*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)

21st February 2021 1st Sunday of Lent

Dear Friends,

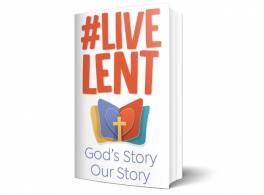
The season of Lent helps us to focus on our journey with God, and I hope you are enjoying and gaining wisdom from whatever you have chosen to bring you closer to God in these days. If you haven’t started looking at the #LiveLent stuff then I am sure you could catch up quite easily with the first few days. I have left the links in at the end of my thoughts. If you haven’t managed to connect with a Lent prayer stone (particularly in Wincanton and want one, get in touch and we will find a way to get one to you).

We have our first ‘Happy and Blessed’ Lent Group this week – get in touch with Penny if you intend to come. The first session introduces us to the beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-10) – the ‘Blessed are’ statements which start the sermon on the mount. This session thinks particularly about how we understand happiness and blessedness. I am sure it will be an interesting study.

For **Mothering Sunday** (14th March), I am looking for **prayers and drawings** that represent our thankfulness for ‘Mothers and others who care for us’. Either pop your prayer or picture on an email, or post to the parish office. I would need your contributions by Sunday 7th March, so I can weave them into the Service video for that day.

I am beginning to work with the working groups in each Church, and subsequently will be tapping into the wisdom of PCCs on some the tentative worship plans with Holy Week and Easter in mind. This is very provisional, so please keep praying.

With love in Christ, Alison

This link will get you email reflections:

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

This one the android app: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.livelent&hl=en_US&gl=US>

And this one the iphone app:

<https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/livelent-gods-story-our-story/id1336487241>

**Prayer for the nation – Week commencing 22nd February**

Lord Jesus Christ, in these dark and difficult days, we turn our hearts to you.

In ages past, you have delivered our nation from disaster. Do it again, we pray.

Give wisdom beyond human wisdom to our leaders, Give strength beyond human strength to the NHS and all our frontline workers. Give comfort beyond human comfort to the elderly and all who grieve. Lord Jesus Christ, in these dark and difficult days, turn your face towards us, have mercy upon us, and heal our land, we pray. Amen

**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](mailto: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 21st February: Genesis 9: 8-17 Mark 1: 9-15**

**Readings for 28th February: Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 Mark 8: 31-end**

**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](mailto:office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk) business will continue as normal.



Lent Prayer Stones and cards

are available inside the church

at St Peter & St Paul’s

when the church is open for

private prayer sessions,

and in the porch at St Michael’s

From Sunday, 14th February 2021

Please pick up a prayer stone and card

to enrich your Lent

(17th February – 3rd April 2021)

***Please only touch the stone you are taking***



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

**Sun 21st Feb 9am-11am Wincanton Church CLOSED today – apologies**

**Sun 21st Feb 10am – 3pm Pen Selwood Church open for private prayer**

**Sun 21st 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 24th Feb 12:00-2pm Wincanton Church CLOSED today – apologies**

**Sun 28th Feb 9am-11am Wincanton Church open for private prayer**

**Sun 28th Feb 10am – 3pm Pen Selwood Church open for private prayer**

**Sun 28th 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.**

**World Day of Prayer -** Friday, 5th March 2021 (formerly the WOMENS' World day of prayer) written by the women of Vanuatu - This annual event is a wonderful ecumenical movement providing large Grants to numerous humanitarian projects throughout the world, but it is entirely dependent on our generosity.

It is the turn of the Anglicans to host the service in Wincanton this year, but we obviously cannot hold a Service in the Church as we would have wished, therefore I am leaving the splendid Service Sheets, packed with interest and information, on a table (well spaced out) in the Holy Space on the South Side of St. Peter and St. Paul's church. Please help yourselves (when the church is open for private prayer) and return the enclosed envelopes containing what you MIGHT have given in the collection to:- Joanna Durham-Matthews, Old St. Audrey's, South Street, Wincanton BA9 9DX. Tel: 01963 31576 or post to The Parish Office, 38 High Street, Wincanton BA9 9JF.

Thanking you so much, in advance, for your generosity. I know many of you have been faithful supporters in the past. **Joanna Durham-Matthews**.

**Message from Nicky King -** As some of you may already know, and some people have already sponsored me, I am walking 50 miles in February in aid of the Children's Society. It is on my Facebook page if you can access that, or please give me a ring on 01963 33454 for more information. I am keeping well and this is helping to motivate me to keep walking. **Nicky**.



**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:** “God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.”.

**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, Hilary Jalland, Rev Alison Way.

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

**Please pray for those who grieve, and for the departed:** 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*](mailto:office@wincantonparishchurch.co.uk)