*The Parish Churches of St. Peter & St. Paul, Wincanton*

*and St. Michael, Pen Selwood*

**

Church website: [www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.wincantonparishchurch.co.uk)

7th February 2021 2nd Sunday before Lent

Dear Friends,

It is clear from the news during this past week, that lockdown will be with us for a while yet. I’m longing for this time to pass, but also conscious that we need to pull together (even in our separateness) for the common good of all. I was intrigued that 40 days was mentioned within all of this (from the announcement to the potential opening of schools), which in my mind reminds me of the time of our church year seasons. We have just slipped out of the 40 days of Christmas and Epiphany and are rapidly heading towards the Season of Lent (which starts on Ash Wednesday – 17th Feb), and mirrors Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness.

As well as the Lent course run via Churches together (more details from Penny further on in this newsletter). Can I commend to you the #livelent material. As is the way today there’s an app, or daily emails or a booklet. The daily reflections will also be available via the Daily Hope line (0800 804 8044).

As I write this I am still waiting for the booklets so we can mail them out to those on our mail list in time for Lent, which starts on 17th Feb. We will post these as soon as we receive them. We will have a few spare ones so if you would like one of them get in touch with me.

This link will get you email reflections and I will let you know the link to get the app when it is available.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/livelent-gods-story-our-story-our-lent>.

So you know, there will be an additional reflection and online video for Ash Wednesday so look out for that when the time comes.

With love in Christ, Alison

A prayer for use at this time:- We remember before God those who have died and we pray that God's love will surround all who mourn them, now and always Gracious God,as we remember before you the thousands who have died, surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion. Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair, and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

From: <https://www.churchofengland.org/>

**PS:** If you are finding the going tough at the moment, please don’t hesitate to ring Rev Alison. And if you would like to receive a regular phone call from the church team each week during this third lockdown, do please get in touch. If you are shielding or feeling alone please let Rev Alison or Rachel know, and we will arrange for you to receive a wellbeing call from one of our Good Samaritans on a weekly basis. **You are not alone.**

**Contact Details for Rev Alison Way -** Please note my contact details are:

Address: The Parish Office; 38 High Street, Wincanton, BA9 9JF

Landline: 01963 33151, Work mobile: 07515 958988

Email: rector@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk, Twitter: @revalisonway

Facebook Group: Wincanton and Pen Selwood CofE Churches

My usual day off each week is THURSDAY.



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**Readings for 7th February: Colossians 1: 15-20 John 1: 1-14**

**Readings for 14th February: 2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 Mark 9: 2-9**

**The Parish Office** has had to close due to the continued restrictions placed on employers, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Rachel is working from home, during normal office hours: **Tuesday, Thursday & Friday mornings:**

**9:15am – 1:15pm.** You can contact Rachel on 01963 824503 or via email at: office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk business will continue as normal.

#### Church Diary \* SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE

**Sun 7th Feb 9am – 11am Wincanton Church open for private prayer**

**Sun 7th Feb 10am – 3pm Pen Selwood Church open for private prayer**

**Sun 7th Feb 7:00pm Night Prayer with Rev Alison via Zoom**

 ***(get in touch for joining details or for the order of service you will need).***

**Wed 10th Feb 12:00 – 2pm Wincanton Church open for private prayer**

**Sun 14th Feb 9am – 11am Wincanton Church open for private prayer**

**Sun 14th Feb 10am – 3pm Pen Selwood Church open for private prayer**

**Sun 14th Feb 7:00pm Night Prayer with Rev Alison via Zoom**

***(get in touch for joining details or for the order of service you will need).***

#### Church Notices

**Churches Together Lent Course** - For our Lent course this year we will be studying the Beatitudes, using the book Happy and Blessed by John Cox costing not more than £6.99.  This can be purchased from most online bookshops, by phone from the publisher Kevin Mayhew on 01449 737978 or Hive books on 0203 176 3838 who will order it for you, please allow extra time for it to come. I am happy to order for you if you would like (this will incur a postage fee).  The course will start on **Tuesday, 23 February** at **10am** and will be on Zoom only under current restrictions.  If there is sufficient demand we will repeat each session on the Wednesday evening.  If you wish to attend, please let me know with your preferred time and I will arrange for the link to be sent to you.  **Penny.**

**Easter Eggs** - I am again taking orders for the Real Easter Egg.  Prices are £4.50 for the standard egg, £5.50 for dark chocolate and £9.99 for the special edition.  All the eggs are made of Fair Trade, palm oil free chocolate and the standard and dark contain an Easter story booklet and are plastic free.  Full details of all the range can be found at <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/collections/real-easter-egg>.  Final date for orders is 28th February. Please let me know if you would like to place an order. **Penny.**

**St Peter & St Paul** require a **Treasurer** to assist the church with the recording of its financial accounts. Could you, or do you know someone, who could spare a couple of hours a month to help the church with this task? You do not have to be a member of the church. This role is fully supported by an established team, and would involve monthly statement reconciliations and year end accounting. **Please get in touch if you would like to know more -** office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk.

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**Prayer List –** If you would like to be added to our Prayer List, or feel a friend or relative should be on our Prayer List, please do let me know. If you are wanting someone else to be prayed for you must have their permission.

Anybody is welcome to be included in our prayers at any time, and I will also pray for you in my daily prayers. Please use the contact details in this newsletter to contact me. **Alison.**



**Prayer Diary**

**From today’s readings:** “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.”.

**Prayer Chain:** If you would like immediate prayers for yourself or someone you know please contact one of the following (requests passed in confidence): Penny Ashton 33990 or Judy Chiplen 33834. If you wish to join the prayer chain, contact Judy 33834. If you wish to be added to our Prayer List, please contact Rev Alison Way 33151.

**Please continue to pray for** those of our fellowship and friends whoare ill or recovering from operations: Derek Ayers, June and Steve Beech, Margaret Brown (Gwen Evans’ Daughter), Irene Rix (Sue Hall’s Mum), Ann and Bryan Phillips, Sam (Gill Oaten’s Great Great Nephew), Joyce Bentley, Mike Gray, Sue Cox, Brenda Piper, Bishop Peter and Jane Hancock, Canon Alan and Rosemary Watson, Elizabeth Vivyan, baby Nate Brown, Elroi Manor, Rev Alison Way.

**Please remember** the long-term sick, the housebound & their carers.

**Please pray for those who grieve, and for the departed:** Bob Shave, Ken Standen, Adrian Grace.

We pray for Wincanton Health Centre and Wincanton Community Hospital, for the staff in their work pressures.

**Food for thought and prayer** - We will be looking for another churchwarden to accompany Sue, next April for St Peter and St Paul. We also need to identify a new treasurer. Please give this your consideration and prayer.

*Parish Office: 38 High Street, Wincanton BA9 9JF 01963 824503*

*Any items, for inclusion the Newsletter, to Rachel by midday on Wednesday.*

 *Email:* *office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk*