**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 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - SUNDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2021**

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. *Psalm 25.5*

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

I doubt that many of us are waiting with bated breath for the Government’s announcement tomorrow about the lockdown. I think we all sense that this lockdown is highly likely to last until the end of March at least, although it looks as if schools may be re-opening on 8th March after all. It’s a very tough time for many, so if you need support or a listening ear, if you’re in need of prayer, or you know of those who are, then please let me know via 01376 573701 or at [simongarwood@simonliz62.plus.com](mailto:simongarwood@simonliz62.plus.com).

Our services and videos for Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday are still available on our two church YouTube channels. Please see the notice on page 2 for more details.

The new Lent version of Night Prayer is now available - the link for our weekly Wednesday evening service is below, and is also on our website (link is at the top of this page) as is the Lent order of service. Night Prayer only lasts 15-20 minutes and is a good, quiet and reflective way to end the day. It’s also a good way of catching up with church folk you may not have seen for a while.

Night Prayer (Compline): Day and time - Wednesday 24th 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

You can watch our Ash Wednesday service on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/8ykxtmQPJ3U>. If you search on YouTube for St Mary’s Kelvedon & All Saints’ Feering then you’ll also find the short talks we’ve done in both churches for our two schools on Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday.

Stay safe, well and sane, everyone!

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

**FOR OUR PRAYERS**

* For all who have had or currently have the virus for their families and loved-ones. For those with other illnesses and conditions, who are struggling to receive proper treatment during the pandemic.
* For our NHS, emergency services and all frontline workers; for all staffing intensive care or working directly with Covid-19, facing extreme pressures; for all seeking to provide comfort and help, that they may be cared for too.
* For all vulnerable people still waiting to be vaccinated, and for those carrying out the vaccinations.
* For our villages, especially our Health Centre, local frontline workers, the Coronavirus Support Group; our church primary schools; our parish councils; for St Dominic’s & Drummonds; our local Foodbank & HomeStart, & their volunteers; 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 the peoples of Belarus, Hong Kong, Myanmar, Somalia and Eritrea, Yemen: for freedom, security and peace.
* For all who have died recently and their loved ones; especially for Peggy Andrews, Martin Armstrong, Anthony Karaskas, Monica Evans, Bridgette Reilly and Erik Trawny, all of whose funerals will be taking 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.

**LENT GROUP ON ZOOM - STARTING THIS TUESDAY**

Our new Tuesday evening Zoom Lent Group starts this Tuesday, 23rd February at 8.00 pm. We’re reading *Being Disciples*,a very short book by Rowan Williams (SPCK, 2016 – ISBN 978-0-281-07662-8). Only 80 pages, it’s a rich, thoughtful book that repays time given to it; it’s also very accessible, quite easy to read and widely available to buy online. There will be 6 sessions, based on the 6 chapters: ‘Being disciples’; ‘Faith, hope and love’; ‘Forgiveness’; ‘Holiness’; ‘Faith in society’; and ‘Life in the Spirit’. Each session will last about an hour, and we do hope you can join us. Here are the Zoom details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81949421387?pwd=SnR2Uzd5RzVPOE9GS2RoYmlMTW1ydz09>

Meeting ID: 819 4942 1387 Passcode: 709773

**LENT GIVING 2021**

This Lent St Mary’s is supporting the Five Talents charity, raising funds for the Bishop of Chelmsford’s Annual Appeal to finance work in our link diocese of Marsabit in Kenya. Marsabit is a dry, arid region where 80% of the people live below the national poverty line of £25 a month. Five Talents provides training in literacy, numeracy and basic business skills which in turn facilitate savings and loans co-operatives, predominately of women, to help develop businesses and so ensure children are educated, thus improving many peoples’ lives. Even a small donation will help. For more information and to donate go to: [www.chelmsford.anglican.org/bishops-appeal/](http://www.chelmsford.anglican.org/bishops-appeal/) or put your cash donation (or cheque payable to CDBF) in an envelope labelled “ Five Talents donation” and drop it off to the Vicarage or Anne Hackworth, Lances, Church Street, or Simon Prideaux, 59 Heron Road, or we can collect it – just call Anne on 01376 571289.

**#LIVELENT**

There is a range of National C of E Lent resources that you can be involved in. Please click on the following link to access these resources:

[#LiveLent 2021 church resources: God’s Story, Our Story | The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story" \t "_blank)

**‘THE CHOSEN’**

‘The Chosen’ is a recently made TV series (2019 on) on the life of Christ that I’ve only just come across. It’s very well made and is available FREE to watch online via YouTube & other platforms. Each episode is an hour or so long - do give it a try. We may use it for as a basis for a discussion group in the future! Just search for ‘The Chosen TV series’ and you’ll find it.

**HISTORICAL PHOTOS OF OUR CHURCHES**

Thank you to the Feering and Kelvedon Local History Museum, in particularly Nick Ezra, who kindly forwarded many pictures of our Churches from the past and even some of the previous Vicars. These can be found on our website here: <https://www.kelvedonandfeeringchurches.co.uk/gallery/>. You can enlarge the picture by double clicking on it.