



Sunday, 7 February 2021

Dear Friends,

Hoping everyone is well and keeping safe. The days are definitely getting longer. We hear Storm Darcy is on the way. A little more snow for sledging! Cricket is back on the agenda. Few have touched a nation as Sir Tom did. A genuine, altruistic, understated, true gentleman. A huge thank you to him and all those he inspired. Our thoughts and prayers are very much with all who have lost loved ones at this time.

Many people want more clarity around when and how lockdown will be relaxed. Some find it challenging that, despite the vaccines, we will have to wait a while yet, to ensure numbers are significantly down before we are able to get on with life in a new post COVID future. I remember being told as a youngster that sometimes we need to give things up today so we can enjoy tomorrow. Not that I quite appreciated it at the time, it did very often turn out to be true.

#### PRAYER

Stir up your power, O God,  
and come among us.  
Heal our wounds,  
calm our fears  
and give us peace;  
through Jesus our Redeemer.



Life was challenging for Jesus on his journey to Calvary – he wouldn't have chosen to be unfairly treated, rejected by his friends and executed. But unless he had died he couldn't have risen from the dead. and we wouldn't be able to enjoy new beginnings as his followers. During lent we give things up and develop self discipline so we can fully enjoy the new beginnings of Easter. During lent, we aim to give priority to 'learning to be God's people once again'. This year Ash Wednesday, when Lent begins, is on 17th February.

#### PRAYER

Dear Lord, help me to learn to be your child once again  
by prayer and serving others.  
Help me to study your word so  
you open my eyes to your presence in the world.  
Amen.

#### FAVOURITE HYMN

From heaven you came helpless babe  
enter'd our world Your Glory veil'd  
Not to be served but to serve  
And give Your life that we might live

*This is our God, the Servant King -  
He calls us now to follow Him  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King*

So let us learn how to serve  
And in our lives enthrone Him  
Each other's needs to prefer  
For Christ we're serving

This year we start Lent together with a special zoom Ash Wednesday service, at 7 pm on 17 February, which will probably last about half an hour. During this we'll talk about this year's Lent course, which will be on subsequent Wednesday evenings and during which we'll focus on 'learning to be God's people once again'. You are very welcome to join us, but also to call if you would like more information.

Last Sunday afternoon we enjoyed a wonderful special zoom Candlemas service. It was so good to see people and catch up with some young folk. We sang songs and lit candles. Zoom is not perfect but it does the job.



Thank you Georgia for this photo of your lovely family at our zoom Candlemas service.

Every Sunday during lockdown we continue to meet on zoom at 11am for Sunday Worship. Do let Judy know at [judyknott3@gmail.com](mailto:judyknott3@gmail.com) or call on 01282 859956, if you would like an invitation or more information. Last week around 50 joined us to pray, sing, think about and learn more about God together.

Following the recent terrible news of 100,000 deaths from the virus, the Archbishops are calling people to prayer every evening at 6pm from February 1st. You can find out more information and a range of resources at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/prayer-nation>

The Diocese Sunday Service this week is the next of the monthly Multi-lingual services led by the Revd Sarah Gill, Vicar of St James and St Stephen's Blackburn. The theme is healing and the preacher is Archdeacon Mark Ireland. It will be available [here on the Diocesan YouTube channel](#).

Please take care and look after yourselves. You are always in my thoughts and prayers. If there is anything you need please call. I love to talk and catch up. Very much looking forward to when we get to see each other in 'real'. If there are ever any special prayer requests please let me know. The one thing I can always do, whatever else is happening, is to pray. I like praying.

With love and many blessings,  
Rev John  
Mobile: 07845 790421  
[john.knott51@iCloud.com](mailto:john.knott51@iCloud.com)

## TRADITIONAL LENT PRAYER

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
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.

## SPECIAL PART OF COMMUNION PRAYER DURING LENT

For in these forty days  
you lead us into the desert of repentance  
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline  
we may grow in grace  
and learn to be your people once again.  
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service  
you bring us back to your generous heart.  
Through study of your holy word  
you open our eyes to your presence in the world  
and free our hands to welcome others  
into the radiant splendour of your love.  
As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast  
with joyful hearts and minds  
we bless you for your mercy  
and join with saints and angels  
for ever praising you and saying:

