

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

**St John’s, Tupton**

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Weekly Newssheet 7th February 2021

**‘Ronarag 45’**

Dear Church family,

I’m loving seeing the first shoots of spring appear in the garden and on our daily walks. I’ve also noticed the birdsong is becoming much louder and insistant in the mornings. It’s also been good to hear of so many of you having received your first vaccination and we continue to pray for those involved in the roll out of this scheme and all who are making this possible. Even in the middle of all the trials and tribulations within which we find ourselves, I rejoice that we see signs of God at work. God continues be with us and is bringing us hope for our future.

There are changes afoot in the North Wingfield Team too, and we will be particularly sad to bid Colin and Linda farewell in a few weeks time. However, despite this period of uncertainty and transition we are in, I am full of optimism and hope. I know that God has a plan and a purpose for us as Team and I’m excited to see where God will lead us in the coming months and what He will reveal to us. God is the Lord who longs not only to see our world flourish and blossom as we head into Spring but also as the Body of Christ, corporately and individually, to see us flourish and blossom. I would therefore continue to encourage you to pray for our future together, that we will see God at work amongst us, and that we would begin to discern our new way forward. I am confident that God will journey with us, helping us to grow in faith and unity to the glory of His name and to extend His kingdom among us. I know that, as Team, we have much potential and that fills me with great enthusiasm and excitement as we look ahead.

With my prayers for you all,

Every blessing,

Lynn

**Sunday Services**

***Services at St Mary’s, St John’s and St Bart’s are currently suspended. Do please continue to check out our Facebook page and also our entry in A Church Near You (website – www.achurchnearyou.com).***

Our service will continue to be found on YouTube – please check your emails for the link to this.

**Notices**

**Coffee after Church -11am for everyone!**

Look forward to seeing you all – especially if you haven’t joined us before or for a while. Whatever church or congregation you belong to you are very welcome to join us!

**Readings for week beginning 8th February:**

Mon: Psalm 27; Ecclesiastes 7.1–14; John 19.1–16

Tues: Psalm 32; Ecclesiastes 7.15-; John 19.17–30

Wed: Psalm 34; Ecclesiastes 8; John 19.31–end

Thurs: Psalm 37; Ecclesiastes 9; John 20.1–10

Fri: Psalm 31; Ecclesiastes 11.1–8; John 20.11–18

**Collect for the 2nd Sunday before Lent**

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever. Amen.

**Prayers**

Heavenly Father, who looks with loving compassion on all of your creation, we lift up our prayers to you.

There are so many who have been displaced -

by flood and fire, war and famine.
May they be fed and cared for,

and may they find kindness on their journeys.
Lead them to a safe place,

to find comfort under the shelter of your wings.
May they find their home in you.

**For those who have found themselves where they did not expect to be, oh Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have experienced loss – of homes, jobs, good health, and of loved ones. May they find your love and the light of your promises to be enough for the next step.
Lead them to a place of hope, to find glimpses of joy in their journey. Bind up their wounds and fill them again with your goodness and mercy.

**For those who grieve and seek a path forward toward hope, oh Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have wandered far from you

who feel forsaken, forgotten, or fearful,
May they find that you are not so far off after all.
May they trust in your prodigal love,
And run into your outstretched arms with joy.

**For those who are lost and in need of God’s welcome, oh Lord, hear our prayer.**

And lastly, we pray, for those of us who are comfortable,

safe, healthy and secure.
We heartily thank you for your many blessings.
May we be agents of your blessing to others

as we seek the peace and prosperity of our communities.
Lead us to those whom you look upon with compassion,

the overworked, the underfed, the neglected and the depressed.
Fill us with your grace and mercy and love,

that we may be healers in your name

**For those in need of what we have to offer, oh Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Amen.** (written by Becky Bonham)

In response to reaching the terrible milestone of 100,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Archbishops invite all to call on God in Prayer. Starting on 1 February we are invited to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love.