Church news

Sunday 28th February
Second Sunday of Lent

Revd. Phil Smith writes: -

Dear friends,

I hope this letter finds you well as we venture into a new month and it feels another new chapter in the history of our nation as we continue the good fight against COVID-19.

I personally am feeling optimistic on several fronts – for me (and the Met office) March heralds the first month of Spring and I, like them, keep the seasons in neat 3-month packages and so hopefully we can say goodbye to the winter weather. Indeed, on the 28th of March British Summer Time begins.

Secondly – COVID-19. I thank God every day that He created people with the gifts and skill-set to formulate a vaccine so quickly that has given the entire world Hope that would not have been there otherwise. In this country we are equally blessed with our NHS that has just been amazing throughout including delivering the Vaccination programme. As I am writing this the England's COVID Road Map has just been published and it looks like I am scheduled for a much needed haircut in April.

But on a more serious note, I am aware of how difficult it has been for nearly everyone over this Covid period – particularly those who have suffered the loss of a loved one Covid related or not and how we all look forward to a time when we can get back together again, not only in church but also meeting up in our homes.

You may be reading this article on the BBC churches website and I would urge you if you haven't yet, to click on all the headings – Welcome, Worship, Connect and Pictures and the links underneath each. Every time I do this, I am always struck by the strong sense of HOPE which abounds throughout, be it in pictures – the gallery is a must – or word or what is available for us to engage in.

During the month of March, we continue to journey through the season of Lent in preparation for the annual celebration of the death and resurrection of our Lord at Easter. Lent is a good time for self-reflection - time of penitence – looking back as where we have fallen short – recognising that and saying sorry and also equally a time for growth – seeking out those God given opportunities that lay ahead.

None of this is possible however without Hope – a total belief that we will get through these difficult times and that a brighter future with Jesus at its centre awaits.

I am looking forward to the day when we can all meet up again and celebrate in prayer, praise and sacrament – lets hope it won't be too long.

Every Blessing, Revd Phil

GIVE AND SUPPORT THE WORK OF YOUR CHURCH

Many members of our congregation are generous in their financial support for St Giles at services or through the weekly free will offering envelopes.

Unfortunately because of church service disruption, restrictions of movement and for health reasons not all of these contributions have been made for some months.

It would really help the finances of St Giles if you could make your donations as soon as possible. You can do this via the vicarage or the treasurer's home (54 Queen Street) or if are unable to travel please call the treasurer or the wardens; we wil collect.

Our finances have also suffered from a lack of fundraising events this year. These are wonderful social gatherings but do make a difference to enabling St Giles to pay its way. If you would like to make any further donations in lieu of fundraising activities, please do so as above.
Thank you, Michael Wilson
(St Giles Treasurer)

0800 804 8044
DailyHOPE
A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

The BBC Group of Churches

St Giles, Balderton, All Saints, Barnby in the Willows & All Saints, Coddington

GET IN TOUCH: Email: stgilesbalderton@gmail.com Tel: 01636 704811

THIS WEEK'S READINGS:

Genesis 17.1–7,15,16

17When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. [2]And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' [3]Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, [4]'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. [5]No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. [6]I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. [7]I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

15 God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. [16]I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

Romans 4.13–25

13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. [14]If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. [15]For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.
16 For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, [17]as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations')—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. [18]Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' [19]He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. [20]No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, [21]being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. [22]Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' [23]Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, [24]but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, [25]who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

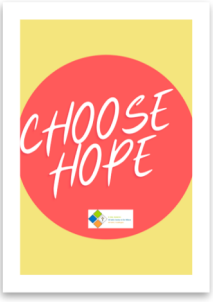
Mark 8.31–38

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. [32]He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. [33]But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. [35]For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. [36]For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? [37]Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? [38]Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

What are you doing to SPREAD HOPE?

We'd love to hear from you.
Give us a call on 01636 704811 or drop us a line at the vicarage.



- Look out for messages and artwork of HOPE around our villages.
- Perhaps design something yourself and put it in your front window for passers-by to see.
- Plant a snowdrop as a lasting reminder of HOPE in one of our churchyards.

Our Churchwardens' Contact Details

St Giles, Balderton:
Ian Lawrence: 01636 605226
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All Saints, Barnby in the Willows
Yvette Wellard: 01636 626780

All Saints, Coddington
Yvonne Hayman: 01636 673204
Susan Lovell: 01636 676707

NEWARK FOODBANK

Thank you so much to everyone who is still finding a way to support our local Foodbank.

Items needed in February are:

TINNED CARROTS
PASSATA
LONG LIFE MILK
CHOCOLATE BISCUITS
TOOTHPASTE

Newark foodbank