



Sunday 21st February 2021

First Sunday of Lent

Today's Sunday Services

9.30am Mission Community Morning Prayer - Zoom
For the Zoom password, email: rachelbelringer@gmail.com
11am Holy Communion (said) - At St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen

Morning Prayer

9am - 9.30am Monday to Thursday this week on Zoom
For the Zoom password, email: rev.andrewdown@gmail.com

Reflection

Our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week at the following times:

St Peter & St Paul's, Broadhempston	9am to 4pm	Sundays and Wednesdays
St Andrew's, Ipplepen	9am to 5pm	Daily
St Mary the Virgin, Denbury	10am to 5pm	Daily

Please note, St John the Baptist, Woodland is currently closed for private prayer and reflection.

Mid-Week Services

Tuesday	10.15am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	7pm	Compline	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15am	Holy Communion	- St Mary's, Denbury
Thursday	4.30pm	Evening Prayer	- St Mary's, Denbury

Next Sunday – Second Sunday of Lent

9.30am Holy Communion (said) - At the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11am Mission Community Morning Prayer - Zoom
For the Zoom password, email: rachelbelringer@gmail.com

Funeral Services

Mon 22nd Feb 2021 at 2pm St Andrew's, Ipplepen John Peter Dewhirst
Tues 23rd Feb 2021 at 11.45am St Andrew's, Ipplepen Charles David Hallett
Mon 1st March 2021 at 10.30am St Andrew's, Ipplepen Edwin Squires

Annual Leave

The Church Office will be closed for annual leave on Thurs 25th February and Fri 26th February.

Reading and reflection in Lent

Lent begins this coming week with Ash Wednesday and is a time of refreshment, reflection and revitalisation. As a Beacon mission community we are encouraging people to read the novel **Phoebe: a story by Paula Gooder** and reflect on 4 Christian texts during this time.

Jesus' Summary of the Law The Lord's Prayer
The Apostles Creed The Beatitudes – Blessings of the Gospel – Luke 6 20-23

We will be using the notice sheet to support this reading and reflection beginning next week. Alongside this we will be offering near the end of Lent a **zoom book club** gathering to discuss Phoebe by Paula Gooder and using the 4 text as the basis for **zoom gatherings suitable for those wanting to revisit the fundamentals of our faith or prepare for confirmation.**

Parish Placement Today we welcome Sarah Nichols who is a Chaplain at Channings Wood Prison and will be doing a parish placement with us over the next month as part of her ongoing training.

Prayer during lent:

- 1. Compline – Wednesdays from 24th Feb until 24th March at 7pm at St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen.** Compline (30 mins of quiet prayerful service).
- 2. Evening Prayer – Thursdays from 24th Feb at 4.30pm at St Mary the Virgin, Denbury.** With reflection on the stations of the cross.

Rhythm of Grace: Guided Prayers for Lent <https://discoveringprayer.com/lent-welcome>

Telephone support/chat following the church services: Sheila Sheldon is available to speak to following our church services. Sheila's phone number is (01803) 814227.

Online Sermon for this Sunday: from the Rev'd Prebendary Jackie Taylor who is the Dean of Women in Ministry in the Diocese of Exeter. <https://vimeo.com/cofedevon>

In memory David Hallett, Peter Dewhirst, Rob Birch and Edwin Squires.

The Beacon The February-March issue of the Beacon is now available on our website and hardcopies are available in the churches.

Information from Hillarie Griggs about the Mission Community Lent Book

Phoebe - A story by Paula Gooder. Paula Gooder is a leading New Testament Theologian and is Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral. She has written many books and academic papers but this is her first novel. She tells the story of Phoebe, the deacon of the church at Cencreae, who Paul commends in his letter to the Romans (16:1-2). Through the imaginative telling of this story Paula hopes to open up Paul's thinking and theology. It gives a sense of the cultural and historical pressures that shaped the faith of the early church and the role of women within it. The book is very readable but at the same time, because it is rigorously researched, it will appeal to those who would like to engage imaginatively and more deeply with Paul and his theology. The supporting notes at the end of the book explain why the situations and characters are depicted in the way they are. Here is a link to an interview with Paula filmed in 2019 where she explains more about why she wrote the book www.youtube.com/watch?v=7m9-HWICvrg

Fairtrade Fortnight is 22 February to 7 March 2021. For more information www.fairtrade.org.uk

Readings

	This week	Next week
Readings for this Sunday:		
First Reading	Genesis 9:8-17	Genesis 17:1-7
Psalm	25:1-10	22:22-30
Second Reading	1 Peter 3:18-End	Romans 4:13-End
Gospel	Mark 1:9-15	Mark 8:31-End

Readings for the week ahead:	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th
	Matt 25:31-End	Matt 6:7-15	Luke 11:29-32	Luke 7:7-12	Matt 5:20-26	Matt 5:43-End

They can also be viewed/downloaded from <https://bible.oremus.org/>

Rector: Rev'd Andrew Down. Tel: 01803 813403 E: rev.andrewdown@gmail.com

Office: Church Office, St. Andrew's Church Hall, Church Path, Ipplepen, TQ12 5RZ

Office hours: Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri: 12 noon to 3pm. Thurs: 11am to 3pm

Tel: 01803 814178 E: office@beaconparishes.co.uk W: www.missioncommunity.org.uk

Facebook pages: www.facebook.com/StAndrewsIpplepen/

www.facebook.com/denburyworship www.facebook.com/Broad20/



Reflection by Rev'd Tony Meek

First Sunday of Lent

Mark 1:9-15

Sunday 21st February 2021

In an amusing coincidence, the Gospel reading for today takes us back to my last Reflection on the Baptism of Christ. But we don't stay by the river today. Instead, Mark takes us to the desert. We're used to reading about the temptation in the other Gospels, Matthew and Luke, where they speak of the details of the time, of temptations of power, authority and pride. They speak of these truly human desires which Jesus somehow resists. Matthew and Luke reveal the power of Jesus' resistance.

The picture St Mark paints is not of the temptation itself, we are only told that it happens. The image we walk away with is the rest of it. Whisking him into the wilderness, his presence among the beasts, and the angels who wait on him. Mark downplays the temptation, and the Tempter. They are given the same weight as the other elements in the list, the beasts and the angels.

So Mark tells us that this thing we call The Temptation of Jesus isn't really about temptation, or about the Tempter and the problem of evil at all. It's about experience, creation and God. It is about living in this world that God has made, rather than in the cities and communities we have made, so that we can connect with God, so that we can know God. It is about connecting with the mission, with the dream that God has for us, for humanity and for the whole world. It is a dream of reconciliation and of restored community, of people restored with each other, but not only the people. It is about a restoring with all of creation and with our creator.

We get the Temptation Story at the start of Lent as if we are supposed to see our own 40 days as being in that wilderness. I really like that idea. As long as we don't see it as a trial, or as a time of resisting temptation. We should not see self-denial as a vehicle for resisting the Tempter. This isn't at all what Jesus is doing in any of the temptation stories. Lent is not about giving up sugar, chocolate or even gin, but of making time for growing our faith.

Lent is not about resisting temptation, but about experiencing the life we're living. It is about pursuing a better relationship with all that God has created, our world and its people, with God as our creator. It is a time of wrestling with our own faith and our own understandings of the workings of the world and of those real temptations.

But the most important part of Lent, the part that is so easily overlooked and dismissed by those of us who have been through many Lents before this one, the part we are so easily distracted from, is that it is a season not of resistance but of preparation.

It is a season of preparing new members of the faith to join the community through baptism. It is a season of restoring notorious sinners to the community they have nearly destroyed. It is a season when all the rest of us who have been on this rollercoaster before, who have dealt with pain and suffering, who have felt the joyous exultation of true happiness in faith, are reminded of those who struggle. We are reminded of the mercy God has shown us and the grace we have been given.

When we repent of our darkest sins and we hear of another's repentance and true desire to change, we are moved to bring them back in, to make this broken family whole again. This is our story in Lent. This is who we are called to be: Reconcilers and Hope-bringers. In all of our own weakness and torment, in all of our darkest moments and all of our arrogance, we are called to restore as we were restored, to show mercy as we have been shown mercy.

This Lent, may we come to know that kind of mercy, to truly believe that we have been given that mercy, so that we can better know God as the source of all mercy.

