



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

CLAINES & ST GEORGE'S



Third Sunday of Lent - 3rd March 2024

Romans 4: 13-25

Mark 8: 31-38

10.30am - Holy Communion - St. George's Church

with Bishop Martin

10.30am - Worship Together - Claines Church

with LLM Jan Kear & ALM Phil Kear

4.30pm - Contemplative Communion - Claines Church

with Rev Diane Cooksey

The Bishop of Worcester is pleased to announce the appointment of **The Revd Sarah Carwardine** as Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Claines St John the Baptist and the Benefice of Worcester St George with St Mary Magdalene.



Lent Groups 2024

The Return of the Prodigal Son

A Story of Homecoming - by Henri J. M Nouwen

A series of face to face sessions meeting Tuesday evenings from **7.00-8.00pm**

in partnership with our neighbours

5th March – St. Stephen's Church

12th March – Claines Church

19th March – St. Stephen's Church

*'But we had to celebrate and rejoice,
for this brother of yours was dead and is alive again,
he was lost but has been found.'* (Luke 15:32)

“Look at the birds” by ALM ALison Clarke

¹ How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty!

² My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young— a place near your altar, LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

[Psalm 84]

My husband, Paul, and I love to watch birds. Back in the autumn, we invested in a telescope so that we could study these beautiful creatures more closely – their form, markings and colour and the ways they behave.

In January we spent a day at the Slimbridge Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust reserve. We knew there would be Bewick swans overwintering in the relative warmth of the reserve after a long flight south from their freezing Arctic breeding grounds. And – joy - there they were, each one beautiful with its distinctive and uniquely marked yellow beak.

Two further highlights of our day [and there were many] were seeing numerous pintail ducks on the lake and also, with the help of the telescope, a group of cranes feeding in the grassland on the edge of the Severn estuary. Pintails are extraordinarily beautiful birds with fine markings and an elegant long, slim tail. They have been a favourite of mine for many years.

Cranes - gangly birds standing over a metre tall - were hunted to extinction 400 years ago in England, so to see the results of a successful reintroduction and breeding programme is very exciting. What a wonderful achievement - humans intervening to re-establish a species and valued member of God's wonderful universe. Creation care in action.

During this season of lent, A Rocha UK (the organisation behind Eco Church) encourages us to Get Outside in Lent. Through a series of 6 week by week topics we are encouraged to go out and find God in nature.

I turned to the programme for week 6: Birds and Air. There are six suggested outdoor activities, each accompanied by a recommended prayer ritual. Here is a flavour for Birds and Air Week:

‘Be quiet for a moment or two to reflect on the importance of air and birds in our world. Creator God, thank you for the air that we breathe and the beauty of flying creatures like birds.

Silence

We are sorry for those times when we have taken the simple pleasures and necessities for granted.

Silence

Help us to value clean air, and to do our bit to keep it clean. And help us always to appreciate the beauty of your creation.

Silence - Stand for a moment and let thoughts of clean air and birds point you towards God’.

Matthew 6: 26 – *Look at the birds. They don't plant, harvest, or save food in barns, but your heavenly Father feeds them.*

Amen

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH SPRING FAIR
Saturday 9th March - 2pm to 4pm

Scones, Cake stall, Gift Stall etc.



The next gathering of **Kingdom Arts** is on **Tuesday March 12th** in **St George's Church**. We begin with coffee at **10.00am** and worship at 10.15 This is followed by a time of getting creative using a great variety of art expressions, music, creative writing, painting, needlework as well as lots of chatting and laughter!

A Simple soup Lunch follows in the Magdalene room.
 This year we are exploring "Songs of Faith," the stories behind some of the hymns and songs we love to sing. This month will be a good preparation for Holy week and Easter.



Sale for Zambia
9th March, 10am to 12pm
St, Stephens, Bishop Allenby Hall

Cakes and hot drinks, books, toys, clothes and bric a brac. All proceeds to Crown of Life school in Lusaka, Zambia

Forthcoming Services to March 2024

Saint George's Church

** All 10.30am Sun services are followed by refreshments in the Magdalene Room**

Wed 6th - **10.30am** - Holy Communion - *Rev Diane Cooksey*
 Sun 10th - **10.30am** - Cafe Church (Mothering Sunday)
 Sun 17th - **10.30am** - Holy Communion - *Rev Peter Davies*
 Sun 24th - **10.30am** - Palm Sunday Service - *Rev Doug Chaplin*
 Wed 27th - **2.30pm** - Stations of the Cross - *ALM Rachel Cramp*
 Thu 28th - **7.30pm** - Maundy Thursday - *Archdeacon Nikki*
 Fri 29th - **2.00pm** - Joint Eucharist Good Friday Service - *Rev John Wright*
 Sun 31st - **10.30am** - Easter Sunday - *Archdeacon Mark*

Claines Church

** 10.30am services on 1st and 4th Sundays are followed by refreshments **

Sun 10th - **10.30am** - Holy Communion for Mothering Sunday - *Rev Doug Chaplin*
 Wed 14th - **10.30am** - Morning Prayer - *LLM Jan Kear*
 Sun 17th - **10.30am** - Cafe Church - *The Team*
4.30pm - Devotions at Dusk - *LLM Rachel Cramp*
 Sun 24th - **10.30am** - Traditional Communion for Palm Sunday - *Rev Doug Chaplin*
 Tue 26th - **6.30pm** - Night Prayer & Devotion for Holy Week - *Rev Jennie*
 Wed 27th - **11.00am** - All Age Stations of the Cross - *LLM Rachel Cramp*
 Thu 28th - **6.30pm** - Short Service of Readings & Prayers - *The Team*
 Sun 31st - **10.30am** - Communion for Easter Sunday - *Rev Peter Davies*

Prayers for the week

Monday: As the very wet winter continues we pray of those people in the UK, but also around the world, whose homes and livelihoods are affected by flooding. May they all receive the care, help and support that they need.

Tuesday: We continue to pray for the peoples of the Holy Lands as war continues to ravage and destroy the homes and lives of many people. We pray that you, Lord, will sow the fragile seeds of peace into the heart of all those who have the power to end the senseless struggle.

Wednesday: The scandal that has transformed the lives of many sub postmasters rumbles on. We pray that they may urgently receive the fair treatment and justice that they all deserve and need.

Thursday: We pray for Rev Sarah Carwardine who will lead us into the future. Walk with her and support her, as we all move forward together facing both challenges and exciting new directions at Claines and St Georges.

Friday: We pray that you may ease the distress and suffering of all those who are ill and in pain. May they sense your healing and comforting presence, Lord, as they face the challenges that lie ahead.

Saturday: We think of and pray for all the children and young people who have now returned to school after the half term break. We pray that they will easily settle back into school routines and the continue to enjoy the experience of learning new things.

We pray for those who are sick and those who care for them:

Children: Baby Ellis Old, Ivy-Rose, George & Jax Bownes

Saint George's Adults: Rev David & Alex New, Olive Barnes, Geoff Cottam, Jean Gardiner, Daphne Greenwood, Virginia Moran, Heather Nethercoat, Kelly Simpson, Wendy Vaughan, David, Emma and her Mother, Lynne & family, Esther

Claines Adults: Rev Alan Brooksbank, Rev David New, Graham Ashcroft, Dave Barnacle, Tom Buck, Rose Danks, Richard Davies, Lou Ferris, Tom Galassini, Miriam Haywood, Judy Hooper, Lorraine Humphries, Jane Elizabeth Owen, Ross Murray, Izzie Newport, Bernard Small, Jean Smallwood, Steve Taylor, Maisie, and Kerry.

For those who have recently died, may they rest in peace & rise in glory:

Joan Iris Owens
Michael Robinson

Our prayers and heartfelt sympathies go out to all of their loved ones.

General enquiries:

For Claines call Annette Summers 01905 453954 or Phil Kear 01905 451099

For Saint George's call Trish Greenwood 01905 28580 or Lyn Crowther 01905 452483

Hall Bookings

Claines - Katrina email bookings@clainesfriends.org.uk

St George's - Barbara email stgbookingsec@gmail.com



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
**DIOCESE OF
WORCESTER**