The Parish of St John and St Paul

Within the Ramsbottom and Edenfield Team Ministry

 **A very warm welcome to St Paul’s on this Sunday next before Lent**

**1 Corinthians 9:16-23**

**16**For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! **17**If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. **18**What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel.

**19**Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. **20**To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. **21**To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. **22**To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. **23**I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

**Mark 1:40-45**

**40**A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.”

**41**Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” **42**Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

**43**Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: **44**“See that you don’t tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.” **45**Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

**Collect**

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.

**Amen.**

***This Sunday the 14th February*** is known as **Valentine’s Day**, but did you know that the day gets its name from a famous third century priest from Rome.

Emperor Claudius II had banned marriage because he thought married men were bad soldiers. Valentine felt this was unfair, so he broke the rules and arranged marriages in secret.

When Claudius found out, Valentine was thrown in jail and sentenced to death.

There he fell in love with the jailer’s daughter, and when he was taken to be killed on 14th February, he sent her a love letter signed from ‘your Valentine’.

This date has been observed as the [Feast of Saint Valentine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feast_of_Saint_Valentine) (Saint Valentine's Day) since 496 AD and has been associated with a tradition of [courtly love](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Courtly_love), when people show their affection for another person by sending cards, flowers or chocolates with messages of love.

 He is also the [patron saint](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patron_saint) of [epilepsy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epilepsy).

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**11.00am – ZOOM SERVICE - join from your own home every Sunday for this weekly act of worship, music, Bible readings and prayers. Meeting ID 407 009 464**

***This Wednesday*** is Ash Wednesday a Christian holy day of prayer and fasting, and is the first day of Lent, the six weeks (forty days) of penitence before Easter.

## Although our churches are still closed, p**lease join Rev Les (via zoom) for our Team**

## ***Ash Wednesday Service*.**

## **Wednesday 17th February****Time 7.00pm** **ID: 788 098 6689****Passcode: sunshine**

 

**It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of two members of our church family. Enid Rostron, who was an integral part of our Tuesday morning service. Her smile and sense of humour will be very much missed; and Jennet Wainman, who passed away on Friday 12th February. A loyal church member of St John’s and latterly St Paul’s, and will be greatly missed by all.**

 **“Rest in peace”**

**Please let us know, if you know of anyone who you feel would benefit from being included in our prayers.**

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This Tuesday is **Shrove Tuesday**, also known as **Pancake Day**. It is precisely 47 days before Easter Sunday, a movable feast based on the computus calculation that determines the yearly date of Easter.

Traditionally, people would eat pancakes on this day to get rid of any fatty foods before the 40-day fasting season of Lent began.

A pancake is a flat cake, often thin and round, prepared from a starch-based batter that may contain eggs, milk and butter. Archaeological evidence suggests that pancakes were probably the earliest and most widespread cereal food eaten in prehistoric societies.

Do you have a favourite pancake recipe?? How do you serve them…? Lemon, honey, bananas, maple syrup, chocolate ?

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**Lent Series**

Although Lent is a few weeks away, Churches Together in Ramsbottom are planning to run a series of Bible study sessions on Tuesday evenings to explore some different aspects of Jesus's character.

Based on the gospel reading, each week there will be a sermon on Sunday, provided by one of the ministers, which will then be shown as the Sunday sermon/message in our various churches/ online. The sermon will also be available on youtube and will be accessible via [holcombehawkshaw.org](http://holcombehawkshaw.org/)

Each of the different preachers will be putting together some thoughts and questions for the **Tuesday Bible study** following their sermon, via **zoom** on **Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm**.

starting on Tuesday **23rd February**, running each week until the **30th March**.

The zoom invitation will remain the same for the 6 weeks and is:

Meeting ID: **856 8461 7096**

Passcode: **Rammy**

**A beautiful poem written from the heart**

**Today**

**It's hard to keep positive**

**In lockdown number 3**

**But today the sun is shining**

**Blue skies above the trees**

**I'm looking for the small things,**

**Snow on rooftops glistening in the sun**

**Finding positives can be tricky**

**But we know better days are to come…**

Sandra Blackmore

 



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**Please join** Les Hallam for our weekly Tuesday morning service of Holy Communion BCP, via zoom at 10.30am.
ID: 7880986689.

Password: Sunshine

**If you need to contact a member of the clergy, please ring: 07436 887760**

**Or email: retmchurches@gmail.com**

**Team Rector : Andy Lindop**

**Associate Ministers: Les Hallam**

 **Sue Wood**

**Church Warden: Sue Holdway**

**Verger: Joyce Griffiths**

**Team Motto**

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing. (Romans 15:13a)**