**THE UNITED BENEFICE OF KELVEDON & FEERING**

***THE PARISH CHURCHES OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, KELVEDON, & ALL SAINTS’, FEERING***

[**https://www.kelvedonandfeeringchurches.co.uk/**](https://www.kelvedonandfeeringchurches.co.uk/)

**NEWSSHEET for THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT - SUNDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2021**

***Plus a Happy Valentine’s Day too…***

We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake. *2 Corinthians 4.5*

A MESSAGE FROM SIMON GARWOOD, OUR PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

We’ve been doing Night Prayer for nearly a month now, and I’m so pleased that 20 or more join us each time - it’s a quiet, reflective service that really helps to round the day off. Special thanks go to Geraldine Kennedy, Caroline and Roger Strange and ‘Zoom host’ Simon Prideaux for ensuring it went ahead last week while I was chairing Deanery Synod.

Geraldine has written about it too: *Night Prayer is a traditional service to mark the end of the day.  It’s also a great chance to meet up and chat with others in the congregation whom we have not seen for a while.  The Zoom link is on our website along with the service sheet.  Why not join us?*

It's Ash Wednesday on the 17th, so there will be a new Lent version of the Night Prayer service, which will be emailed to you and will also be on our website - after I get it done. A job for this weekend!

Here are the log-in details - as Geraldine says, they’re also on our website (link at the top of this page):

Night Prayer (Compline): Day and time: Wednesday 17th February 2021, at 8:30 pm

 Every Wednesday up to 28th April, all at 8.30 pm

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86528542261?pwd=NEpQb25OMjRHbnpET09MYXFzNGhpdz09>

Meeting ID: 865 2854 2261 Passcode: 099401

*Ash Wednesday and Lent:* we are planning an online Ash Wednesday service with a difference, and will also be running a Lent Group on Zoom – please see the two notices on page 2.

I am aware that this current lockdown puts extra strain on many people, so if you would like to contact me for support, or if you’re in need of prayer or you know of someone who is, then please let me know via 01376 573701 or at simongarwood@simonliz62.plus.com.

 *With my prayers & best wishes for your continued safety, Simon*

**FOR OUR PRAYERS**

* For all those affected by the current extreme cold, especially for all who struggle to afford to heat their homes. For all emergency and environmental services.
* For our NHS, emergency services and all frontline workers; for all staffing intensive care or working directly with Covid-19, who are facing extreme pressures; for all who have been directly affected by the virus, and their loved-ones; for all seeking to provide comfort and help, that they may be cared for too. For the effective roll-out of the new vaccines, and especially for those most in need of them.
* For our villages, especially our Health Centre, local frontline workers, the Coronavirus Support Group, and all who help the vulnerable; for our church primary schools; our parish councils; for St Dominic’s & Drummonds; for our local HomeStart, Foodbank & their volunteers; and for all in need.
* For our churches and for the Church as a whole that, where in physical or digital form, it may be a place of light, peace and hope for all in need. For Bishop Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop-elect of Chelmsford, as she prepares to take up her new and demanding role this year.
* For all who have died recently and for their loved ones; especially for Mabel Judge, whose funeral took place last week, and for Peggy Andrews, Martin Armstrong and Erik Trawny, whose funerals will take place in the next few weeks.

**NOTICES**

**WORSHIP IN THE UNITED BENEFICE OF KELVEDON & FEERING - PLEASE NOTE:**

**WE HAVE STOPPED ALL CHURCH SERVICES WHILE THE CURRENT NATIONAL LOCKDOWN LASTS.**

**GUIDELINES WHEN VISITING ST MARY’S**

 **St Mary’s remains open for private prayer during daylight hours on Wednesdays and Sundays.**

**All Saints’ remains closed while the organ is being reconstructed.**

* Please follow Social Distancing Guidelines
* Face coverings must be worn (children under 11 & those with certain medical conditions are exempt)
* Use hand sanitiser provided when arriving and leaving
* Place a ‘Do not sit on this seat’ sign on the pew you have used

If you have any concerns, please get in touch with Simon or with one of the Churchwardens.

**SHROVE TUESDAY**

A special Shrove Tuesday event has been recorded for the children of St Mary's Primary Academy, but it can be enjoyed by all children (and adults too).  Sarah explains why we have Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day.  We can see her making a pancake and Simon tossing it. It also features a special guest appearance from Lolly, Sarah's dog.  You can watch the video on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/7He5V2Mpai0>

ASH WEDNESDAY

We plan to record a YouTube service for Ash Wednesday, but it will be a service with a difference. Since I’m not able to mark anyone with a cross of ashes, and have no great desire just to do it to myself, so I will be using something that you have readily at home – water. More will be explained in the service. We hope it will be available by Ash Wednesday morning or afternoon at the latest.

**LENT GROUP ON ZOOM**

We will be running a Lent Group via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 8.00 pm, starting from next week, Tuesday 23rd February. We’ll be reading *Being Disciples*,a short book by Rowan Williams (published by SPCK, 2016 – ISBN 978-0-281-07662-8). Just 80 pages, it’s a very rich, thoughtful book that repays the time given to it. It’s very accessible and quite easy to read, as it’s based on some of Archbishop Rowan’s talks. There will be 6 weekly sessions, based on the 6 chapters: ‘Being disciples’; ‘Faith, hope and love’; ‘Forgiveness’; ‘Holiness’; ‘Faith in society’; ‘Life in the Spirit’. Rowan Williams has a reputation of being a ‘difficult’ writer, and certainly some of his academic writings are, but this is aimed squarely at a wide readership. The book is widely available to buy online; Zoom details will be in next week’s Newssheet. Each session will last about an hour, and we do hope you can join us.

**YOUR PICTURES**

*Fleur writes:* I hope you have enjoyed seeing the pictures of both of our lovely Churches in the snow. If you have pictures of our two churches or of the villages that you would like to share, please email them to me at kandfchurches@gmail.com

 **A PRAYER FOR GREATER OPENNESS TO CHRIST**

Open our ears, glorious Lord Christ,

to hear the music of your voice

above the chaos of this world;

open our eyes to see the vision of your glory,

for you are our King, now and for ever. Amen.

*From* Common Worship: Daily Prayer *- the closing prayer for Psalm 29.*