



**Benefice of Christ Church and St Mary's, Frome**  
Diocese of Bath and Wells

## **Sunday 22nd March**

### **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

#### **Collect**

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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.

#### **First Reading: Ezekiel 37.1-14**

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.' So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them.

Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God : Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God : I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord , when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord , have spoken and will act, says the Lord .'

## **Psalm 130**

Out of the deep have I called unto' thee O'Lord : Lord' hear' my ' voice.

2 O let thine ears con'sider' well : the' voice of ' my com'plaint.

3 If thou Lord wilt be extreme to mark what is ' done a'miss :  
O ' Lord who' may a'bide it ?

4 For there is' mercy with ' thee : therefore' shalt' thou be' feared.

5 I look for the Lord, my' soul doth ' wait for him : in his' word is' my' trust.

6 My soul fleeth' unto the' Lord : before the morning watch, I say be'fore the ' morning' watch.

7 O Israel trust in the Lord, for with the Lord ' there is ' mercy : and with ' him is ' plenteous re'demption.

8 And he shall re'deem' Israel : from ' all' his' sins.

## **Second Reading: Romans 8.6-11**

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-

indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

### **Gospel Reading: John 11.1-45**

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near

Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard

me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

## **Post Communion Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

**Prayers for those in need:** David Fielden, Yvonne Stewart, Aisling, Jane, Wai Ping, Marri Carmichael, Janet Dudley, Jean Gill

**RIP:** Peter Ives, Megan Webb

**Years Mind for March:** Elizabeth John, Nora Mitchell, Noreen Spall, Marlen Veale, Jonathan Burgess, Julie Bunce, David Plaskitt, Lily Harrill, Sheila Ball, Garth Burrows, June Lamb, Gordon Jones-Williams, Carole Tassell, Charles Coke, Donald Norman

**St. Mary's APCM will now be on Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> and Christ Church APCM will now be on Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>**

Both meetings will follow the respective 10.30 service.

Both churches are looking for people to join the Church Council (PCC).

Christ Church is needing someone to join the finance team. St. Mary's are looking for new churchwardens and a PCC secretary.

If you are interested please chat to Revd Liz or any of the churchwardens.

**Contemplating Holy Week** is a short service on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Lady Chapel at Christ Church. Using words, music and silence we reflect on the days before Easter.

All are welcome

## **Services during Holy Week**

Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Compline</b> 8pm at St. Mary's
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Devotional Concert</b> 6pm at Christ Church
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Compline</b> 8pm at Christ Church
Maundy Thursday	<b>Eucharist and footwashing</b> 7.30pm at St Marys
Good Friday	<b>Last Hour Music and Readings</b> 2pm at Christ Church
Easter Day	<b>Dawn Eucharist and breakfast</b> 6.00am at St. Mary's <b>Festival Eucharist and Egg Hunt</b> 10.30 at Christ Church <b>Easter Choral Evensong</b> 6.00pm at Christ Church

Further details about the all the services in Holy week can be found on [achurchnearyou.com](http://achurchnearyou.com)

Many thanks to all who came to the **Lent lunch** at Christ Church. There was over £100 in donations to Christian Aid (final total not yet available)

**Contemplation as Resistance** – a Mary's House Community day on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>. Beginning at 9am we are joined from Canberra Australia by Sarah Bachelard in conversation. If you

think contemplation is passive and wishy-washy, this might just open up new horizons. The day will end with a shared lunch of soup and bread and fruit until 1pm. Donations of £10 are invited for the day. All are welcome

**Glorious Baroque** – a gala concert at Christ Church in aid of the Christ Church Future Appeal. Fizz and canapes from 6pm and music from 7pm. Our plans have gone for approval this week and we are beginning to fundraise with a renewed sense of purpose. Tickets for this glorious concert will be on sale very shortly.

On 17th April 2026 **The Coat of Hopes** – an ever evolving, community created patchwork coat, on a pilgrimage through Britain towards the end of the climate and ecological emergency – will arrive in Frome at St. Marys having walked **2150 miles** to reach this far. It will then journey to Christ Church on Monday 20th

The patch-less Coat set out from Newhaven, East Beach in Sussex on 30th of August 2021 on a continuous nine-week walk to Glasgow for the COP26 climate conference, gathering on its way pieces of blanket into which people had sewn their hopes for the places they live in the face of climate and ecological breakdown.

Since the failure of COP26, the Coat of Hopes has continued to walk throughout the land, collecting people's sewn hopes and inviting all who encounter it along the way to wear the Coat in the understanding that "the turning of our future is on all our backs and feet" (as its song says). The organisers are committed to continuing the Coat's journey, until the climate and ecological situation is no longer an emergency. There is no end in sight.

Barbara Keal from Lewes, instigating artist of the Coat, said 'When faced with the enormity of climate and ecological breakdown, I see our only solution being to recognise our

dependence on each other to maintain a world which is liveable. The energy to change our way of living must come from love, and a willingness to act on behalf of others. Walking with the Coat of Hopes is a practice which develops these attributes, even as we invite strangers throughout the land to put on this Coat of Hopes and "*wear the promise that we all belong together*". Every walking day we lean into an unknown future and find fellow humans who are willing to help us on this impossible journey of witness'.

The Coat of Hopes is now in the 5th year of this pilgrimage-without-end, and bears well over 700 patches. Everyone is invited to make a patch and, wherever the Coat goes, it carries an invitation to all who are willing, to wear it, hear its song, and stand for a moment in consciousness of our interconnectedness with each other and all life and what that might ask of us in the way we live our lives. Thousands of people have participated in this way.

More information can be found on the website [www.coatofhopes.uk](http://www.coatofhopes.uk) and please email [yes@coatofhopes.uk](mailto:yes@coatofhopes.uk) if you would like to join us. All are welcome.

### **The week ahead**

Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	12.55pm	Open the Book at Christ Church school
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Holy Communion at St. Mary's
	7.00pm	Contemplating Holy Week at Christ Church
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm	Christ Church PCC in the Vestry
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm	Scallop Shells Choir at Christ Church
	5.15pm	Choir Practice at Christ Church
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	9 .00am	Marys House Community Day

### **Services Next Week: 29th March**

**8.00am Holy Communion (BCP) at Christ Church**

**10.30am Parish Eucharist at St. Marys Contact Details:** Revd Liz: 07305

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