

ONE CAN TRUST

We are pleased to confirm that Caroline has reinstated the One Can donation box outside the Church so that we can resume making our gifts to this worthy cause. Caroline will continue to take what has been collected on our behalf and deliver it to the main collection centre. Thanks very much to everyone who continues to support this cause.

This Week you are Asked to Pray For:

- Those in the parish and further afield who are sick or in need that they receive peace and healing, including: Irene Foord, Mary Mines, Helena Oecken, Ian Wilson, Ron Goodearl, Ian Goodearl, Phillipa King, Jenny King, Beryl Palmer and Sally Zeybek.
- The recently departed, may their souls rest in peace. And for their families at this difficult time.
- All parts of the world affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19), those who are ill with the virus and those caring for them. For our own country where infection rates have been rapidly increasing in recent weeks and the health services as they work to cope with increasing numbers of hospital cases.
- For the country of South Africa, for the people of Cape Town and Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman including our linked parish of St. Mary's Kuruman.

COLOURS OF THE SEASON

In last Sunday's Pew Sheet, reference was made to the altar frontal we tend to use during Holy Week, which classifies as "Lenten Array" due to being largely formed from unbleached linen. At the top of this a quotation from the Book of Common Prayer, which readers were challenged to recall. The answer is:



This week's challenge is the rest of the frontal has 5 groups of symbols relating to Jesus' journey to the Cross. How many can you name?

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PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

Week Commencing
SUNDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2021
2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

FOCUS ON... THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Jesus taught his disciples that as God's Messiah, his "anointed one", he was going to have to "suffer many things; be rejected; and be killed". His chief disciple Peter was utterly confused. This notion of a suffering, self-sacrificing Messiah was not what he had been led to expect. But the divine mission Jesus had come to fulfil was the immensely significant objective of defeating sinfulness and healing the brokenness of flawed humanity. His triumphs were to be the victories of truth over falsehood, forgiveness over revenge, self-giving over self-interest. And just as Christ is to go the way of the Cross, so must his true followers. For some that might even mean martyrdom, but for all those who follow Christ it means renouncing self-centred aims and desires, and the acceptance of Christ's way of unremitting, self-giving love. But, as one of my tutors at theological college used to say time and time again, this is the true measure of meaningful success in the world – two crossed pieces of wood! The way of the Cross is a costly assignment. Often wounding, always challenging. But this is the way our living, loving God transforms us and meets our deepest needs. Christ wants us to find abundant life by following his way — it may deny us ease and comfort, but it will give us the true glory. The way of the Cross is revealed in great acts of self-giving and self-sacrifice. But it is also to be found in simple acts of kindness and compassion and mercy. This is at the heart of the extra efforts that we make in the season of Lent to try to be better and more faithful Christians – through fasting and self-denial, through prayer and study of scripture, through acts of charity and mercy. The way of Christian Discipleship is the way of costly giving of oneself in love, the way of service for the sake of love of God and love of neighbour, the way of self-giving without counting the cost, the way of the Cross.

Canon Tony Bundock

Weekly Services:

SUNDAY

10:00 am GMT On-line Morning Worship with Hymns on Zoom

TUESDAY

9:30 am GMT On-line Celtic Morning Worship on Zoom

WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S

England remains in a third National Lockdown. Current guidance is where churches decide to do so and it has been judged safe, collective worship is still permitted, although the latest Guidance from the Bishop strongly encourages churches to suspend collective worship in church and switch to on-line services. However, the PCC has decided that in-church collective worship will be suspended for the present. This decision has been made to protect our congregation due to high infection rates in Buckinghamshire including with the new more transmissible strain of Covid-19. (The other churches in the Risborough Team are also suspending in-church services for the present.) It is currently expected that this arrangement will continue until further notice.

We will continue to hold an On-line Morning Worship Service with Hymns on Sundays (at 10:00 am GMT for the rest of January and into February). The Tuesday morning service has been replaced with an On-line Celtic Morning Prayer service at 09:30 am GMT. We will also be opening the church for private prayer on two days during the week (Tuesday Morning from 10:00 to 10:30 am and Thursday Evening from 7:00 to 7:30 pm).

COLLECT FOR THE 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever, *Amen*.



READINGS FOR 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis Ch. 17 VV. 1 – 7 & VV. 15 – 16
Romans Ch. 4 VV. 13 – 25

Mark Ch. 8 VV. 31 – 38

PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK (THIS SUNDAY THE INTERCESSIONS WILL BE LED BY JUNE BRAZIER)



Heavenly Father, we thank you for your guidance and protection during this challenging time of Covid. Thank you for Scientists who have produced effective vaccines. We pray that every country's population will be vaccinated and we will defeat Covid. The NHS staff and carers deserve our thanks and praise for their dedicated hard work. Please inspire all Governments to make wise decisions for the future good of all peoples, and let all people act with common sense and behaviour as restrictions are being relaxed.

We need your presence Lord to bring Peace to war torn areas and places of conflict. Lord in your Mercy - hear us. For you are our maker and our redeemer, our help, our comfort, our trust, our hope; praise and glory be to you now and forever.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us evermore. Amen.

MORNING WORSHIP ON THE 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

This Sunday's Online Morning Worship service on Zoom will be led by Canon Tony with assistance from Graham King. The service will start at 10:00 am GMT. Details are being supplied in the email sending out this Pew Sheet, and are as follows:

Topic: Morning Prayer with Hymns
Time: Feb 28, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71729717895?pwd=enpGbUk4ME0wVnMwcnp2bmFOcVV3UT09>
Meeting ID: 717 2971 7895
Passcode: Kw08R4

(if copying the above into your internet browser window, you need to type in all of the text in blue as a single entry without a space – it has been split into two for formatting purposes.)



Lent Course

This year's Lent Study course as adopted by Churches Together in Risborough will be based on the book "Singing in Babylon" by Jeff Lucas. Ordering this book via St. Mary's Princes Risborough is now closed, but the book can be ordered online from various stockists.

The 5 sessions will be weekly and online; and the St. John's sessions will be Thursday afternoons at 2.30 pm during Lent. The Zoom link will be supplied to those who have registered to attend.

For further details, please speak to Canon Tony.

