

The Parish of Louth and Deanery of Louthesk

Weekly notes and information for
21st February 2021: First Sunday of Lent



www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk



Collect Prayer at Daily Prayer during the week

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty
days in the wilderness, and was
tempted as we are,
yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves
in obedience to your Spirit; and, as
you know our weakness, so may we
know your power to save; through
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Our churches: opening as places for prayer and reflection in our communities

The Parish Church of Louth St James will be open for private prayer between
10am and 1pm

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays

*Please see pages 2 and 3 for details of other churches that are open for private prayer
across the Deanery of Louthesk*

DIARY OF PRAYER & WORSHIP THIS WEEK...

Services marked * are broadcast via www.facebook.com/louthchurch

Sunday 21st First Sunday of Lent	9 30am	Morning Service at Great Carlton via Zoom Please contact John S 328369
	10am	SUNG EUCHARIST at St James'* Psalm 25.1-9 Genesis 9.8-17; 1 Peter 3.18- end; Mark 1.9-15
	10am	Holy Communion at North Thoresby
	10am	Holy Communion at Marshchapel
	10am	Holy Communion at Grainthorpe
	10 30am	Morning Service at Grimoldby
	11 15am	Eucharist at Legbourne
	6pm	PLAINSONG EVENSONG at St James'* Psalm 119.17-32; Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7; Romans 5.12-19
Monday 22nd	9 15am	MORNING PRAYER at St James'* Psalm 11; Jeremiah 4.19-end; John 5.1-18
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
	10am	Funeral at Alford Crematorium
	11am	Funeral at South Elkington
Tuesday 23rd	9 15am	MATINS at St James'* Psalm 44; Jeremiah 5.1-19; John 5.19-29
	11am	HOLY COMMUNION at St James'*
	11 45am	Praying with the Imagination (Ignatian) Go to: www.zoom.us/join or 'phone 0203 481 5240, and enter the Meeting ID: 847 0617 4009 and Password: 562604.
Wednesday 24th	9 15am	MORNING PRAYER at St James'* Psalm 6; Jeremiah 5.20-end; John 5.30-end
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
	12 30pm	Outreach Post Office at Fotherby Church, which is also open for private prayer 'til 2 30pm
	3pm	Funeral at Alford Crematorium
	7pm	Soul Songs Lent Course Go to: www.zoom.us/join or 'phone 0131 460 1196, and enter the Meeting ID 842 4999 6840 and password 379263.
	8pm	COMPLINE from Louth Rectory*
Thursday 25th	9 15am	MORNING PRAYER at St James'* Psalm 42; Jeremiah 6.9-21; John 6.1-15
	11am	Mass at St Michael's
Friday 26th	9 15am	MORNING PRAYER at St James'* Psalm 22; Jeremiah 6.6-22-end; John 6.16-27
	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm

	2pm	Funeral at Marshchapel
Saturday 27th	10am	St James' open for private prayer until 1pm
	12 30pm	MIDDAY PRAYER at St James'*
Sunday 28th Second Sunday of Lent	10am	SUNG EUCHARIST at St James'*
		Psalm 22.23-end
		Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16; Romans 4.13-end; Mark 8.31- end
	10am	Morning Service at North Thoresby
	10 30am	Holy Communion at Grimoldby
	11am	Holy Communion at South Elkington
	11 15am	Matins at Legbourne
	3pm	Evensong at Fotherby
6pm	PLAINSONG EVENSONG at St James'*	
		Psalm 135; Genesis 12.1-9; Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16

JOINING IN WORSHIP

All our worship is being streamed on the Parish of Louth facebook page. You do not need a Facebook account to view these services – just click on 'Not now' when it asks you to sign up. www.facebook.com/louthchurch/live

 Watch Louth CofE Services as live streams (and previously recorded) on Facebook. No account needed

DETAILS OF CHURCHES OPEN

Binbrook: Please 'phone the keyholder on 07778 316486 for access

Covenham: Please 'phone the Churchwarden on 01507 363508 for access.

Fulstow: closed, please 'phone 07825 293389 for access.

Fotherby: The Outreach Post Office is open on Wednesdays from 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Great Carlton: Please 'phone the Churchwardens on 01507 328369 or 450527 for access

Grimoldby: Please 'phone the churchwarden on 01507 328917

Louth, St James: Monday, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10am to 1pm.

Ludborough: Please 'phone the churchwarden on 01472 840505 for access.

Manby: Please 'phone the churchwarden on 01507 327199 for access.

Marshchapel: temporarily closed for Private Prayer

North Thoresby: Please 'phone a churchwarden on 01472 840698 or 840160 for access.

Utterby: Please 'phone the churchwarden on 07802 182756 for access.

An Order of Service for the Eucharist this Sunday

- *We open our hearts to God, that we might be transformed by his love*
- *We listen to God's Word, and seek to find out how we may grow to understand God's will for us more fully*
- *We gather around the table to share a symbolic meal, a meal that joins us with our brothers and sisters throughout the world; the saints who have lived in all times and places*
- *We pray that we go out as lights that shine with God's love wherever we might go*

The Gathering

The GREETING and PREPARATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Together we 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.

As the Ministers enter, organ music may be played or a psalm sung.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

A Minister introduces the Prayers of Penitence.

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

**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**

The Priest pronounces Absolution.

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.

The COLLECT prayer

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 9.8-17

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' 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. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 3.18- end

A Reading from the first letter of Peter.

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, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 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. 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, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading: Mark 1.9-15

Reader: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 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. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord. All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

There will be a HOMILY and period for reflection, after which the service continues with the NICENE 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.

The INTERCESSIONS, which may include the following bidding and response:

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

And may end with:

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers,

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The 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 always with you.

And also with you.

A CHANT may be sung, or the organ played, as the altar is prepared.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The prayer at this point may include the following response:

Blessed be God for ever.

The EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

and also with you.

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.

The president praises God for his mighty acts, ending with:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and 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.]

The president recalls the Last Supper, after which the following acclamation may be used:

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly

Amen.

We sit or kneel for the LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence 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.

The BREAKING OF 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.

The GIVING OF COMMUNION

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Communion is distributed.

The PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION.

The priest leads the congregation in prayer:

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Following this prayer, all join in:

We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples.

Amen.

The Dismissal

We stand, and the priest proclaims God's BLESSING and we are sent into His world...

Christ crucified draw you to himself, to find in him a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

We stand as the Ministers leave.

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Sunday Evensong: An Order of Service

*If used in the context of a family or household the words in **bold** are said by all. If said alone, all words are spoken by the individual praying.*

Almighty and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us miserable offenders. Spare thou them, O God, that confess their faults. Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

At other time the service may be begin with the opening responses:

O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouths shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

The Word of God

Say the appointed psalm from the Book of Common Prayer, or listen as it is sung

Psalm 119. 17-32

O DO well unto thy servant : that I may live, and keep thy word.

Open thou mine eyes : that I may see the wondrous things of thy law.

I am a stranger upon earth : O hide not thy commandments from me.

My soul breaketh out for the very fervent desire : that it hath always unto thy judgements.

Thou hast rebuked the proud : and cursed are they that do err from thy commandments.

O turn from me shame and rebuke : for I have kept thy testimonies.

Princes also did sit and speak against me : but thy servant is occupied in thy statutes.

For thy testimonies are my delight : and my counsellors.

MY soul cleaveth to the dust : O quicken thou me, according to thy word.

I have acknowledged my ways, and thou heardest me : O teach me thy statutes.

Make me to understand the way of thy commandments : and so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.

My soul melteth away for very heaviness : comfort thou me according unto thy word.
Take from me the way of lying : and cause thou me to make much of thy law.
I have chosen the way of truth : and thy judgements have I laid before me.
I have stuck unto thy testimonies : O Lord, confound me not.
I will run the way of thy commandments : when thou hast set my heart at liberty.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 2.15-17

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.' Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die." ' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

*We say, sing, or hear sung the **Magnificat***

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

New Testament Reading: Romans 5.12-19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

*We say or hear sung the **Nunc Dimittis**:*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation; Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

The Creed

You may wish to stand to say the Apostles' Creed:

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried.
He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Lesser Litany, Lord's Prayer and Prayers:

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father **which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.**

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.

And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.

And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

O LORD, who for our sake didst fast forty days and forty nights: Give us grace to use such abstinence, that, our flesh being subdued to the Spirit, we may ever obey thy godly motions in righteousness and true holiness, to thy honour and glory, who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that, by thee, we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our Ume in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

After any further prayers, there may be a time for reflection including the singing of an anthem or evening hymn. If using this material at home, you may find this a good time to play a piece of recorded music or listen to one of the podcasts/video meditations.

The Conclusion

*The service ends with either a **Blessing**, or by praying the **Grace**:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us now and evermore. **Amen.**

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WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR USE AT HOME

A range of spiritual resources remain available across the deanery as follows:

- **Parish of Louth on Facebook:**
All services are being streamed on Facebook Live (you do not need to be a registered facebook user):
<https://www.facebook.com/louthchurch>
- **Parish of Louth website:**
Downloadable resources (including this leaflet), an uploaded broadcast of Sunday Eucharist from St James, and regular video meditations:
www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk
- **Deanery of Louthesk: The Confraternity of St Herefrith**
Video and other prayer resources will be available from the confraternity's website, including a regular meditations by members of the clergy serving the Deanery of Louthesk.
<https://herefrith.org/confraternity-resources/video/>
- **'Praying with...'**
Online sessions, available live via Zoom (see Parish Notes for details) or as a video on the Parish of Louth facebook page.
- **St Andrew's Stewton Church Community** welcomes everyone. Since March 2020 we have produced an email 'Post' every Sunday morning to sustain the life of our church community on-line. You can access these Posts via the web site www.standrewsstewton.co.uk or have your email address added to our circulation list on request to windhover22@live.co.uk

THIS WEEK'S SOUL SONG REFLECTION

Each week during Lent, a member of the ministry team will reflect on a particular psalm that is important to them. This week Fr James introduces **Psalm 122**. Here in the parish notes, alongside the psalm, you will find some brief remarks of his, as well as some questions to reflect upon yourself. If you wish to listen to the full presentation, then do join in the zoom on Wednesday 24th February, at 7pm.

Psalm 122

- 1 I was glad when they said to me,
‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’
- 2 And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem;
- 3 Jerusalem, built as a city
that is at unity in itself.
- 4 Thither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
as is decreed for Israel to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
- 5 For there are set the thrones of judgement,
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
‘May they prosper who love you.
- 7 ‘Peace be within your walls
and tranquillity within your palaces.’
- 8 For my kindred and companions’ sake,
I will pray that peace be with you.
- 9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good.

This psalm was sung as Arabella walked down the aisle to marry me. The words speak of a moment of encounter, of adventure, of transformation, of homecoming, and of holiness. For me, on that day, they said, finally, after all the preparation and planning, we have made it! However, the joy of which the psalm sings is not limited to wedding couples. Rather it seeks to capture the joy to be found by all human souls who search for the union of themselves with the divine. It is saying ‘this is what it should be like going into church - the Lord’s house: a moment of elevation in a place of sanctuary. And more than that, it is preparing us for our journey’s end, when we enter into the heavenly Jerusalem. My favoured reading for funerals is John 14, Jesus’ address to his friends on the night before he died. He is preparing them for his death, which he describes in the language of a journey: he is going somewhere, which he describes as ‘his father’s house’. He is going there ahead of them, to prepare a place for them. He comforts them - and us - by saying that ‘in my father’s house there are many mansions’. A line which seems to reference Psalm 122’s description of heaven.

So this psalm reminds us that we are all on a journey, by holding before us the promise of a heavenly home. It is therefore a psalm for the road, so to speak. For we are not there yet. As Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5, we are exiles here on earth. This separation from our true and lasting home will be sometimes painful or wearisome, but with Christ we are never stagnant or trapped. For he is ‘the way, the truth and the life’. There will be moments of clarity, when heaven feels very close. And our journey’s end is not the crematorium or the burial ground, but the heavenly City of God. When we finally arrive there, we shall be glad.

For further reflection

Read through the psalm slowly. Does any particular word stand out for you? What might God be trying to communicate to you through that word or phrase?

When you read this psalm, does its celebration of arriving at a place of peace remind you of the gladness you experience in a particular church or place? What is it about that place that makes it special or sacred for you? Perhaps important memories or just the smell of the atmosphere! And if not a place, then perhaps a certain time in your life. Visit that place or moment in your mind, and give thanks to God for those things.

This psalm encourages us to see life as a pilgrimage. Consider where you find yourself on your life's journey. At the start of Lent, reflect on what is weighing you down or causing you to stumble or making heaven feel far off. Lent is a time to address those things. God does not care whether you can go 40 days without crisps! He wants you to not allow anything to hinder your search for him.

NOTES AND NOTICES

- James and Arabella have now moved into the Rectory in Louth as a temporary arrangement during interregnum. Their new landline telephone number is 01507 604215.

~ SOUL SONGS ~

A REFLECTIVE COURSE FOR LENT ON THE PSALMS

Each week one of the Deanery ministry team will reflect upon a psalm that means something to them. We will then have a chance to pray the psalm together & discuss how it speaks to us before taking the 'soul song' into our week to come.

Wednesdays in Lent at 7pm finishing in time for the live-streamed Compline at 8pm.

24th February - PSALM 122 - James Robinson
3rd March - PSALM 139 - Chris Wedge
10th March - PSALM 4 - Jenny Ballantyne
17th March - PSALM 121 - Daphne King
24th March - PSALM 27 - Arabella Milbank Robinson
31st March (Holy Week) - PSALM 22 - Alan Hayday

You can join in person on Zoom using your computer or telephone. Go to: www.zoom.us/join or 'phone 0131 460 1196 and enter the Meeting ID 842 4999 6840 and password 379263. Alternatively you can watch the video recordings at any time. Go to: www.facebook.com/louthchurch/videos or www.teamparishofouth.org.uk.

The Notes sent out from St James around the Deanery will also include a worksheet form of the reflection each week.

COVID -19 REMINDERS

We can only continue holding public worship if we all adhere very closely to the guidance in place to prevent the spread of the virus.

Here are some reminders of how this should affect our behaviour in church.

- **Social distancing remains as important as ever**, sadly, as even post-vaccination we may be able to transmit the virus. Please do remember to keep the 2m distance from one another, vergers and clergy at all times, inside and outside.
- **Mask-wearing is also essential**, unless you are medically exempt. A visor on its own does not protect others from potential transmission
- **Before the service**, once we have given track & trace details and sanitised our hands (letting them air-dry, not wiping off the gel) we proceed directly to our seats.
- **After the service**, we make our way directly and immediately out onto the cobbles where the priest will already have gone to bid the congregation farewell and hear any pastoral needs or concerns.
- **Orders of Service** (Parish Notes) should be taken with you after the service, in order that the vergers do not have to handle them.

In our prayers this week...

All those affected by the current pandemic

Thanksgiving for the birth of: *Frederick William Harris*

The Sick and those in need: *Marguerite Baillie, Peggy Baillie, Anne-Marie Bidwell, Helen Blakey, Paul Clifford, Ed Cox, Hildegard Dettmer-Beecroft, Rosemary Huke, Fr James Drayton, Jennie Levick, Mal Locking, Bob Lewis, Anna Mamwell, Mary Oxley, Alan Pounds, Sylvia Pounds, Eileen Robinson, Enid Spicer, Joyce Terrett, John Troughton, Charles Wakeley, Pauline Watson, Stuart Watson*

Those who have died: *Jennifer Carlyon, Diane Jones, Enid Dalzell, Mary Betts, Ida Broxholme, Christopher Rolph, Phyllis Coulson, Greta Rainthorpe, Leonard Jacklin, Mary Padison, Jack Sykes, Hazel Allen*

PARISH AND DEANERY CONTACTS

At this time, if you are aware of anyone in urgent pastoral need please e-mail

louthparishpastoral@gmail.com or 'phone 01507 604215.

Deanery Office 01507 610247

louthesk@lincoln.anglican.org

For Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals
and other enquiries

Trinity Centre 01507 605803

trinity@teamparishoflouth.org.uk

For matters relating to activities at Trinity Centre

Safeguarding concerns 01507 610752

For information about how to respond to safeguarding concerns,
or for sources of support, please see Safeguarding Notices in church porches

www.teamparishoflouth.org.uk