

Worshipping, Caring, Pioneering
'Growing God's Kingdom'



Sunday worship and weekly news
21 February 2021

LENT I

Welcome everyone
as the Rev Canon Dr Sandra Millar
leads our video Service



We have entered the season of Lent. Did you have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday? Are you giving anything up over the next few weeks until Easter bursts on the scene?

Some of us may think, 'Haven't we given up enough already over the past year. We have had to isolate. We can't fellowship or give hugs to the ones we love. It's like living in a wilderness'.

Is Lent about giving something up? Or is it more a time for us to prepare and think about His time in the wilderness and ultimately, the most wonderful sacrifice ever made?

Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness experiencing every temptation you or I could ever face. He knew His Father was with Him, so He was able to persevere. He is with you too; persevere.

Pete Best

Today's service on YouTube: The service can be accessed from the church website www.glos-stm-stg.org.uk Click on the blue banner at the bottom of the page. Enjoy, and sing aloud to your hearts content.

Do you have 'YouTube' as a channel on your TV? You may not have internet connection, but if you have 'YouTube' as a channel on your TV? You should be able to access this morning's service by moving to 'search', then search for **HANS RACKHAM**. Then select the service you wish to view.

When will our Churches re-open? Sadly, as yet, we don't know. We are awaiting a government announcement when the 'lockdown' restrictions will ease. Whatever date is decided upon we shall give you **two week's** notice of the opening date. Meanwhile, stay safe.

The foundations of Lent

Processional Hymn

Forty days and forty nights

Thou wast fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted, and yet undefiled.



Sunbeams scorching all the day;
Chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
Prowling beasts about thy way;
Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Let us thine endurance share,
And awhile from joys abstain,
With thee watching unto prayer,
Strong with thee to suffer pain?

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
Ever constant by thy side;
That with thee we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide.



THE GREETING

Minister: We meet in the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Lord be with you **And also with you.**

Prayer of preparation for worship

Minister: Let us pray

Almighty God to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ, our Lord. Amen

Prayer of penitence

Minister: Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord, Our God, is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord, Your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen, Lord, have mercy

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen short from temptation into sin.

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father,
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the desert:
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer
that we may witness to your saving love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

I Peter 3 Suffering for doing right

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Prayer: Lord thank You for rescuing us through baptism into Your resurrection. Amen

Psalm 25 A plea for deliverance and forgiveness

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; **O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies triumph over me.**

2 Let none who look to you be put to shame, **but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.**

3 Make me to know your ways, O Lord, **and teach me your paths.**

4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, **for you are the God of my salvation; for you have I hoped all the day long.**

5 Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, **for they are from everlasting.**

6 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions, **but think on me in your goodness, O Lord, according to your steadfast love.**

7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; **therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.**

8 He will guide the humble in doing right **and teach his way to the lowly.**

9 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth **to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.**

Prayer: Free us, God of mercy, from all that keeps us from you; relieve the misery of the anxious and ashamed and fill us with the hope of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Mark 1 The Baptism of Jesus

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

The Temptation of Jesus

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Prayer: Lord your clarion call is enticing and clear. Help us to be constant and clear in our answer. Amen

Reflection from Rev Canon Dr Sandra Millar

We are at the beginning of Lent, and the lectionary takes us to the beginning of Jesus' ministry, a beginning marked by baptism.

There is much written about Jesus' baptism – but one thing stands out for me. It is the day when Jesus knows that God looks on him with love and claims him as his own. That knowledge is the gift given to each of us in our baptism, however long ago it happened, when our journey of faith began, and we were assured that God's love will accompany us through every changing scene of life. Over the years we learn that our relationship with God is strong enough and big enough to take us through all that life brings – the good times, the sad times, the hard times. Baptism is about God's grace in forgiving, and God's love always welcoming us home, however far we drift off the path, as long as we turn back. This is a great place to begin our journey through Lent once more.

In Lent we make choices to be more disciplined – or more disciplined. We choose to follow the journey of Jesus, and to live out the reality of our baptism as we rediscover all those promises, prayers and choices that were made. We make commitments to new actions, which sometimes involve saying no, and sometimes yes. We can choose each day not to be disappointed or downhearted but to be joyful,





hopeful people – to be glad and thankful for all that has brought us safely to this day, and all that will lead us to tomorrow. Above all, we can remember love – the love we know through others, and the great love of God holding us. Then we can step out once more to follow, knowing that when we fail, as we surely will, there will be forgiveness and a new start. May this Lent be a time of hope for you.

We declare together our commitment to faith with the words of the Creed:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again, in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory, to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life who proceeds from the Father and the Son who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Intercessions from Susan Scothern

Eternal Lord, we bring to you all those who will be making decisions for our country in the coming week. Give them your wisdom and your compassion, that what is decided will be for the good of all and not just the few, and where there are conflicting requests, may they hear not just those who shout loudest, but those whose voices are quiet.

Compassionate Lord, we pray for teachers as they seek to support their students in difficult situations.

Help them as they have to combine classroom learning for some and learning from home for others. We think too of parents helping their children, and for the many who are struggling at this time. We pray too for doctors, nurses, others within the health service and carers of all sorts. Give them stamina as they continue in their work.

Father God, as we hear about Jesus' baptism, we think of our own baptism and how that was the beginning of the journey we are making with you. We therefore bring before you where we find ourselves now, our fears and our hopes, our worries and our plans. Be with us when we confront the dark places, go before us as we step out in faith and give us courage when the road before us appears hard and uphill. Above all, remind us that your love surrounds us at every step we take.

Loving Lord, we pray for those we know who are ill at this time, and ask that, when we are unable to put our arms around them, they will still sense yours are there. And as we mourn those who have gone before us, remind us that one day we will be with them, worshipping you before your eternal throne. Amen.

Minister: Merciful father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

We share God's Peace

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace. The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Offertory Hymn

Take my Life and let it be

Consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days;

Let them flow in ceaseless praise,

Take my hands and let them move

At the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be

Swift and beautiful for thee,

Take my voice and let me sing

Always, only, for my King.

Take my lips and let them be

Filled with messages from thee,

Take my silver and my gold;

Not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect and use

Every power as thou shalt choose,

Take my love; my Lord, I pour

At thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be

Ever, only, all for thee,



THE SACRAMENT

The Table is prepared

Minister: God of our journey, as we walk with you on your path of obedience, sustain us on our way and lead us to your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and their majesty; for everything in heaven, and on earth, is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Minister: The Lord is here. **His spirit is with us.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with the saints and angels for ever praising you and saying.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven on earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father, who, in your tender mercy, gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying Take,

eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying; Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Jesus Christ is Lord: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free, You are the saviour of the world. Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father, in remembrance of the precious death and passion, the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension of your dear Son Jesus Christ, we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death, and through faith in his blood, we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion. Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this the duty and service that we owe. Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences, and fill us all who share in this holy communion with your grace and heavenly blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray for the coming of gods kingdom, as our saviour has taught us.

Our father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name thy Kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven give us this day Our Daily Bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

We break the bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.
Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. (repeat)
Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

We share in Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the whole world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. **Amen**

Rev Canon Dr Sandra Millar takes communion on our behalf

Prayers

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your people shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE DISMISSAL

God, who from the death of sin raised you to new life in Christ, keep you from falling and set you in the presence of his glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and all whom you hold in your heart this day and always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ, Amen

Final Hymn

Guide me, O thou great redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand:
bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fiery, cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through:
strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.

WHAT TO DO for THIS WEEK:

- ❖ Keep bringing items for the Foodbank; new collection point is the Church Centre hallway on a Friday morning from 9.30am – 11.30am.
Toiletries now accepted at the foodbank.
'Long life milk' and 'tinned carrots' are also needed.
Thank you!

Know someone who:

- ❖ is stuck at home without support?
- ❖ can't make ends meet?
- ❖ Just wants to talk?

Then **Contact Gloucestershire Community Help Hub on 01452 583519**

Keep picking up the phone!

People are finding phone calls with friends invaluable to combat loneliness. Thank you everyone; please keep up the good work!



CONTACTING US:

Vicar: Vacancy (please pray for new appointment)
Reader: Jonathan MacKechnie-Jarvis 01452 502174
Pioneer: Helen McGeoch 07729 615993
Email: tuffleypioneer@gmail.com
Website: www.glos-stg-stm.org.uk
Facebook: St. George's, Tuffley and St Margaret's Whaddon
Administrator: Glenda Stevens 01452 307456
Email: stgeorgeschurch1@gmail.com

The Administration office is open on Friday mornings from 9.30am until 11.30am until further notice. Please contact the Church Administrator by email or leave a message on the office telephone and our Administrator will get back to you.

We are part of the **Church in Tuffley**, working in partnership with English Martyrs (Roman Catholic), Grange (Baptist) and St Barnabas (Anglican).



News 21 - 28 February

In Memoriam:

Graham Best, William Tweed, Raymond Manley,
Joan King RIP

We pray for all who are ill or in need at this time mentioning by name:

Margaret, Angela, Susan, Mike and Laura, Lynne, Sarah, Pat, Christine, June, Daphne, Carol, Bill, Darren and family, Hedley and Rosemary, Florence, Carol, Christopher and Christine, Wendy, David and Angela.

Anniversaries of death:

Kevin Easterby, Richard Clarke, Heather Merrett, Marion Jenkins, Mark Hopkins, Andrew Kelly, Joan Mercer, David Cleveland, Doreen Taylor, Marjorie Treece, Iris Turner, Sandra Everidge, Dinah Freke, Nicholas Capper, Pamela Whitmore, Tom Tranter, Ruby Jones, Ethel Voyce, Tony Eagles.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Roger and Brenda Meadows celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary on 24th.

DIARY DATES 21 – 28 February

Sun 21			No Service today
Mon 22 to Fri 26	10.00am to 12.00noon	G	Food Parcels at St G's every morning
Mon 22			March Crossroads printing
	7.00pm	Z	Lent Group
Tue 23	4.00pm	Z	Vacancy Steering Group
	7.00pm	Z	Centre Management AGM followed by a meeting
Wed 24	8.15am	Z	Morning Prayer
	10.00am	Z	Mission Group
	3.30pm	C	Funeral for the late Joan King RIP
Thu 25			No Service today
Fri 26	10.30am	Z	Lent Group
Sat 27			Possible Tree planting (see notices)
Sun 28			No Service today

FOOD PARCELS: St George's Church, Grange Road, is open for Food Parcel collections from **Monday to Friday 10.00am – 12.00noon**. Anyone requiring help outside of these times please phone Sylvia on **01452 416184**. All food parcels are **FREE OF CHARGE**. Please be aware of social distancing guidelines.

ANNUAL REPORTS: If you normally write a report for St George's APCM, would you please prepare it NOW and send it to Glenda as soon as possible. Emailed documents are preferred; but if your report has to be handwritten please let Glenda have it immediately, in order that she can process it in time for the Annual Report and Accounts pack.

Remember your report covers the period,

1 JANUARY 2020 TO 31 DECEMBER 2020 only.

The deadline for ALL reports is **SUNDAY 6 MARCH**; your report will not appear in the report pack if it is received after this date.

ELECTORAL ROLL: The 2021 Annual meetings of St George's and St Margaret's will be held at some point in 2021. If your name does not appear on the current Electoral Roll you will not be eligible to vote at the APCMs or be elected onto either PCC.

The Electoral Roll for St George's and St Margaret's would normally be displayed on the notice board from **Sunday 6 March 2021 - 27 March 2021** but neither church may be open during that period.

If you wish your name to be added to the list, forms can be obtained from Margaret Barber, for St George's or Jill Ponter, for St Margaret's (see contact details at the front of Crossroads).

Completed forms should be returned by no later than **Sunday 27 March 2021**.

DESERT ISLAND HYMNS: Do you have a favourite Hymn? Any favourite hymn? It looks as though you are shy in coming forward because so far we have only had 3 people advise us of their favourite hymns. We shall start including these hymns next month so why are you hanging back? Let Jonathan or Helen know which hymns, along with your bible, you would take to a desert island.

You can contact Jonathan on 01452 502174
Helen can be contacted on 07729615993

TREE PLANTING: We shall establish with the City Council whether tree planting on the 27 February will go ahead once the government have made their announcement regarding easing the lockdown.

Those who have expressed an interest in 'Tree Planting' will be contacted by Lorraine Best once a decision is made.

VACANCY STANDING COMMITTEE on ZOOM

4.00pm Tuesday 23 February

4.00pm Tuesday 9 March

Lent Groups started last Friday 19 February at 10.00am and will continue tomorrow Monday 21 February from 7.00pm on Zoom; both will run for 6 weeks. Speak to Helen for more information.