

PEW SHEET

Sunday 5th March 2023: Second Sunday of Lent

Vicar: Revd Louise Holliday - revdlouiseholliday@gmail.com / 01636 704811

St Giles' Community Hall Bookings: Deborah Pollard - 01636 672923

Vestry Hour in St Giles: Every Tuesday 6.00 - 7.00 pm

www.bbc-churches.org.uk

THIS MONTH'S LETTER FROM OUR MINISTRY TEAM

As we journey through another Lent, I give thanks for the ever-constant cycle of the Church's year and welcome once again the opportunity to be more reflective on my faith and on the life of Jesus and just what He has done for me and the whole of humankind. It is simply more than we can fully appreciate that over 2000 years since He lived and died for our salvation, that He has such an influence still on our lives if we let Him in. And that is the most amazing and important thing, God does not force Himself on anyone but has an open invitation to everyone, regardless of race, colour and what they have done, or not done. He loves us all equally and that love, just like the circle of seasons in the Church's year is never-ending.

Lent, like Advent, is a season leading up to one of the Church's major festivals and a time to prepare for that festival in a meaningful way. The trouble with things that come round again and again, is that we become too familiar with them and take them for granted, think of places in Newark that you probably see regularly but do not notice in as much detail as a visitor to the town may do and as you do when on holiday in new places. So although you can give up something for Lent in the manner of Jesus being alone in the wilderness, it would be better to follow His example of being alone and in prayer with His Father, alone to think and reflect on what your life is like and ways in which to make it more Christlike.

As many of you will know I am coming towards the end of my two years training to become a Licensed Lay Minister and have thoroughly enjoyed the course. This term I need to engage in an away placement and I am spending Lent and Easter at Holy Trinity in Southwell to see how they approach this season and perhaps to learn new ways of worshipping, which may or may not be useful in my future ministry. I will only know by considering the familiar in new ways and not taking for granted things as I have become accustomed to.

However you spend Lent, may you take time to reflect on your faith and relationship with God and come to fully appreciate the sacrifice He made for us all and to appreciate that you are totally and unconditionally loved.

John Dodd

NOTICES

ONLINE SERVICES: Please note that there will be no Coffee & Prayer time on 7th March and no Encounter on 8th March. These will both resume the following week.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK:

We will be spring cleaning inside St Giles' church from 10-12 on Saturday 1st April. Bring your own duster. The more the merrier.

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS:

St Giles' Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be held on Sunday 14th May 2023 at 4pm in church. Please could you let us have your group reports as soon as possible please. stgilesbalderton@gmail.com

All Saints' Barnby in the Willows will hold their meeting on Monday 15th May 2023 at 7pm in church.

All Saints' Coddington will hold their meeting on Tuesday 16th May 2023 at 7pm in church.

WEDNESDAY GROUP: will meet on the 8th March, at 7.30pm in St Giles' Community Hall. Talk to be given by Ellen Hill called 'To be a Pilgrim'. New members are warmly welcomed. Further details from Kath Hirst 01636 700267.

QUIZ EVENING to support Christian Aid

FRIDAY 24th MARCH at 7.30pm

Salvation Army Centre, Mead Way, Balderton

Ticket £5 or donation (includes tea/ coffee and cake)

BOOK A PLACE at Salvation Army Centre Office 01636 640097

ST GILES' QUIZ NIGHT

FRIDAY 21st APRIL at 7.00pm in St. Giles' Community Hall

In aid of Community Hall development fund.

Tickets £10 (with fish and chips supper) now available from

Alison Wilson 673298 and Jean Newson 673970

Please bring your own drink.

The BBC Group of Churches

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

Collect

Almighty God, by the prayer and discipline of Lent may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings, and by following in his Way may we come to share in his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Genesis 12. 1-4a

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'^[a] ⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Romans 4. 1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by^[a] Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.'⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

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.

John 3. 1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus^[a] by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.'³ Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.'^[b] ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' ⁵ Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.'^[c] ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You^[d] must be born from above."^[e] ⁸ The wind^[f] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.'⁹ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ 'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you^[g] do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.

^[h] ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.'^[i]

¹⁶ 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Post Communion Prayer

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

EXCITING NEWS from St. Giles' Community Gardening Group

Plot 10 is our latest venture in conjunction with the Horticultural Hub at the Horticultural Unit, Main Street, Balderton. We are also working with Friends of Balderton Community Hub, and the rest of the Community to put a team together from all over Balderton (which has a population in excess of 10,000 people). We need your help and input to get this off the ground with the added benefit of being able to work alongside others. If you are interested please contact us. Anything that we grow on Plot 10 will be shared with those who need it in our Community. An hour of your time per week would be all we would ask for. If you could give us more of your time then that would be a bonus.

Working outdoors is highly beneficial to our health and well being. Work can be done individually, in pairs or a group situation. Friendships develop and grow too.

Be brave and take the first step. You will not regret it.

Lynn Green and Richard Hussey on behalf of St. Giles' Community Gardening Group

Contact:

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MOTHERING SUNDAY—19.03.23

- 10.00 am All Age Holy Communion, St Giles
- 3.00 pm Mothering Sunday Family Service, All Saints, Coddington

Please note that it has been decided that there will be NO 4@ The Hall on Mothering Sunday.

Everyone welcome. Do come along to one of our services.

Flowers: If you have any greenery for the Mothering Sunday flowers, please leave outside the vestry door by Saturday 18th March.

There will be a team of people putting bunches together at 2.00pm on the Saturday in the vestry. If you can spare an hour to help, that would be most appreciated.