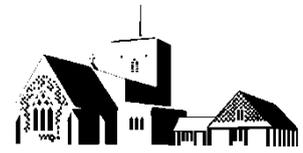


THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY, REDBOURN



LENT 2017

The Season of Lent is an important time for all Christians – a time to deepen our relationship with God through prayer, reflection and study, as we prepare for Holy Week and our annual remembering of the Suffering, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

An Offer of Spiritual Support

In recent years we have kept a full schedule of different services, groups and talks to help us in all of this. Alongside the programme this year, we also want to offer again a special opportunity for every adult at St Mary's to have a 45 minute conversation with a member of the Wider Ministerial Team. I can assure you it will be fruitful and encouraging and I strongly commend this to you, even if at first thought it sounds unfamiliar or a little intimidating.

Many of us are very conscious of our physical health. We have a chance for health check-ups at the GP and we can get fitness tests at a gym. We usually come away reassured, with some sensible advice about what we can do to improve our general health or fitness. As people of faith, our spiritual health and well-being is something we also take seriously, but often we don't have the chance to think about our faith and prayer life, or talk it through with someone.

Well, we'd like to offer just such a chance to you this Lent. As a considerable time commitment on our part we'd like to offer every adult member of St Mary's a chance for a one-on-one chat to discuss – well, whatever you want to discuss in your faith – in total confidence and as a way of being encouraged, listened to and supported in your relationship with God, and without any sense that you're being judged or tested in some way.

Please fill out the slip enclosed in this leaflet and return it to Church as soon as possible so that we can set these meetings up over the coming weeks.

In addition to this opportunity, we also offer a number of other ways to deepen our faith.

Some parts of our Lenten programme have the additional value of being shared with our brothers and sisters in Christ from the other churches in Redbourn. There is an ecumenical discussion group meeting on Wednesday mornings at New Forge Place (but open to all people – not just those who live there), some excellent guest speakers addressing us at St Mary's on Thursday evenings, and Friday lunches in the Garden Room at the Methodist Church.

*The theme for the rest of the programme, here at St Mary's, is **'Faith in Action'**.*

In various ways we're going to explore our faith lived out through worship and loving service.

This leaflet gives some suggestions to help you make the most of the coming six weeks. But they are only suggestions and you will know your own circumstances and needs. With different times and days on offer, I hope that you will be able to come along to something. Whatever you decide to give up or take up, however you choose to observe the season of Lent, I hope and pray that it will be a time of enrichment and encouragement, a time that brings you nearer to God.

DAILY THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

As well as the sessions listed below, if you have a computer and internet access I encourage you to sign up for a daily thought for the day, called 'Live the Challenge' – a daily thought delivered by email or text that encourages you to deepen your faith and relationship with God this Lent. For full details and to sign up please visit: www.livethechallenge.co.uk.

Or if you want to try a daily text and reflection that continues throughout the year, a good one can be found at: <http://www.onewayuk.com/devotionals.php>

FAITH IN ACTION

GIVING UP

Sundays 6.30 pm

Our Sunday evening services will take a variety of forms and during each one we will hear a short address on the theme 'Giving Up'. Alongside alcohol or chocolate (or whatever), what might we give up this Lent to grow as Disciples of Christ?

<i>5th March</i>	<i>Choral Evensong</i>	<i>Giving up Control</i>	<i>Matthew 4. 1-11</i>
<i>12th March</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	<i>Giving up Expectations</i>	<i>Mark 8. 31 – 9. 1</i>
<i>19th March</i>	<i>Contemporary Service</i>	<i>Giving up Superiority</i>	<i>John 4. 5-42</i>
<i>26th March</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	<i>Giving up Enemies</i>	<i>Matthew 5. 38-48</i>
<i>2nd April</i>	<i>Evening Service</i>	<i>Giving up Our Lives</i>	<i>Ezekiel 37. 1-14</i>
<i>9th April</i>	<i>'The Way of the Cross'</i>	<i>Giving up Popularity</i>	<i>Matthew 21. 1-11</i>
<i>16th April</i>	<i>Easter Day Choral Evensong</i>	<i>Giving up Death</i>	<i>John 20. 1-18</i>

LIVING GOD'S LOVE

Mondays 12 noon

Lent Lunch and Discussion

Five weeks for us to explore together, over a simple soup lunch, ways that we can live out God's Love more fully and effectively.

<i>6th March</i>	<i>To live your life...</i>	<i>with Generosity</i>
<i>13th March</i>		<i>with Joy</i>
<i>20th March</i>		<i>with Imagination</i>
<i>27th March</i>		<i>with Courage</i>
<i>3rd April</i>		<i>for the sake of the World</i>

QUESTIONS OF THE CROSS

Tuesdays 9.00 pm Devotional Address and Compline
Fifteen minute reflections by the Vicar on the ultimate story of 'Faith in Action' as we consider the Crucifixion. Each week the address is followed by the quiet, prayerful service of Compline.

7th March	<i>A Question of Story</i>	<i>God's Story, God's People, God's World</i>
14th March	<i>A Question of Trust</i>	<i>The Awesome Trust of Jesus</i>
21st March	<i>A Question of Purpose</i>	<i>What does it all mean? Why did it happen?</i>
28th March	<i>A Question of Love</i>	<i>A Love that gives Everything</i>
4th April	<i>A Question of Our Story</i>	<i>Not so much a question as a response</i>

THE NAIL

Wednesdays 10.00 am New Forge Place
Seven sessions of discussion, fellowship and refreshment. This year we follow the book 'The Nail' by the Stephen Cottrell. In our readings and discussion we consider the Passion Story through the eyes of some of the by-standers and witnesses.

1st March	<i>Peter</i>	<i>The Revd Will Gibbs</i>
8th March	<i>The Roman Centurion</i>	<i>The Revd Tim Vickers</i>
15th March	<i>Pontius Pilate</i>	<i>Grace Sawyer</i>
22nd March	<i>Caiaphas</i>	<i>The Revd Tim Vickers</i>
29th March	<i>Judas</i>	<i>Father Michael Mannion</i>
5th April	<i>Mary Magdalene</i>	<i>The Revd Gill Hulme</i>
12th April	<i>Pilate's Wife</i>	<i>The Revd Will Gibbs</i>

DISCIPLES OF THE TRUTH

Wednesdays 7.30 pm Holy Eucharist with Address
Our regular Wednesday Eucharist is enhanced by a short address on five challenging passages from Matthew chapter 20.

8th March	<i>Lois Smith</i>	<i>Matthew 20. 1-16</i>	<i>True Generosity</i>
15th March	<i>The Revd Tim Vickers</i>	<i>Matthew 20. 17-19</i>	<i>True Purpose</i>
22nd March	<i>Kay Vernon</i>	<i>Matthew 20. 20-23</i>	<i>True Greatness</i>
29th March	<i>Bishop Robin Smith</i>	<i>Matthew 20. 24-28</i>	<i>True Service</i>
5th April	<i>Canon Christine Farrington</i>	<i>Matthew 20. 29-34</i>	<i>True Vision</i>

LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU...

Thursdays 8.00 pm

St Mary's Church

Our visiting speakers reflect on the ways that the Christian ideas of service and care can be offered to the vulnerable and needy.

9th March	'A stranger and welcome you'	Malcolm Ernst Waterways Chaplain
16th March	'In need and take care of you'	Janis Feely – 'The Living Room' Alcohol & Drug Dependency Support
23rd March	'Denied': Crosslights Passion Play Tickets £10 from Revd Tim Vickers	The Riding Lights Theatre Company 7.30 pm at Redbourn Village Hall
30th March	'Held captive and visit you'	Reona Joly Yarl's Wood Immigration Centre
6th April	'In debt and support you'	Rachel Martin Christians Against Poverty

TABLE FELLOWSHIP

Fridays

12.30 pm

Redbourn Methodist Church

On Friday lunchtimes, the Redbourn Churches will take it in turn to provide a simple lunch at the Methodist Church as we share together and socialise. Donations equivalent to the cost of your lunch are invited and these will be given away to the charities we're supporting this Lent.

A FINAL THOUGHT

We hope that what you have read has inspired you and that you will commit to come to one (or more) of these series in Lent. Whatever you decide is fine – it's your choice and you know best your needs and diaries. Of course, what is most important of all is that we are fed spiritually, and that through faith, God is at work in each one of us, making us who we are called to be.

OUR USUAL PATTERN OF SERVICES:

SUNDAYS

8.00 am	HOLY COMMUNION
9.30 am	SUNG PARISH EUCHARIST <i>with Children's Groups</i>
12 noon	HOLY COMMUNION (1st Sunday only)
6.30 pm	EVENING SERVICE

WEEKDAYS

HOLY EUCHARIST	<i>is celebrated:</i>	<i>on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm</i>
MORNING PRAYER	<i>is said daily:</i>	<i>Monday – Friday at 9.30 am</i>
EVENING PRAYER	<i>is said daily:</i>	<i>Monday – Friday at 5.00 pm</i>

Why not come to one extra service a week as part of your Lenten commitment?

The Reverend Will Gibbs 01582 791 669

will@stmarysredbourn.org

The Reverend Tim Vickers 01582 622 530

tim@stmarysredbourn.org

Spiritual Support

During Lent we are offering a chance for a 45 minute conversation with a member of the Wider Ministerial Team here at St Mary's.

What it is:

A time for you.

An opportunity to talk with someone who will listen, encourage and support.

A chance for you to talk about the things you want to talk about.

A conversation that will leave you feeling positive and good about your faith.

What this isn't:

A test where you worry about how much you know or don't know about God.

An exam where you come away feeling inferior or inadequate in some way.

A conversation that is then commented on or shared with others.

Before the meeting, you might like to take some time to think about what it will be helpful to talk about. These might include:

Where your spiritual journey began and where it has brought you so far;

Any significant moments or stages in your journey of faith;

What your usual practice of prayer is;

Any struggles you have with prayer or faith;

Any ways in which St Mary's could support you more fully in your faith;

Please cut off and return the section below to St Mary's by **Sunday 5 March**.



Full Name:

Address and Postcode:

Telephone number / mobile:

Email Address:

Times you are available: Mornings Afternoons Evenings Weekdays Weekends
(Please circle as many as you can in order to assist us in making the arrangements)

The members of the Wider Ministry Team offering this support are:

Christine Farrington, Will Gibbs, Bishop Robin and Lois Smith, Kay Vernon and Tim Vickers and what they are offering to you is something they regularly do themselves with someone to help them in their faith and prayer life.

One of us will be in touch to set up the time to get together. Where you meet – your home or their home – is to be agreed between you. It may also be possible to meet somewhere in church if you wish – please let Will know if this is needed.