

**St. Bartholomew's, Clay Cross**

St John’s, Tupton

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Weekly Newssheet

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14th February 2021

**‘Ronarag 46’**

Dear Church family,  
In yet another unusual week, who could have imagined that we would be in another lockdown Half Term and celebrating Valentine’s Day too. It’s a good reminder to give thanks for those who love us and who have shown us love in so many different ways over the last months. Those who have kept in contact regularly, who have collected and delivered for us, who have kept our spirits up and for whom we are so grateful. I wonder how we might show our appreciation for those many, some small, some large, loving acts of kindness that others have shown us?

God himself, is the one that demonstrates true love to us and I thought I would include in today’s mailing, the Father’s love letter – I’m sure it’s familiar to us, but I would encourage you to take time to sit, read and reflect on Father’s God wide and encompassing love for each one of us. What amazing love is shown to us!

With my prayers for you all, Lynn

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**Notices  
Lent**This week sees the beginning of Lent and we have included in our mailings a little book with some reflections for you throughout this period.

**Ash Wednesday North Wingfield Team Service - 17th February 6pm on zoom**You are warmly invited to join us as prepare for Lent through music, liturgy, the observance of ashing and quiet. The service will begin in silence as we listen to some quiet music.

**Please have your own ash with you (combined with oil), or a member of clergy can provide to your home.**The link to join is found here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84235945084?pwd=Y1c0LzRxe WViWmZHMDllOHRuWHRKUT09

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Meeting ID: 842 3594 5084.

Passcode: 889648

**Readings for week beginning 15th February:**

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Mon: Psalm 44; Tues: Psalm 48; Wed: Psalm 38; Thurs: Psalm 77; Fri: Psalm 3;

Jeremiah 1; Jeremiah 2.1–13; Daniel 9.3–6,17–19; Jeremiah 2.14–32; Jeremiah 3.6–22;

John 3.1–21 John 3.22–end  
1 Timothy 6.6–19 John 4.1–26 John 4.27–4

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**Collect for The Sunday next before Lent**

Almighty Father,  
whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us grace to perceive his glory,  
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him  
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Prayers**

Ever loving God,  
we pray today for your church.  
As Christian communities  
across the UK and the world,  
face new challenges, pain  
and an uncertain future,  
we pray for the wisdom to see  
new opportunities for growth and renewal, even in these difficult times.

We pray for this church,  
gathered here, and in the wider community, as it continues to work your kingdom,  
and to carry out your mission,  
we pray for strength to carry on,

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even as it may seem more difficult  
than ever to spread your word.  
As Jesus’ life is revealed in our holy books  
so too let his love be revealed in our community today.

We pray with all those living in fear,  
those who have had to flee their homeland, who do not feel safe in their own homes, those who are marginalised  
Help them to see,  
your all-encompassing love,  
and help us to show that same love.

We pray for our world,  
as we continue to face  
crisis after crisis, and struggle  
to protect and preserve  
your wonderous creation,  
as we feel helpless in the face  
of wars raging and lives ruined,  
we ask for boldness,  
to speak truth to power,  
to find new ways to create change, and we pray that those with the power to do so,  
will find the strength in you  
to do what is right  
rather than that which easy.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus, who is revealed to us and calls us to do his work. Amen

*(Adapted from prayers from ‘Spill the beans’)*

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