Diocese of Derby
Transformed lives
Growing church
Building community

APPLETREE CHURCHES

Hilton with Marston on Dove, Hatton, Boylestone and Church Broughton

Rev Edward Whittaker
office@appletreechurches.org
01283 808 408

SUNDAY 8th MARCH 2026
(Third Sunday of Lent, Lectionary Year A)

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. Amen

LESSON 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 for 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?"

PSALM *95*
1 O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving and be glad in him with psalms.
3 For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods.
4 In his hand are the depths of the earth and the heights of the mountains are his also.
5 The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have moulded the dry land.
6 Come, let us worship and bow down and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
7 For he is our God; we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
8 O that today you would listen to his voice: 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, on that day at Massah in the wilderness,
9 'When your forebears tested me, and put me to the proof, though they had seen my works.
10 'Forty years long I detested that generation and said, "This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my ways."
11 'So I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter into my rest."'

ROMANS *5:1-11*

(A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans)

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 afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, 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, therefore, since we have now 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.

GOSPEL: JOHN *4:5-42*

(Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John)

So Jesus 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 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 worshiped 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 worshipers 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

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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 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."

(This is the Gospel of the Lord)

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER
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

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NOTICES FOR SUNDAY 8th March 2026

CHRISTIAN WORSHIP for SUNDAY 15th MARCH – Mothering Sunday

9.30am Boylestone Holy Communion
9.30am Hatton Morning Worship
11.00am Church Broughton Morning Worship
11.00am Hilton Holy Communion

READINGS: 1 Samuel 1:20-28, Psalm 127:1-4, Colossians 3:12-17, Luke 2:33-35

EVENTS AND SERVICES FOR WEEK OF THE 8th MARCH

- Monday 7.30pm: Deanery Synod Meeting on Zoom
- Tuesday 1.15pm: Little Saints, All Saints' Hatton
- Tuesday 5.30pm: Dove Club, All Saints' Hatton
- Wednesday 9.30am: Mid-week Eucharist at All Saints' Hatton
- Wednesday 7.30pm: Wednesday Evening Bible Study
- Friday 10.00am – 2.00pm: Hub Community Café, at All Saints' Jubilee Hall, Station Road, Hatton

APPLETREE CHURCHES MORNING PRAYER

Zoom morning prayer will usually be held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings at 8am. On Wednesdays Morning Prayer will be held at All Saints Church, Hatton at 9.30am. Once a month at 9.30am there will be a service of Holy Communion.
The Zoom link for Morning Prayer can be found in the Teamup entry, or contact Vickie for the link.
If you would like help with setting up Zoom for Morning Prayer, please also contact Vickie: vickie@appletreechurches.org / 07977 067 585.
All are welcome.

FRANCES TOYE

Even though Frances was stoically struggling with her health, many have been shocked that she passed away so suddenly and unexpectedly this week, so please join in prayer for the family and friends of Frances at this time.
Frances was a larger-than-life personality and instrumental in the construction of Hatton Jubilee Hall, and champion of many causes. We gave thanks for her active presence and all that she did in the parishes of Hatton and Boylestone.
Details of the funeral arrangements will be given in due course.

BISHOPS LENT REFLECTIONS

Friends,
Throughout Lent, Bishop Libby and Bishop Malcolm will host a series of Lent Reflections with Bible Study and prayer. Each week will reflect on the Gospel for the following Sunday.
The reflections will be held online over five weeks, starting on Monday, 23 February 2026 / Tuesday, 24 February 2026. The Monday reflections will start at 8 am, with the content repeated on Tuesdays at 8 pm.
All sessions will be live and not pre-recorded.
Please do join the sessions using the links below:

Monday sessions (8 am)
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/37907295559995?p=h7tFVg5Fuh3rIqOJ12
Tuesday sessions (8 pm)
https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/35193554707774?p=WCGv8wZSYfy2Y4kZsK

The sessions should last approx. 50 minutes.

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HILTON SCOUT HUT EVENT SUNDAY 15th MARCH

On Sunday 15th March there will be an afternoon event at Hilton Scout Hut, starting at 4pm. This month we will have tea, coffee and cake, plus some games for anyone and everyone who would like to come together for some fun time and sharing.

MAUNDY THURSDAY PASSOVER SEDER MEAL, ST MARY'S SCHOOLROOM, Thursday 2nd April

A date for your diary on Maundy Thursday, 2nd April.
All are welcome to come together to mark the eve of Good Friday and imagine something like a Passover meal, but as a Christian 'Agape Meal' event. The evening starts with a Seder meal, and some fun and worship, including Communion. The service concludes with Tenebrae, a service of shadows, where with readings and silence and semi-darkness the story of Christ's passion is traced. As candles are extinguished, all are invited to ponder the depth of Christ's suffering and death, and then leave in silence and meditation.
The Passover Seder Meal is on the evening of Thursday 2nd April between 6.30pm to 8.30pm at the Schoolroom at St Mary's Hilton with Marston on Dove; this is a family event and all are welcome.
Tickets for the event are £11 for adults £5.00 for children (to cover the food etc).
Contact Vickie at office@appletreechurches.org or 07977067585 if you'd like more information or you would like to book.
Please also let us know of any allergies or dietary requirements.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

Lauren Hewings and Ryan James Anthony Oakley both of the Parish of Hilton with Marston on Dove.
Lauren and Ryan are to be married at Church of the Holy Angels, Hoar Cross on 18th April 2026.
Please pray for Lauren and Ryan in all their preparation.

PRAYERS

Please pray for Julian and Dulcie who are to be married at Church Broughton Church on April 10th.

Prayers also for the Churchwardens and PCCs as they prepare for the Archdeacon's Benefice visit on March 10th.

We continue to pray for the family and friends of all who are considering Baptism or Confirmation at this time and those preparing for their weddings later in the year.

VISITING PARISHIONERS

Do you know anyone who would like a visit from Rev Ed? If yes, please can you let Rev Ed know. Ed's contact details are at the top of the page.