

HUNDRED RIVER & WAINFORD BENEFICE

Brampton, Ilkeshall St Andrew, Redisham, Ringsfield, Shadingfield, Sotterley, Stoven, Westhall, Weston



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Sunday 19th April—Easter 2



COLLECT FOR EASTER 2

Almighty Father,
You have given Your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve You
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with You,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

READINGS

Sunday 19th April 2

Morning

Exodus 14: 10-31, 15: 20-21; Acts 2: 14, 22-32
1 Peter 1: 3-9; John 20:19-31

Evening

Psalm 30: 1-5; Daniel 6: 1-23; Mark 15:46—16: 8

Monday 20th April

Morning

Psalms 2, 19; Exodus 15:1-21; Colossians 1: 1-14

Evening

Psalm 139; Deuteronomy 1:3-18; John 20.1-10

Tuesday 21st April

Morning

Psalms 8,20,21; Exodus 15: 22—16: 10; John 3: 7-15

Evening

Psalm 104; Deuteronomy 1: 19-40; John 20: 11-18

Wednesday 22nd April

Morning

Psalms 16, 30; Exodus 16: 11-end; Colossians 2: 1-15

Evening

Psalm 33; Deuteronomy 3:18-end; John 20: 19-end

Thursday 23rd April St George

Morning Prayer

Psalms 5 & 146; Joshua 1: 1-9; Ephesians 6:10-20

Evening Prayer

Psalm 3, 11; Isaiah 43: 1-7; John 15: 1-8

Friday 24th April

Morning Prayer

Psalm 57, 61; Exodus 18: 1-12; Colossians 3: 12—4:1

Evening Prayer

Psalms 118; Deuteronomy 4:15-31; John 21: 15-19

Saturday 25th April

Morning Prayer

Psalms 37:23-end & 148; Isaiah 62:6-10; Acts 12:25-13:13

Evening Prayer

Psalm 45; Ezekiel 1:4-14; 2Timothy 4:1-11

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of Your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us
from Your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- *Our Prime Minister and advisors as they seek the best way forward*
- *Our Archbishops and Diocesan Bishops as they guide us through this difficult time*
- *Community leaders seeking to respond to local needs*
- *Our communities, that they will be safe, caring places*
- *NHS staff, key workers, shop workers, all trying to care and support us*
- *Those who currently have COVID-19 and their families*
- *Countries struggling with the pandemic without the healthcare we have*
- *For charities seeing their income greatly reduced*
- *Patience as the lockdown is extended by at least 3 weeks*
- *For those with on-going health problems*
- *For ministers having to officiate at funerals*

RECTOR'S RAMBLES

When I was growing up there were a number of Bible based mini musicals doing the rounds – Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo, The Jonah-Man Jazz and Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. And there was also the Daniel Man Jazz.

Daniel was the chief hired man of the land.

He stirred up the jazz in the palace band.

It's always good to return to much loved stories that we grew up with, to look at them through older eyes and see what they have to say to us now.

We know the story so well; Daniel is a successful administrator for the king, his fellow administrators and satraps become jealous, they make up a new law, Daniel is found guilty of breaking the law, spends the night with the lions, and God protects him..

So, yeah, wow!

The part of the story that fired my imagination, probably because it's something I struggle with like most of us, is Daniel's rhythm of prayer.

Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened towards Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

Three times a day! On his knees! And, according to my commentaries, he is in his eighties!

And this had been the rhythm of his praying, probably all his life; three times each day, facing towards Jerusalem. It was a rhythm learned from his parents, who had learned it from their parents. Psalm 55 says:

Evening, morning and noon I cry out in distress, and he hears my voice.

This was an ingrained habit. And it was a habit that not only maintained Daniel's relationship with God but also his Hebrew roots and his connection to the wider Jewish community.

This so much of a part of who Daniel was that his reaction to the new law is to, almost nonchalantly, continue his habitual rhythm of prayer. He knew well the probable trouble that he would get into, he knew that the other administrators and satraps would be watching his every move.

I wonder how Daniel's example of prayer makes you feel? I know that it makes me feel uneasy!

A major influence on my prayer life is Brother Lawrence's 'The Practise of the Presence of God'; the opening of the whole day to conversation with God. But as a monk he also joined in the regular pattern of prayer of the monastery (even though he didn't find these times as beneficial to him).

So, sure, I have my regular time of prayer and I try to live in conversation with God. But it is a time at the very start of the day, and the end of the day, not one of the three times!

And we know that Jesus practised regular times of prayer; He is recorded as getting up early in the morning and at other times praying into the night. And it was a pattern that the disciples followed too; Peter prayed at noon and at three in the afternoon, and in 1 Thessalonians and 2 Timothy Paul says that he prayed night and day.

Many of the new communities, such as the Northumbria and Iona communities, are built around a rhythm of prayer. Their Daily Prayer contains liturgies for Morning, Midday and Evening prayers.

This regularity of prayer reminds us of its essentialness; like three good square meals a day. And like at a good meal, prayer is a time for listening as well talking. Two ears, one mouth. Twice as much listening as talking.

The challenge of this story from the life of Daniel to each one of us is to reflect on our personal rhythm of prayer and ensure that it is adequate to maintain our daily walk with God.

Rev Phil

To add items on the new sheet please contact Rev Phil

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