

## February 14<sup>th</sup> 2021 St. Luke's News



Is it just we "Brits" who are preoccupied with the weather? We seem to manage to talk about the weather incessantly and get it into many conversations. Nice day isn't it, isn't it cold/hot/wet/humid today. I wonder how many of us remember, or have heard, George Formby singing "It's turned out nice again"? But in our present condition of countrywide lockdown what else is there to talk about? 20 minutes on Zoom and everything else has been said.

So, what is it about the weather that makes it so memorable? Take the past month we have had two enormous storms. Firstly the flooding with storm Christoph and latterly the snowdrifts with storm Darcy (sorry Pat and Janet) both of which have caused enormous upheaval to our lives although thankfully not too badly in North Staffordshire. But with floods, drought, heat and wildfires the elements around the world have caused no amount of havoc. But the weather is only a part of God's creation. His wonders are all around us aren't they? The most obvious are the sun with its radiance during the day and the moon with its mystery for the night. Then of course there are the mountains and the seas, the deserts and the icecaps. All are wonders in their own right.

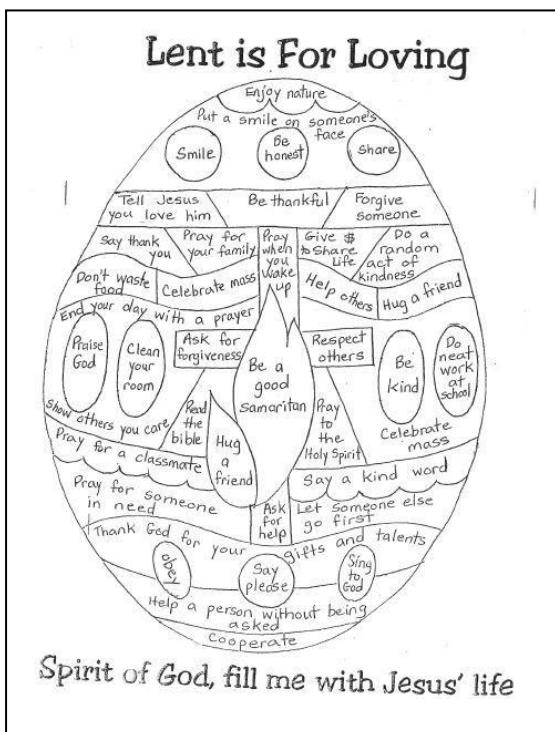
I remember when I was cycling in the Lake District a few years ago along the valley towards Buttermere on a glorious and warm spring day. Looking over the lake to the fells I suddenly found myself marvelling at the beauty of God's creation that is all around us and realising just how small and insignificant I was. I recall singing to myself the hymn "Hills of the North rejoice, river and mountain spring" and so on, and recognising just what a wonderful world God has given us in which to live.

I say – given – but actually I think it should really be – lent – to us as we are only here for a very short lifespan. Part of our mission as Christians (number 5 on the list of the Anglican Marks of Mission) should be to care for the world, God's creation, and if possible leave it in as good a condition, or preferably better condition, than it was when we arrived.

Are we doing that, are we trying to improve the situation or could we be doing better? There is a lot of discussion at present about saving the planet but how many countries are actually taking any notice? Will there even be an inhabitable world for our children, grandchildren or even further down the line?

We can, and should, in our own little way, do our bit to help preserve the world around us and align ourselves more nearly with the wonders we have been given by our extremely generous and loving God.

Remember "Tomorrow will be a good day". Blessings and keep yourselves safe. Paul



### Lent

Next Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> February, is Pancake Day or Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent begins. It's a day of being sorry for doing wrong things as well as a day of celebration. Traditionally it was the last chance to indulge yourself and feast on foods that weren't allowed in Lent like meat and fish, fats, eggs, and milky foods. Pancakes were made to use up the food.

Lent is a period of 40 days leading up to Easter (not counting Sundays), remembering the time Jesus was tempted in the wilderness and begins on Ash Wednesday.

For Christians, it is a time of preparation for Easter and to reflect Jesus' time of testing things like chocolate and alcohol are often given up. It can also a time for more prayer and reflection, giving to charities and acts of kindness.

***There will be more information about Lent courses next week.***

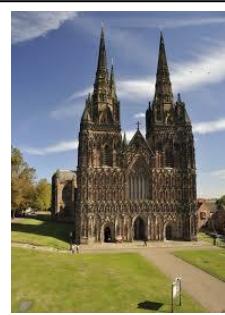
**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all who have contributed to the Foodbank over the last few weeks. We have had a fantastic response so far.

The provisions are taken each week to St. Luke's Methodist Church at Clayton. This is one of the collection points for the Newcastle Staffs Food bank, part of The Trussell Trust network. They are currently short of

Long life juice,  
custard – tinned and packet,  
deodorants, male and female,  
shaving gel,  
washing up liquid,  
washing powder/liquid/capsules.



Contributions to the Foodbank can be left in the church porch Thursdays 9 – 4



**Bishop Michael** has offered an open invitation to join online in the Cathedral's celebrations of the Eucharist on Ash Wednesday at 12.30pm and 7.30pm. Go to [www.lichfield-cathedral.org](http://www.lichfield-cathedral.org) and click on the Together in Worship button. He has also recorded a short video reflection for Ash Wednesday you may wish to watch at home. Watch here: <http://bit.ly/39RGBLN>

He says, "Lent itself will no doubt be kept in many different ways, this year as every year, but I would encourage you to see in our current situation an invitation to explore more deeply the inward, reflective and prayerful dimension of our Christian life of faith."

**Seen recently:** On entering this church please satanise your hands!  
(It's perhaps a good job the church buildings aren't open!)

**Services and events at St. Luke's:** Everyone is welcome is come along to our meetings-  
*Please do get in touch with Paul, Alan or Freda if you would like help with Zooming! (details below)*

- ❖ **Sunday Service** for the benefice open at **9.50** to start at **10.00** on Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82172796502?pwd=dm9PandVL1I6YTgzOFFTQzQ1L0NqQT09>  
Meeting ID: 821 7279 6502 Passcode: 503870
- ❖ **ZWITT Thursday morning worship 10.00 on Zoom:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3558390555?pwd=ZlNvRVcxbHZ1VWRaUzhGS1Vqcy9QZz09>  
Meeting ID: 355 839 0555 Passcode: 758581
- ❖ **Friday evenings Bible Study.** Contact Noreen at [noreenbungalow40@gmail.com](mailto:noreenbungalow40@gmail.com)

To access the **Sermons** please click on this link: <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/4551/page/68316/view/>

Date	Psalm	NT reading	Gospel reading
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	50 vv1-6	2 Corinthians Ch4 vv3-6	Mark Ch9 vv2-9
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	30 vv1,8,16-end	Galatians Ch1	Mark Ch8 vv11-13
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	29	Galatians Ch2 vv1-10	Mark Ch8 vv14-21
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	51 vv1-18	2 Corinthians Ch5 vv20-6.10	John ch8 vv1-11
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	1	Galatians Ch2 vv11-end	Luke Ch9 vv22-25
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	51 vv1-5,17-18	Galatians Ch3 vv1-14	Matthew Ch9 vv14-15
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	86 vv1-7	Galatians Ch3 vv15-22	Luke Ch5 vv27-32

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