The Parish of St John and St Paul

Within the Ramsbottom and Edenfield Team Ministry

 **A very warm welcome to St Paul’s on this** **Third Sunday of Lent**

**I Corinthians 1:18-25**

**18**For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19**For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
    the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.”

**20**Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21**For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. **22**Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, **23**but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, **24**but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25**For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

**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

**John 2:13-22**

**13**When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **14**In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. **15**So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple courts, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. **16**To those who sold doves he said, “Get these out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” **17**His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

**18**The Jews then responded to him, “What sign can you show us to prove your authority to do all this?”

**19**Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

**20**They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” **21**But the temple he had spoken of was his body. **22**After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

**Well what an eventful week…the sun has shone (for a few days at least); more vaccines have been given out, and our churches are once again opening. Whilst to start with, this is on a four-week rotation for our Team Churches, it will hopefully not be long before we go back to every week. (The zoom service at 11.00am will continue for the present)**

**That we can once again open on Tuesday mornings is wonderful, and I know we all look forward to getting back to having tea and biscuits after the service, and a good old chat…… be patient**

 

When our hearts are wintry, grieving

or in pain, Thy touch can call us back to life again; Fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been. Love is come again, Like wheat that springeth green.

 **John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958)**

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**Lent** is a time when we traditionally give things up, focus more on God and draw closer to him. This last year in many ways has been like one long Lent, with all the different restrictions and challenges that we have faced. At the end of Lent comes Easter, a time when God’s only son, died and rose again; and as Lent progresses, from Ash Wednesday, to the joyous celebration of proclaiming that Jesus is king on Palm Sunday, to the reflective time of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, then the focus of the Cross on Good Friday, we come to Easter and the empty tomb. Easter is a reminder that death is not the end, as Jesus rose from the dead and promised to all who believe ‘everlasting life’. I love my garden, and have planted many spring bulbs, and through the winter, they are busy growing, unseen, under the earth and as spring gets near there is daily, this wonderful explosion of colour. If this last year has seemed like a long winter, remember the spring bulbs, busy growing unseen, we may not have seen the growth that we have done, but each one of us has overcome the challenges faced by the Coronavirus pandemic. After winter, the spring bulbs emerge in flower, I hope that each one of us will be like a spring bulb in the next few months. **May we grow this Lent and bloom at Easter with hope.**

**Lent Series** Don’t forget our **Tuesday evening Bible study** following on from the sermon on Sundays.It isrunning each week until the **30th March** via zoom at **7.30pm.** The zoom invitation will remain the same each week and is:

Meeting ID: **856 8461 7096**

Passcode: **Rammy**

 

**If you need to contact a member of the clergy, please ring: 07436 887760**

**Or email: retmchurches@gmail.com**

**Don’t forget we are on Facebook: St Pauls Church, Ramsbottom Ramsbottom and Edenfield Team Ministry (RETM) Website: ramsbottomedenfieldteamchurches.org A Church Near You: St Paul’s Ramsbottom**

**Team Rector: Andy Lindop**

**Associate Ministers: Les Hallam**

 **Sue Wood**

**Church Warden: Sue Holdway Verger: Joyce Griffiths**

 

**We are happy to announce that Our Team churches are once again ‘open’ every Sunday morning at 9.30am for a service of Holy Communion. This is on a ‘four-week’ rotation.**

**Dates for March:**

 **7th Edenfield**

 **14th St Philip’s**

 **21st St Paul’s**

 **28th St Andrew’s**

**Please note, Edenfield also have a service of Holy Communion BCP on the 28th March at 8.00am.**

**Team Motto**

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.**

**(Romans 15:13a)**

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