*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)

31st January 2021 4th Sunday of Epiphany

 ***Presentation in the Temple***

Dear Friends,

# I attach with this newsletter, a letter from the archbishops released on Tuesday 26th January. In it they ‘*invite nation to pause, pray and remember 100,000 people ‘known to God and cherished by God’.* It coincided with a day when I heard of the death of a former parishioner from COVID. Not the first person I have known who has died from this disease and sadly I suspect not the last. We stand in solidarity with friends and family and all those who have lost loved ones.

We need to lean into our faith and particularly our prayer life at this time. The archbishops are asking us to pray with them each day at 6pm in February (and prayers will be available each day on the Church of England Website or via social media for the Church of England – facebook, twitter, Instagram etc..).

I have also attached a handout with verses to inspire praise for each day of the month, as an alternative way into prayer.

Lent will soon be upon us. 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. We will be mailing the booklets to our mail out list hopefully next week in time for Lent which starts on 17th Feb. 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>

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 31st January: Revelation 12: 1-5a Luke 2: 22-40**

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

**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 31st Jan 9am – 11am Wincanton Church open for private prayer**

**Sun 31st Jan 10am – 3pm Pen Selwood Church open for private prayer**

**Sun 31st Jan 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 3rd Feb 12:00 – 2pm Wincanton Church open for private prayer**

**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).***

#### Church Notices

**CONTACT POOL**

It is that time of year again, and you will have received your Renewal Form for Contact Pool! I do hope you will continue to support this fundraiser, as the church has lost a large part of its revenue from coffee mornings, fetes and other money-generating events in 2020.

I’m enormously grateful to all our existing members and would be delighted to hear of anyone else who might join us. It is only £1.50 per month (£18 per year) with an excellent chance to win £30, £20 or £10 each month! We always hold the draw a month in arrears, and I can announce the winners of the December draw are:

1st Sharon Everett (no.49) £30, 2nd Patrick Durham-Matthews (no.7) £20 and 3rd Colin Watkins (no.138) £10. Congratulations!

I shall be pleased to receive your subs for 2021 as soon as convenient. **Thank you so much and Good Luck! Joanna Durham-Matthews.**

01963 31576 – Old St Audreys, South Street, Wincanton BA9 9DX.

**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 £5.99.  This can be purchased from most online bookshops - I am trying to find a seller who will take telephone orders.  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.**

**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:** “Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God…”.

**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

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*