

SUNDAY 3RD MARCH 2024

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MOTHERING SUNDAY

If you have any greenery for making up bunches of flowers for Mothering Sunday, would you please leave outside vestry door by Saturday 9th March.

Any offers of help putting the flowers together would be much appreciated. This will take place in the vestry at 2.00pm on Saturday 9th March.

Thank you, Alison Wilson, Christine Lathlane

WALK & TALK

Please note that there will be no "Walk and Talk" on Wednesdays 20th March, 27th March and 3rd April 2024.

ST GILES' EASTER FLOWERS

Donations of money towards Easter flowers can be given to Christine Lathlane before Easter week, or if anyone would like to bring spring flowers to decorate church we will be there on Saturday 30th March at 9am to receive flowers.

Flower Ladies, Deborah Pollard, Christine Lathlane and Jill Eagles, have now been looking after organising church flowers at St Giles for the past year. Donations of money towards buying flowers is always appreciated. If anyone would like a special date remembered or would like to give a general donation we are happy to receive this.

Thank you. Christine and Deborah.

SERVICES

Sunday 3rd March: Third Sunday of Lent
10.00 am Holy Communion, St Giles
6.00 pm Free to Be, St Giles

Tuesday 5th March
10.00 am Coffee & Prayer Time (online)

Wednesday 6th March
7.30 pm Encounter (online)

Thursday 7th March
10.00 am Holy Communion, St Giles
2.30 pm Funeral of Pauline Redmile, St Giles

Friday 8th March
2.00 pm Funeral of Natasha Birkin, St Giles

Sunday 10th March: Mothering Sunday
10.00 am Family Communion, St Giles
10.00 am Family Communion, All Saints, Barnby
10.00 am Family Communion, All Saints, Coddington

MARCH'S LETTER FROM THE MINISTRY TEAM...

Revd. Phil Smith writes:

I just love this time of year with 'Spring' in the air. As I have mentioned before Spring for me, just like the Met Office – begins on the 1st March, although not officially until the 20th March with British Summer Time beginning on the 30th.

This month is also a busy one in the church calendar as we continue to journey through the season of Lent in preparation for the great festival of Easter which falls on the last day of the month when we celebrate the resurrection of our dear Lord.

During the month of March, we celebrate two other special occasions – Mothering Sunday on the 10th and Palm Sunday 24th with services held at all three of our churches to mark the significance of these events.

Mothering Sunday has a particularly warm place in the hearts of the community at Coddington as we remember and honour Miss Constance Penswick Smith, the very determined daughter of the then vicar of Coddington, the Revd Charles Penswick Smith. Constance with the help of her good friend Miss Ellen Porter, was responsible for the Revival of Mothering Sunday as a Christian festival when it was being challenged and in fear of being overtaken by the American import of Mother's Day – a secular alternative. Thankfully Constance and Ellen won the day and All Saints are having a new booklet produced – which hopefully will be available on the day - which tells both sides of the story – especially the less well-known side of Mother's Day in America which has somewhat sad twist at the end. This makes a fascinating read and I urge you to get your hands on a copy.

Another event, not in the church calendar, although certainly in mine – is my monthly visit to Lancaster Grange Care home at Fernwood. On booking my next visit – Thursday 21st March – I was politely reminded that this day was also 'World Poetry Day' and they would be grateful if that was reflected in my time with them. I told them that I had an idea – I would read to them a selection of hymns that would clearly fit the bill. We are often reminded by a fellow member of our ministry team, that hymns are 'prayers set to music' and no one can argue with that but there are also many that go further – I would consider them as 'poetic prayers set to music' and would stand on their own merit as poetry even if they had not been destined for the hymnal. One such is hymn 753 in your orange hymn books – won't say any more than that, but look it up, read it out loud and let me know what you think.

Every Blessing, Revd Phil.

READINGS FOR 3rd MARCH: 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Collect

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Exodus 20. 1-17

When Moses led the people out of slavery in Egypt, they came to a mountain. They were awestruck by the roar of thunder and smoke at the top.

Moses climbed up.

Then God spoke: 'I am the Lord your God, the one who brought you out of Egypt – no other god is to be important to you.

Do not make for yourself an idol, a copy of anything that you can imagine. You must not bow down and worship such things. If you do, there will be trouble and grief in your family right down to the lives of your great-grandchildren. But if you worship me alone, I will show your family faithful love for thousands of years to come.

Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for God will not excuse the person who does this.

Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. Work for six days and rest on the seventh day as God did when God made the earth.

Respect your father and mother so that you may live a long life in the land that God is giving you.

Do not break your marriage promises.

Do not murder.

Do not steal.

Do not tell lies about your neighbour.

Do not be envious of your neighbour's life and wish that their things were yours.

1 Corinthians 1. 18-25

For the message about 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, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

John 2. 13-22

Tear Down This Temple...

13-14 When the Passover Feast, celebrated each spring by the Jews, was about to take place, Jesus traveled up to Jerusalem. He found the Temple teeming with people selling cattle and sheep and doves. The loan sharks were also there in full strength.

15-17 Jesus put together a whip out of strips of leather and chased them out of the Temple, stampeding the sheep and cattle, upending the tables of the loan sharks, spilling coins left and right. He told the dove merchants, "Get your things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a shopping mall!" That's when his disciples remembered the Scripture, "Zeal for your house consumes me."

18-19 But the Jews were upset. They asked, "What credentials can you present to justify this?" Jesus answered, "Tear down this Temple and in three days I'll put it back together."

20-22 They were indignant: "It took forty-six years to build this Temple, and you're going to rebuild it in three days?" But Jesus was talking about his body as the Temple. Later, after he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this. They then put two and two together and believed both what was written in Scripture and what Jesus had said.

Post Communion Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.