



14th February 2021

Sunday

10.00am A service on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82052570669?pwd=bFY1OHQvd3pGaW90QXNIa2ljUEExqZz09>

Meeting ID: 820 5257 0669

Password: 055008

You can access the service by any phone.

0 203 051 2874

meeting ID: 820 5257 0669

Password: 055008

Service sheet can be found on the worship tab on the web site

A virtual Coffee morning

Wednesday's on Zoom 9.30 to 10.30 join us at any time online: chat, share stories, listen to the music... have coffee or tea at home [even cake if you have some].

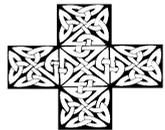
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83218275796?pwd=TmNreHVuY2NPcU9tWE4yK3pC>

SHhEUT09

Meeting ID: 832 1827 5796

Passcode: 607192



We Remember:

The years mind of

Michael Anthony Law, Olive Christine Sykes and Pamela Anne Gill

Also, the family and friends of

Margaret Courtney, Frederick Clifford Green (Cliff), Brian Shaw, Roland Hill and Shirley Dean

Donations in memory of Cliff [to Radcliffe's] to be shared between St Mary's Church & The Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Cliff's funeral will take place 17th February the cortege will leave St Mary's down Church Street at around 2.10pm following a private family service, if paying respects please make sure you socially distance, wear masks and don't socialise.

Brian's funeral will be on 25th February.

**CHOOSE THE
WORLD YOU WANT**

**A FESTIVAL OF CLIMATE,
FAIRTRADE AND YOU**

Maybe choose Fairtrade coffee or
bananas?

**FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
22 FEBRUARY - 7 MARCH**



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Jennie Waind has a small quantity of Mothers Union Cards, particularly 'Sympathy Cards'. Please contact her directly while church is closed.

Pause, pray and remember people we have lost.

Prayer resources

A number of resources are available at www.ChurchofEngland.org/PrayerForTheNation.

Gracious God, as we remember before you the thousands who have died,
surround us and all who mourn with your strong compassion.

Be gentle with us in our grief, protect us from despair,
and give us grace to persevere and face the future with hope
in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

GIVING

Help to keep the parish churches open.

All our funding comes from the giving of the people who attend or those who feel that they want to support us. We do not receive any money from any other source.

You can now make donations online just follow this link.

<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/a459163d-1461-4ce0-bc1c-4c98dca169c8>



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Leeds

Loving.
Living.
Learning.



Rhythm of life Lent Course

This is a standalone course that can serve as a stepping stone for further engagement with the Rhythm of Life. There will be six sessions, with online materials, for use with Zoom. Sessions will provide an opportunity to engage with the seven Rhythm of Life areas for deepening commitment:

Praying Reflecting Encouraging Sharing Resting
Celebrating Creating

Each session will be 90 minutes in length, including a 10 minute break. The framework will consist of video clips, Bible passages, discussion questions, break out groups for discussion and prayer.

Wednesdays at 7.30pm from 24th February.

To register your interest and receive the Zoom link, please email RoL@leeds.anglican.org.

Further details will be publicised and accessed via the Rhythm of Life pages on the Digital Learning Platform (DLP): learning.leeds.anglican.org/RoL

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

We have taken the difficult decision to close our churches until further notice.

Services of Daily prayers can be found on the link on our worship page.

Also the invitation to pray morning prayer at home at 10.00 am each day.

<https://www.facebook.com/thechurchofengland/> keep up to date.

READINGS **John 13:34, 35; 15:12**

I give you now a new commandment: that you love one another. You must love each other just as I have loved you. If you have such love, people everywhere will recognise you as my disciples. This, then, is my commandment - that you love one another as I have loved you.

1 John 2:9,10; 4:7-12, 20, 21

If we claim to be in the light but hate others, we are, in fact, even now in the darkness, but if we love others, then we live in the light, and nothing in us will lead others to sin. Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God; all those who love are born of God and know God. Whoever does not love knows nothing of God, for God is love. God demonstrated his love like this - he sent his only Son into the world in order that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. Dear friends, given that God has loved us like this, shouldn't we love one another similarly in turn? Although no one has actually ever seen God, if we love one another, then he is one with us and his love is perfected in us. We cannot love him, whom we have never seen, unless we love others, whom we have seen. Christ's command to us is this: those who love God must also love others.

Hi Everyone!

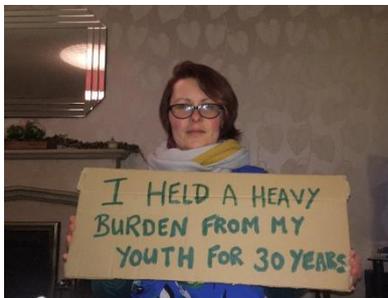
I hope you are managing to stay well and warm during this challenging time. I'm very much enjoying 'seeing' a lot of you on a Sunday morning at our zoom service. A conversation with Kate Walter got me thinking recently about how we can grow in faith and share our faith with others, especially each other, at this time. The basic idea is that you write a short testimony on a piece of cardboard...something you were struggling with on the front and how God helped you overcome the situation or answered your prayer on the back! Simple as that!

It doesn't have to be fancy as you can see from my photos attached or it can be really fancy if you like! It can be any old piece of cardboard from an Amazon box to a cereal box...I'm sure we all have something hanging around with all the online deliveries taking place at the mo!

You can either have someone take a picture of you holding the sign front and back or use a timer or a selfie stick if you have one, or if you prefer to stay anonymous you can just take a picture of the sign. This is meant to bring us all some extra strength and help us to spread Christ's light among us so there is no judgement on what you share...it can be something big or something small.

You could maybe even just choose one word on the front that represents a problem or emotion and then a one word response from God that helped you. It may even be an ongoing problem that you are still working through with God.

When you have done your testimony, you can send it to a special email account I have set up cardboardtestimoniesstmarys@gmail.com and then once I have them all I will try to put them all together in some kind of montage that I can then send out to the congregation and perhaps on the website if people are happy for it to be shared there. My hope is that this will be a nice experience for us all and provide a creative opportunity for us to focus on God and bring us closer together as a church community. Of course there is no



obligation to take part but it would be lovely to see how God has made a difference in your life. Here is mine as an idea to get you started. If you could have them back to me by the end of Feb that would be great!
Love and Blessings Sam x

Martin's Talk

On this day in which we remember St Valentine, it might be pertinent to ask, "What or whom do we really love?" How deep is our love? Do we love God enough to relegate everything else? Is it our love of God that motivates us in all areas of life? May be this is a time perhaps more for asking questions than seeking solutions, a time for re-examining all that we believe and all to which we cling. Questions like "Is it enough?" or "Is it too much?" seem pertinent.

Valentine's Day once celebrated that *agape* love of which Jesus speaks in the passage immediately following today's Gospel. We should take care lest it ends up just another consumer opportunity; life, after all does not consist in the abundance of possessions

It's never easy to summarise something important in a few words, but with Christianity we're invited to do just that, and by none other than Jesus himself. For him all the commandments and everything God requires of us boil down to one thing: love. So, unsurprisingly, the New Testament writers have much to say on this theme, time and again emphasising the importance of love in any authentic discipleship; this, more than any other, is the central message of the gospel and the defining mark of God's people. Quite simply, as John reminds us, if we do not love then we do not know God - the two belong together. But do we love in a way that is any different to those around us? If asked to describe how your faith comes across to them, would anyone you know include love in their answer?

Jesus in the passage that precedes what we have heard today Washes His Disciples' Feet, Predicts His Betrayal, Predicts Peter's Denial then Jesus makes the disciples solemn promises about the coming Holy Spirit who will continue to guide them as he himself had done. But before he even gets to that, he has something else to offer them: the simplest, clearest and hardest command of all. He describes it as a 'new commandment'. Love, of course, is central in many parts of the Old Testament. The book Leviticus (19.18) commanded the Israelites to love their neighbours as themselves. But the newness is not so much a matter

of never having heard words like this before. It is a matter of the mode of this love, the depth and type of this love: love one another in the same way that I have loved you. Love is all about the other person. It overflows into service, not in order to show off how hard-working it is, but because that is its natural form.

Love one another.

This is to be the badge that the Christian community wears before the watching world. As we read verse 35 we are bound to cringe with shame at the way in which professing Christians have treated each other down the years. We have defined the 'one another' so tightly that it means only 'love the people who reinforce your own sense of who you are'.

Love one another, this is not a life that is dominated by rules and regulations, but rather a Spirit-filled life that will be expressed in love – for God and for other people. This was the life that Jesus lived and commanded for us (John 13:34–35), and this was the life that the writers of the New Testament regularly commended for the believers in Christ. Later in Ephesians, Paul puts it this way: 'Follow Christ's example, therefore, as dearly loved children, and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God' (Eph. 5:1–2).

Let love be the controlling force in your life, just as Christ loved us.

Lent course; 'Moving On'

A down-to-earth course helping you discover more about Christian discipleship on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 on Zoom. From 16th February.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85343908027?pwd=YjJxWlJlNFZlZUVEZlQ3RSU0JyUT09>

Meeting ID: 853 4390 8027 Passcode: 693902

By phone 0203 481 5240

Meeting ID: 853 4390 8027 Passcode: 693902

Discipleship has been cited as 'the most strategic issue facing the western church today' (Graham Cray, *Who's Shaping You?: 21st century disciples*, Cell UK Ministries, 2010) If you want to grow in your Christian faith, discover more about following Jesus and find out more about being a committed member of the church, then maybe it's time for Moving On.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." Acts 2 v 42-47

Moving On consists of Seven sessions:

Stand up and be counted, Church - we are family, Church - worship, Growing in God, Life in the Spirit
Cheerful giving - time, talents, money, New life, new lifestyle

Why not join us this lent and beyond..... Moving On: The Adventure of Discipleship

Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.' So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. Luke 5:10b-11

The adventure of Christian discipleship begins with the call of Jesus. As disciples we may be more or less clear or confused as to who Jesus is and what following him means. The call may come loudly or quietly, instantaneously or gradually, but the invite is from Jesus. It is he who invites us to share his life. When we respond to that invitation we don't know where the journey will take us. So let us this lent take a journey together to discover more about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Everyone is welcome, please feel free to invite others on this exciting journey.