# Sunday 16th February 20202nd Sunday before Lent

## THOUGHT FOR TODAY

How can I resist evil?

*‘I can resist anything except temptation’* -the words of this well-known quote from Oscar Wilde probably ring true for many us, which might be ok when the thing being resisted is the occasional bar of chocolate, or the additional glass of wine. But what about more serious temptations? I’m thinking now about the things in the world around us that might lead us into the dangerous territory of breaking Jesus’ New Commandment, teaching he gives his followers (Mark12:30-31) summed up in us being told the importance of loving God and loving one another. How good are we at resisting breaking this law?

In Alpha this is described as resisting evil, and as Jesus’ followers we must have no doubt that evil does exist in our broken world. Jesus himself met evil, personified as the devil who tempted him when he was in the desert after his baptism by John (Luke 4:1-13). Jesus resisted the evil that the devil tempted him with through knowing his own weaknesses, and even more importantly knowing that God loved him and valued him in spite of these weaknesses. Jesus was also certain that God was with him in his fight, and through using prayer and knowing scripture, Jesus won and the devil and temptation was defeated. Whether it’s a big temptation or something not so important, our God loves us and helps us whatever we face in life, including resisting temptation. Being built up in our relationship with God through prayer and Bible reading will help us too. The prayer on our lips must often be ‘*protect us and your whole church from the work of the evil one’. Amen.*

**THIS WEEK AT ST. MICHAEL'S**

**Wednesday**10:00am Holy Communion

**NEXT SUNDAY**8.00am Holy Communion
9.45am Holy Communion

**Lunch Bunch:** Wednesday 19th February, 12noon in the Church room. Please let Sue or Dave know if you are planning to come.

**Ash Wednesday Communion Services**26th February, 10:00am Said Service with ashing, 7:30pm with ashing and hymns.

**Curry and Quiz night**! Saturday 29th February, 7:00pm, £5, St. Michael's Church Room.  Please let Alison Tabernor know in advance if you will be coming (01889 804587). Come in teams of 4 or make a team on the night! Meat and veggie curry options available, wine sold by the glass! We need helpers for this event please, let us know if you could help in any way.

**Big Breakfast** - We are pleased that the Big Breakfast with talk will be re-starting on Saturday 7th March! 9:15 for a 9:30am start. More details to follow.

**Spring Clean!** We'll be having a spring clean of the Church on Thursday 19th March, starting at 9:30am. A list of jobs will be provided, please bring your own cleaning things (brushes, dusters, sprays, etc). Let's spruce the Church up before we happily return to our worship in there following the winter months. Many hands make light work! Please come and help if you can.

We are hoping to **make our own candles** to sell for a small amount, which can then be brought to be blessed during an all age **Mothers Day service** (Sunday 22nd March, 9:45am). Please can everyone have a look around your houses for any unwanted or partly used candles and bring to Church asap, to helps us make these totally unique candles. Thank you. Nearer the time we hope you will be able to buy a candle for your mother, or in memory of a dear departed mother, or perhaps someone else who plays/played a motherly or parental role in your life, or maybe just for yourself or someone else special in your life

**Handmade birthday cards** for sale for Church funds - donations please.

**St Michael’s Church flood lighting.** For a £25 donation you can sponsor the lighting up of the church in memory of a loved one. Contact Revd George for details.

**Parking** - Please be aware that parking fines have recently been issued to those parking on the double yellow lines outside the Church during a Service.

The Brereton Doctors Surgery have kindly agreed that those who are attending a Church Service on a Sunday, can park in the car park there.

**Across the Parish**

**Rummage Sale** at Church of the Good Shepherd 11am-2pm Sunday 16th February. Refreshments available. If you’d like a table contact Michael McGraw (Prime) - £3, set up from 10am. All welcome.

**Electoral Rolls**: Will everyone please check their entry on the roll and make any amendments necessary. i.e. change of address, spellings,, etc, and tell us if you know anyone has moved away from the area.

We are happy to say that we have been able to **send the Pathway Project £300** out of the proceeds of the Christmas Tree Festival at St Augustine’s.

**Advanced notices:**

**Lent Lunches across the benefice:** This year we visit different churches across the benefice. Start at 12.30pm with a short reflection on Lent, followed by bread soup and cheese.
***Weds 4th March at St John’s, Armitage
Weds 11th March at COHS; Weds 18th at COGS; Weds 25th March at St Michael’s; Weds 1st April at St Augustine’s.***

Friday 6th March 2pm, **World Day of Prayer** at Church of Holy Spirit. All welcome.

**Churches Together Litter Pick** 10.30am Saturday 21st March. starting at St. Paul’s Methodist Church.

Saturday evening March **21st Open House at the Curate’s** 2-5pm. 14 Peakes Road, Etching Hill.

**Parish Easter Trail**, Saturday 28th March, St. Michael's Church, more details to follow!