



**Mid-Wydean
Churches**

Sunday 18th February 2024

1st Sunday of Lent

BIBLE READINGS

Genesis 9.8-17

Psalms 25.1-9

1 Peter 3.18-22

Mark 1.9-15



PRAYER FOR THIS SUNDAY

Heavenly Father,
Your Son battled with the powers
of darkness,
and grew closer to you in the
desert:

Help us to use these days to grow
in wisdom and prayer that we may
witness to your saving love in
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



**REFLECTIONS.....MARK BICK
Reflection 18th Feb 2024**

Mark 19-15

Jesus Baptised by John.

Our Gospel reading is about Jesus coming to John to be baptised. This is a clear act of humility, an identification with us all - ordinary people, who mess up in life, need to ask for forgiveness, and change direction. It marks the start of Jesus's ministry with God's Holy Spirit filling him with the power he needed to fulfil his calling

We are also invited by Jesus to join this journey of faith, to repent and become disciples. I was baptised in this parish, as an infant, 62 years ago.

CONTINUED.....

My parent's prayer and nurturing of my faith played a big part followed by faltering steps as a teenager to explore that faith more independently. I had contact with lots of Christians who knew very definitely the date on which they became a Christian and spent a few years worrying that I did not have that certainty. I eventually realised that it is my relationship with Jesus each day that matters. It is a journey where we never arrive, but are always drawn on by God's spirit to grow and mature. The biblical accounts make it very clear that each individual's journey can happen in very different ways, it can be dramatic, can be stop-start, or gradual and steady. We just need to start (or re-start) and keep going!

SERVICES THIS SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

The Good Shepherd, Broadwell. 10.30am

Parish Communion

SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY

Coleford Baptist Church 10.30am

Joint Worship led by Shalom Ministry

All Saints, Newland 10.30am

Communion

All Saints, Staunton 4pm

Evening prayer

PRAYERS AND NOTICES

GIVE THANKS.....

For the places where we live, for the beauty which is there to be seen. Help us to be grateful each and every day for all the blessings given to us. We give thanks for those who love us, care for us and bring us joy

PLEASE PRAY FOR.....

All those with hospital appointments in the next few weeks, including John, and others known to you.

Anyone struggling with their mental health loss loneliness or depression.

Anyone approaching life's end, and those who are bereaved.

Lord give us the strength and will, to bear our heavy burdens, until we can again feel the warmth and love of your divine compassion. Be mindful of us and have mercy on us while we struggle to comprehend life's hardships.

WE PRAY FOR.....

- **France, Germany & Monaco**
- Help them to overcome fears and suspicions that still remain from 20th century atrocities, and more recent terrorist attacks.
- Help churches and governments to effectively counter anti-immigrant populist sentiments in these countries so that they truly will become more multi-ethnic.
- For economic decisions that are accountable to those who are most vulnerable and not only to those making a profit.
- And for The election of political leaders who will further the common good not only for their country but for the sake of Europe and the rest of world.

**We go on our way
to act in accord with Jesus' words and deeds,
to be the salt of the earth,
to seek justice,
to build peace, Amen**

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing, some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

Hebrews 13:2

Contact Nick at the Parish Office Tue, Wed & Thurs 8am-1pm on 07933 935534, or at office.midwyedean@gmail.com.



WE NOW USE RECYCLED PAPER HENCE THE COLOUR

CYGNETS 2 SWANS YOUTH DRAMA CREW

Every Sunday, Coleford Baptist Church, 2-4pm.

More information on the Parish website:

MUSTARD SEEDS

Stay & Play for 0-5 years old. Every Tuesday term-time 9-11am at Coleford Baptist Church. Story and song time, messy play, plenty of toys. Drinks & Snacks.

CRAFT CLUB

Crafts in good company at The Good Shepherd, Broadwell, Thursdays, 2- 4 pm.



GAMES NIGHT

Board Games with food. Every Friday 5-7pm at Coleford Baptist Church. All Welcome

DRESS TO BLESS PRE-LOVED CLOTHES SALE

9th March 18:30-21:00

At Coleford Baptist Church

£5 Entry Including drink
Any Clothes Donations

Please Email:

jessthompson@theshalomnetwork.org.uk

Donations needed
for our
Dress to Bless
Pre-loved clothes sale

We are looking for donations of clothes in good condition for our Dress to Bless evening in March. Clothes need to be washed & ironed (if needed) and ready to go on a coat hanger.

Please contact Jess Thompson for where & when to drop of donations
Email: jessthompson@theshalomnetwork.org.uk
Coleford Baptist Church, Newland Street, GL16 8AJ
Saturday 9th March 2024
6.30pm - 9pm
£5 entry including drink
For more information about who we are, please visit our website:




THE "CHOSEN"

Discussion group- as mentioned in church!
Highly commend this to you to - a television series presentation of the gospels. Two chances to join a group, Friday afternoons at the Baptist Church or Thursday evenings in Staunton (beginning in March).

Coleford group beginning 23rd Feb, 1pm
Bring and share lunch, 1:30 watch the show followed by discussion ending at 3pm.

The CHOSEN

TOGETHER FOR PRAYER

The Vicarage, Tuesday 12 noon