

**The Parishes of Adbaston, Gnosall, High Offley & Knightley,
Moreton and Norbury
Sunday 22nd March. (Lent 5)**

Collect

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Post Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

Amen.

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them,

and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

Romans 8: 6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

John 11: 1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

The Staffordshire Border Group of Churches are committed to Safeguarding and has adopted the National and Diocesan Safeguarding Policies. Our Benefice Safeguarding Officer is Adie Harris and can be contacted on 01785 284027.

In an emergency where there is imminent risk of harm to a child or vulnerable adult, please contact the police on 999 or your local social services department.

Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that

she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

In our year's mind (St Lawrence, Gnosall) we remember: Edna Chesters, John Williams, Peter Herbert Forrester, Cyril Jenkins (Priest), Edward (Ted) Bodley, Derek William Gardiner, John Graham Jones.

Notices

This Week's Services- 22nd March

Gnosall 8am Holy Communion
10:30am Morning Worship
High Offley 9:30am Holy Communion
Adbaston 9:30am Morning Worship
Norbury 11am Holy Communion
Moreton 11am Morning Worship



Gnosall



Adbaston



Norbury

Just Giving Pages

Next Week's Services- 29th March- Palm Sunday0
Gnosall 10:30am Benefice Communion

Vespers

The next Ecumenical Vespers led by the Roman Catholic community will be on Palm Sunday, 29th March in St. Lawrence's at 6.30 pm.

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! The final date is:
Friday 27th March 11am The Vestry at Gnosall.

House of Bread

We still take deliveries fortnightly to the House of Bread. The collection box is outside the vicarage, or you can hand in to us at any service. There is still a great need, so any food or toiletries will be gratefully received.

House of Bread will be hosting a concert with Eccleshall Singers at Gnosall Methodist Church at 7:30pm on 25th April. Tickets are £10. Available from: Tony Gee: 01785-824868 or 07805-433852
William Morris: 01785-332413, Nancy Rae: 01785-822808

Church flowers for Easter.

We will decorate the Church from 9am to 11am on Saturday 4th April. Please bring your own flowers and greenery. Everyone welcome...come and join us if you like flower arranging. Coffee and Chat will be taking place in the vestry too (10.30 - 12. 30)

Afternoon Tea

Friends of St Lawrence Church are holding an afternoon tea and Easter bonnet Competition on Saturday 11th April in Church at 3pm. Tickets £10 from Sandy Redfern 822440 or Helen Air 822347.

Quiz Night

Saturday 11th April, Norbury Village Hall 7.15 - for 7.30pm start. Admission -£6.00 (children £3.00) Includes light refreshments. Please bring own drinks and glasses. *Proceeds to St. Peter's Church, Norbury*

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).

Easter Services

Please join us at any of these Easter Services.
2nd April Maundy Thursday 7:30pm Knightley Benefice Holy Communion.
Good Friday 10am Gnosall Worship for all ages
2pm Walk of Witness
Norbury 12noon Reflections by the Cross.
Easter Saturday 8:30pm Gnosall Easter Vigil.
Easter Day- Gnosall 8am Holy Communion
10:30am Morning Worship
High Offley 9:30am Holy Communion
Adbaston 9:30am Holy Communion
Moreton 11am Holy Communion
Norbury 11am Holy Communion

Mothering Sunday Flowers

Many thanks to everyone who helped put together bunches of flowers for Mothering Sunday. I was able to deliver enough bunches for all the staff at St Lawrence and Woodseaves Primary Schools. They were received with surprise and delight, and I have been asked to pass on their thanks to you. I also took bunches to the staff in the pharmacy at Gnosall Heath Centre and Greene's Coffee House. I think we made their day!

Eco Church

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



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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.



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