



Sunday 6th February 2022

Fourth Sunday Before Lent

Celebrating the Saints – Torbryan – Sunday 6th February 2022 at 4.30pm. A service of Evening Prayer. Simple, Celtic inspired. A time of silence, music, art, poetry and prayer.

Coffee Mates takes place in Denbury on the second Wednesday of each month, 10.30-12 noon at Church Cottage, Denbury. All men welcome to join us this Wednesday 9th February.

Refresh Revisit Reflect Course From Tuesday 11th January from 6.30pm to 8pm, each Tuesday until 15th February, in St Andrew's Church Ipplepen. This course explores the Christian way of life. This week we will be looking at 'The Eucharist as a Model for Life'. Feel free to come along to this session or all sessions. All Welcome.

Church of England Covid Guidance. In light of the new government Covid measures, you will be guided on arrival at services and events about how each event will be managed. In broad terms we continue to advise mask wearing, sanitiser will be available, the building will be well ventilated and guidance will be given regarding seating.

Lent Course 2022: 'Surprised by Generosity' is a new seven week Lent course looking at God's generosity to us and our call to live generously in return. It has been devised by the Diocese of Exeter Mission Resources Advisor Brigit Kiyaga and written by contributors from across the diocese, including author and speaker Dave Hopwood. It is based on the Gospel of Luke and features video reflections, interviews, a small group study guide and suggested church service talks. <https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/generous-giving/lentcourse2022/>
The course will be held on Sunday evenings from 5pm to 6.30pm from 27th February to 10th April 2022, to be held in St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen. (The session on 3rd April to be held from 6pm to 7.30pm due to the 4.30pm service taking place in Torbryan).

Lent Compline (30 minutes of quiet prayerful service) for our Mission Community will held on Tuesday evenings from 8th March to 12th April 2022 in St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen.

Foundations in Christian Ministry - September 2022 - June 2023 Would you like to deepen your faith, develop your gifts and explore God's calling for your life? The Diocese of Exeter offers a free one year course which runs over seven Saturdays. It includes teaching on the Bible, Spirituality, Theology and Pastoral Care. Contact Programmes Coordinator & Administrator, the Rev'd Belinda Speed-Andrews: admin@swmtc.org.uk, 01392 272544 or have a conversation with Hillarie Griggs (01803 812197). Application need to be submitted by 17 April 2022 to

<https://swmtc.org.uk/study/foundations-in-christian-ministry/>

Printed copies of the February and March 2022 edition of 'The Beacon' magazine are now available for you to pick up from inside the Beacon Parishes Mission Community churches.

Readings	This week	Next week
Readings for this Sunday:		
1st Reading	Isaiah 6:1-End	Jeremiah 17:5-10
	Psalms 138	1
2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Gospel	Luke 5:1-11	Luke 6:17-26

Readings for the week ahead:

Mon	7 th	Mark 6:53-End	Thurs	10 th	Mark 7:24-30
Tue	8 th	Mark 7:1-13	Fri	11 th	Mark 7:31-End
Wed	9 th	Mark 7:14-23	Sat	12 th	Mark 8:1-10

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

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Facebook pages: www.facebook.com/StAndrewsIpplepen/

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

Today's Sunday Services

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St John the Baptist, Woodland
9.30 am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
4.30 pm	Reflective Evening Prayer - St Valentine	- Holy Trinity, Torbryan

Morning Prayer

This week morning prayer will be said at the following times:

Tuesday	9.15 am	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	9.15 am	- Online Via Zoom (for the zoom password email rev.andrewdown@gmail.com)
Thursday	9.15 am	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
Friday	9.15 am	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston (A time of silent prayer and meditation)

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	Daily
St Andrew's, Ipplepen	9am to 5pm	Daily
St Mary the Virgin, Denbury	10am to 5pm	Daily
St John the Baptist, Woodland	9am to 5pm	Daily

Mid-Week

Rev'd Andrew Down's Day Off is on Mondays each week.

Monday	3pm-5pm	T-Pot	- Church Cottage, Denbury
Tuesday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
	6.30-8pm	Refresh Revisit Reflect Course	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	10.30am-12	Coffee Mates	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury

Next Sunday 13th February 2022 – Third Sunday Before Lent

9.30 am	Holy Communion	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
11.00 am	Holy Communion	- Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston
11.00 am	Celtic Morning Prayer	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Points for Prayer. We pray for Queen Elizabeth on this the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne, 6th February 1952, following the death of her father King George VI.

In Memory. Beryl Savery, Mary Cock, Betty Elders and Grace Domoney.



Reflection by Steve Sheldon

Presentation of Christ in the Temple
Luke 5:1-11
Sunday 6th February 2022

This week's Gospel reading is from Luke's telling of Jesus calling his first disciples. This version is similar to Mark and Matthew's except he omits Andrew and adds in a fishing miracle. John's Gospel is quite different with Andrew and Simon being sent by John the Baptist to no longer follow him but Jesus now.

Here in Luke we read of Simon Peter's initial reaction to meeting Jesus: "*he fell down at Jesus' knees saying, 'Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!'*"

The first thing that Jesus has called us to do is repent, to recognize our own weakness. We must feel the **need** for a Saviour before we can accept one.

The first Beatitude is: Happy are those who know they are spiritually poor; the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them. To repent is to acknowledge that spiritual poverty, that inability to go it alone.

The Bible is full of heroes who struggled with God's call because of their own spiritually poverty:

God called Abraham and told him he and his wife would bear a child with whom God would make an everlasting covenant. Abe says, Who Me? I'm too old!

Zechariah gave the same answer when told he would father a mighty prophet. Not me, Lord, I'm past it, I'm over the hill. I'm too old.

Moses also balked at God's call, I am nobody, how can I go to the king and bring the Israelites out of Egypt? No, Lord, don't send me. I've never been a good speaker.

Gideon in the book of Judges tried a different excuse, "*But Lord, how can I rescue Israel? My clan is the weakest and I am the least important member of my family*".

Saul, who would be the first King of Israel, similarly said, "*I belong to the smallest tribe in Israel and my family is the least important one in the tribe*".

Jonah didn't even bother to make an excuse, he just set out in the opposite direction trying to get as far away as possible from the Lord and his calling.

Finally there is Jeremiah who said "*Lord, I don't know how to speak; I am too young*".

The prophets in the Bible who answered God's call did not have an easy ride. They suffered for their commitment. Jesus refers to their suffering in several of his parables. They suffered because of Sin in the world, a lack of love and compassion. They suffered because of people's opposition to God's Kingship and authority, their denial of God's Truth.

And it was because of this sin that their prophecy was needed. The prophets heard the call and got on with it. God calls us all to be prophets in our own individual way---to witness to God's Truth, as best we can. This witnessing will not make us popular because it threatens our sense of self-sufficiency and self-righteousness. The greatest sin of this Age of Reason is the belief that Man can go it alone, do it on his own.

And it is right to fear the call of God, if we think we are going to have to go it alone. But how did God answer all those he called and who responded, Who, me? I can't! God said, Be not afraid ... for I am with you and will rescue you. I will be with you to protect you.

My favourite OT prophet is Isaiah who also feared God's call, like Simon Peter he replied "*Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips.*" But God forgave Isaiah his sin and when God again asked, "*Whom shall I send?*" Isaiah said, "***Here I am; send me!***"

God calls us from where we are, not so much for what we are right now, but for what He is able to make us become. Jesus called his disciples not for what they were, but for what he saw in them that they could become if they just followed. We are called from sin, vanity, and meaninglessness to a trust and faith in something greater than ourselves. How that call is carried out will depend on our own individual talents and opportunities. God does not literally expect us to turn from home and kindred, unless we have made an idol of that home and which stands as a barrier to our trust in him.

Each of us is expected to do for the Lord in our own particular manner, based on our own circumstances. We may not know how we are going to do it until it is already done. We might just have to step forward in faith and trust--- like those first disciples, like Moses, like Gideon and Jeremiah and all the rest. We probably don't have the freedom to become instant missionaries like Peter & Andrew, and follow Jesus physically, but we can follow him on a journey inwardly and spiritually, leaving behind all that inhibits us from following Him with a total commitment of our hearts and minds.

God is ready to change us now, from within, transforming our lives. God already knows everything about us, and is unconcerned with our current status. We can hear his call and keep his commands of love in whatever condition he finds us.

When Bob Dylan became a committed Christian over 40 years ago, he became acquainted with the cost, and the pain of discipleship, when he was harshly rejected by fans and critics for daring to share his faith. These are the words from the final verse of a song from back then:

*You have given all there is to give. What can I do for you?
You have given me life to live. How can I live for you?
I know all about poison; I know all about fiery doubts.
I don't care how rough the road is. Show me where it starts.
Whatever pleases you, tell it to my heart,
Well, I don't deserve it, but I sure did make it through.
What can I do for you?*

Today as we are called by the living Jesus Christ in the midst of our striving, in the heats of our desires, through the earthquake wind and fire of our lives, let us listen for that still small voice of calm that calls us out, and let us respond from our hearts: Lord, what can I do for you?