

**The Parishes of Adbaston, Gnosall, High Offley & Knightley,  
Moreton and Norbury  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March. (Lent 3)**

**Collect**

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; 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*

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Exodus 17: 1-7**

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

**Romans 5: 1-11**

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus

Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

**John 4: 5-42**

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from

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it?’ Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.’

Jesus said to her, ‘Go, call your husband, and come back.’ The woman answered him, ‘I have no husband.’ Jesus said to her, ‘You are right in saying, “I have no husband”; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.’ The woman said to him, ‘I know that Messiah is coming’ (who is called Christ). ‘When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.’ Jesus said to her, ‘I am he, the one who is speaking to you.’

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, ‘What do you want?’ or, ‘Why are you speaking with her?’ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’ They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you do not know about.’ So the disciples said to one another, ‘Surely no one has brought him something to eat?’ Jesus said to them, ‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, “Four months more, then comes the harvest”?’

But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.’ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I have ever done.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, ‘It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.’

**In our year’s mind (St Lawrence, Gnosall) we remember:** Ken Jackson, Jeffery (Jock) Air, Barbara Jean Pooley, Eric Stanley Bowell, Helen Jeanette Jacobs (nee Bancroft), Philip Graham Stevenson, Stanley William Kemmel Marshall, Keith Lindley.

## Notices

### This Week’s Services- 8<sup>th</sup> 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

### Next Week’s Services- 15<sup>th</sup> March

**Gnosall 8am** Holy Communion  
**10:30am** Holy Communion  
**4pm** Messy Church  
**Knightley 9:30am** Holy Communion  
**Adbaston 9:30am** Family Worship  
**Norbury 11am** Holy Communion

### Coffee and Chat

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



Gnosall



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### Vespers

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

### Reflection

At last week's Lent Get Together, we reflected on what we value most about coming together for worship. These were the words we shared (size of word reflects frequency).



### 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 13<sup>th</sup> March 11am Norbury Village Hall  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 11am Woodseaves Village Hall  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 11am The Vestry at Gnosall.

### Mothering Sunday Flowers

This year, we have decided to use Mothering Sunday as an opportunity to connect with people in our local communities. Rather than distributing flowers in the service, there will be an opportunity to take a bunch away with you to give to someone who doesn't usually come to church. We hope this will be a good way of sharing God's love with them. We will also be taking bunches of flowers to local organisations and groups, including our schools. We want people to know that we are grateful for all that they do to support our communities, and to remind them that they are always welcome at our churches. I will let you know where the flowers are distributed and will share any feedback we

receive. If you are able to help with putting the bunches together, please let me know. Rev Rachael

### Quiz Night

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

### Dementia Prayer Week 12<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> March

Dementia Prayer Week invites us to pause, pray, and stand in solidarity with those living with dementia, their families, and all who care for them. It highlights the dignity of every person, reminding us that each life remains precious and loved by God, even when memory fades. You might like to pray this prayer:

Loving God,  
Be close to all who live with dementia and those who care for them.  
When memories fade, hold them fast in Your faithful love.  
May Your peace dwell where words are few, and Your presence be deeply felt.  
Amen.

### 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



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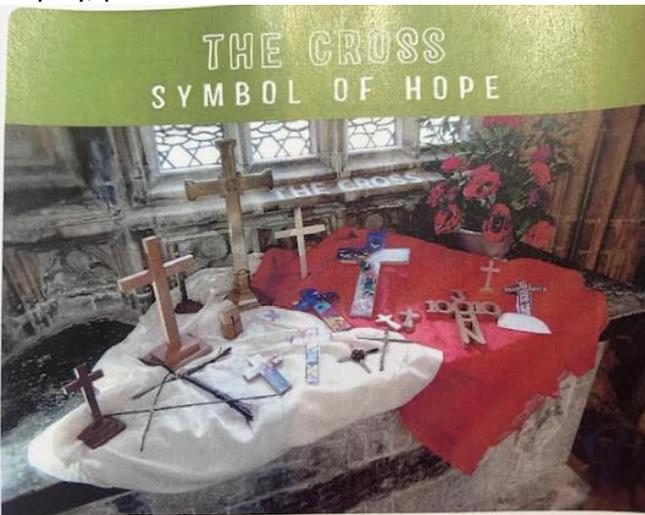
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example. Pray for your local area as you do the litter pick and ask God for opportunities to share why you are doing it. Find out more and pledge to pick up a bag at [keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean](http://keepbritaintidy.org/our-work/eliminating-litter/great-british-spring-clean)

### **Experience Easter**

On Thursday 26th March we will be welcoming the KS2 children from St Lawrence school to church to explore the Easter story. They will hear and reflect on different parts of the Easter story via six stations that explore the events of Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday. The station that explores the cross as a symbol of hope works best if the children have the opportunity to look at different examples of crosses made from as many different mediums as possible. If you have a cross that you would be willing to loan us for the display, please let Rachael know.



### **Contact Details for the Church Office.**

Phone: 01785 822820 Benefice Administrator:  
Victoria Hainsworth  
Office email: [churchofficegnosall@gmail.com](mailto: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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