

The Parishes of Adbaston, Gnosall, Knightley & High Offley, Moreton and Norbury

Sunday 1st March (2nd Sunday of Lent)

Loving God, we come to you in worship and thanksgiving.

God calls us to leave what is familiar and follow where grace leads:
We come, trusting the promise we cannot yet see.

God keeps watch over all who journey by faith:
Our help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth.

God offers new life, born of Spirit and truth:
Let us worship the God who calls us forward in faith.
Amen

CONFESSION

The gospel calls us to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ. As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith, we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;
Lord, be merciful:
Forgive us our sin

We have seen the ill-treatment of others and have not gone to their aid;
Lord, be merciful:
Forgive us our sin

We have condoned evil and dishonesty and failed to strive for justice;
Lord, be merciful:
Forgive us our sin

We have heard the good news of Christ, but have failed to share it with others;
Lord, be merciful:
Forgive us our sin

We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbours as ourselves;
Lord, be merciful:
Forgive us our sin

ABSOLUTION

The Lord enrich you with his grace, and nourish you with his blessing; the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil; the Lord accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.
Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to

**the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen**

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 12: 1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John:
Glory to you O Lord

John 3: 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord:
Praise to you O Christ

REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

*We bring our prayers using the response: Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer***

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen

Peace

Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you: **and also with you.**

Offering Prayer

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks that you pour out your gifts on us. Help us, in return, to give freely to you and the work of your kingdom. Take whatever we can offer and bless us in your service. In Jesus name we pray.

Amen

Act of Spiritual Communion

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples, 'I am with you always'. Be with me today, as I offer myself to you. Hear my prayers for others and for myself and keep me in your care. Amen.

**O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

O Lord and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching you to grant, that by the merits and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all your whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

Amen

Blessing

Everyone that believes in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ, Amen.**

Notices

This Week's Services- 1st March

Gnosall 8am Holy Communion
10am Benefice Zoom Service

Next Week's Services- 8th March

Gnosall 8am Holy Communion
10:30am Holy Communion
Knightley 9:30am Morning Worship
Adbaston 9:30am Family Communion
Norbury 11am Morning Worship
Moreton 11am Holy Communion

Coffee and Chat

All Welcome for Coffee and Chat 10:30-12:30 at St Lawrence Church. 1st Saturday of every month.

Lent Get-Togethers

Rachael would like to invite you to join her for coffee, cake and prayer at 11am on each of the Fridays during Lent. There will be an opportunity to explore this year's theme of 'Life Giving Habits for Lent' and the sessions include conversation, prayer and a short time of worship. Do come along!

Friday 6th March 11am Jubilee Room, Adbaston

Friday 13th March 11am St Peter's, Norbury

Friday 20th March 11am Woodseaves Village Hall

Friday 27th March 11am The Vestry at Gnosall.

World Day of Prayer.

Friday 6th March, St Lawrence Church, 2pm.

The focus of this year's service is Nigeria and the theme is 'I will give you rest, come.' In our frantic and tired world, Jesus' invitation seems more poignant than ever. Do join us for this special service. All are welcome.

Prayer Diary

Please contact Ruth Finister if you would like the name of someone to be added to the benefice prayer diary. Please make sure that you obtain their consent before passing on their details. You can contact Ruth on (ruthfinister@gmail.com) or telephone (01785 823232). The name of the person given will remain on the prayer list for a period of 3 months.

Eco Tip of the Month

Take part in a local litter pick or beach clean during The Great British Spring Clean (Friday 13-Sunday 29 March), the nation's biggest mass-action environmental campaign. Litter picking benefits the environment by removing rubbish that can be hazardous for wildlife and helps bring people together. See if there's a litter pick in your local area or consider organising your own - after church on Sunday or with a youth group for example. Pray for your local area as you do the litter pick and ask God for opportunities to share why you are doing it. Find out more and pledge to pick up a bag at keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean

Contact Details for the Church Office.

Phone: 01785 822820 Benefice Administrator: Victoria Hainsworth

Office email: churchofficegnosall@gmail.com

Office hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 9-12.00, Friday 9-1:00. When the office is not staffed, leave a message and someone will reply as soon as possible.