your 'phone no. or email address. All are welcome. *Sue Walker*

A MEETING OF THE PCC will be held on Zoom on **Wednesday 17th March** at 7:45pm. *Lisa Brook (PCC Secretary)*

STEWARDSHIP Thank you to all who have already responded to our letter on planned giving. You can still email David Birchall treasurer@stmaryssaffronwalden.org or send your response form to the Parish Office. *Denis & Gill*

WEEKEND AWAY - BELSEY BRIDGE Our Weekend Away in July has had to be cancelled as Belsey Bridge is not reopening until August. However, it has been rebooked for **27 - 29 May 2022**. Please go to St Mary's website (www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org) or telephone me for more details. *Sarah (01799 584617)*

THE MARCH EDITION OF PARISH NEWS is available on the website at <http://www.stmaryssaffronwalden.org/parishnews>

PARISH OFFICE HOURS The Parish Administrator is available by phone or email on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 9.30am - 12 noon. The office is not currently open to personal callers.

MINISTRY TEAM

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Revd Paula Griffiths	01799 599141
Revd Alex Jeewan	01799 531153
Revd John Saxon	01799 541619
Revd Dr Caroline Curren	01799 584839