

# 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 are still high, and the health services as they work to cope with the large number 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.

## **A PRAYER FOR ST DUNSTAN'S, AND THE RISBOROUGH TEAM**

As we look forward to the coming of a new Team Vicar, we thank you, heavenly Father for the appointment of a new priest to St Dunstan's and ask your blessing on Peter, Caroline and the baby they are expecting. Be with us, and guide us, as we look to the future with them and help us all across the Risborough Team to discover new ways of worshipping and working together for the good of our local communities and the coming of your Kingdom. When we fall short, forgive us; when we are challenged, support us; and deepen our faith so that we know you are always with us, in and through our Risen Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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# PARISH CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, LACEY GREEN



Coming to Faith, Growing in Faith

**Week Commencing**  
**SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT**

## **FOCUS ON... THE PASSION OF OUR LORD**

It appears that Jesus had no time for sentimental notions about human life. He knew all its reality. He was all too well aware that his own life would be cut short. The stance he took, the things he did, the people he consorted with, his outspoken attacks on religious and political authorities alike, all these things combined to make it certain that he would not be allowed to live to a ripe old age. In John's Gospel in particular, we find him seeking to break through his disciples' denial and misunderstanding, in order to prepare them for his death and what it would mean. Jesus and his disciples lived close to nature. Some were farmers, some fishermen by trade. Jesus himself worked with wood. His disciples knew well the cycles of nature, and human powerlessness in the face of nature's insistence. So, in his teaching, Jesus often turned to nature for a metaphor to try to help his followers understand his mission. He spoke to them of a single grain. Held in the hand, it is of little use. It needs to be put into the ground, where it breaks down as if it is dead. From that death, life grows, a plant with many grains. This, he said, is what his death is about. Because from his death will come new life for all the world. That is why he would not try to avoid his death. And Jesus was not just speaking of himself. He spoke too about his followers needing to be ready to lose their lives in order to gain life. Being afraid of death, trying to delay it at all costs, trying to defeat the signs of ageing, all these things can preoccupy people. But this prevents us from attending to the kind of life that really matters, life that has integrity, life that is full and generous and truthful. Facing up to it is the way to authentic living. A life in which we know our limitations and can be honest about them. Not afraid to take risks for the sake of love and truth and humanity and compassion. The outcome, as the Gospel of St. John assures us, is eternal life, beginning now and continuing beyond Time.

*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. Fresh Guidance issued by the Bishop of Oxford is that it is expected, providing the progressive reduction in lockdown measures over the next few months continues as planned, that there can be a return to in-person public worship in step 3 of the relaxation of lockdown restrictions. Unless the government guidance changes, this is due to be from 17<sup>th</sup> May onwards. We will need to wait to see if anything further comes in the next week or so. The previous PCC decision that in-church collective worship will be suspended for the present continues and the other churches in the Risborough Team are following suit.

We will continue to hold an On-line Morning Worship Service with Hymns on Sundays (at 10:00 am GMT for the present). 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 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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, *Amen*.



## READINGS FOR 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT

Jeremiah Ch. 31 VV. 31 – 34  
Hebrews Ch. 5 VV. 5 – 10

John Ch. 12 VV. 20 – 33



## PRAYER CHAIN PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK (THIS SUNDAY THE INTERCESSIONS WILL BE LED BY PAT RUSHMERE)

God our Father, in your love and goodness you have taught us to come close to you in penitence with prayer, fasting and generosity; accept our Lenten discipline, and when we fall by our weakness, raise us up by your unfailing mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

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 5<sup>TH</sup> 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.



## THE ST. JOHN'S LENTEN FRONTAL

This Sunday we move to the centre of the Lenten Array Altar Frontal and consider the third group of symbols relating to Jesus' journey to the Cross; a crown of thorns and three nails. The crown of thorns was placed on Jesus' head when a group of soldiers, who had flogged Jesus, dressed him in a purple cloak / robe, placed a reed in his hand and mocked him (Mark Ch. 15 V. 17) .

The nails occur slightly later in the story when Jesus was nailed to the cross at Golgotha, having had it carried there by Simon of Cyrene (Mark Ch. 15 V. 24).



## ST. MARY'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Don't forget the Lent challenge to read the daily thoughts which are published by St Mary's every day except Sunday on their Facebook page. Written by clergy and members of the leadership team, the reflections are inspirational and thought provoking. To access the Thoughts, click on the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysrisborough/>

or access via St Mary's website ([stmarysrisborough.org.uk](http://stmarysrisborough.org.uk)).