



Sunday 20th March 2022

Third Sunday of Lent

Points for Prayer. We hold in prayer the ongoing conflict in Ukraine praying for peace. We particularly pray for those families who are facing separation due to the conflict. We also give thanks for the release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe. We pray for those who were baptized last week: Charlie Hooker and Mabel Freeborn.

Giving to Ukraine:

We will be holding special collections at our services over the coming weeks. Additionally...

A number of charities have specific appeals to help people in Ukraine. They include [Christian Aid](https://www.christianaid.org.uk/), [Unicef](https://www.unicef.org.uk), the [British Red Cross](https://www.redcross.org.uk) and [Christian Response 2 Eastern Europe](https://www.facebook.com/groups/cr2ee/)
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/> <https://www.unicef.org.uk>
<https://www.redcross.org.uk> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cr2ee/>

Opportunities for prayer and study during Lent:

Lent Course 2022: 'Surprised by Generosity' This weeks theme 'The Rich Fool'. Come and see what it is all about 5pm Sunday evening St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen.

Lent Compline 2022: 'Cross Encounters' - come and reflect on the meetings people had with Jesus and his cross. Tuesday evening 7pm, St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book for 2022: 'Embracing Justice'. Author Isabelle Hamley invites you to journey with her through 'Embracing Justice'.

Live Lent: Embracing Justice is the Church of England's Lent Campaign for 2022 with an app, daily email and printed book of reflections for each day all available.

Faith, gifts and calling beyond lent:

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 17th April 2022 to <https://swmtc.org.uk/study/foundations-in-christian-ministry/>

Ippleplanet Launch Event: 7pm on Monday 28th March at Ipplepen Village Hall. Guest Speaker Professor Dave Griggs. Come and hear ideas about how we can care for our local environment and share your thoughts and ideas.

| Readings | This week | Next week |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Readings for this Sunday: | | |
| 1st Reading | Isaiah 55: 1-9 | Exodus 2: 1-10 |
| Psalm | 3:1-9 | 34:11-20 |
| 2nd Reading | 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 | 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 |
| Gospel | Luke 13: 1-9 | Luke 2: 33-35 |
| Readings for the week ahead: | | |
| Mon 21 st | Luke 4:24-30 | Thurs 24 th Luke 11:14-23 |
| Tue 22 nd | Matthew 18:21-End | Fri 25 th Luke 1:26-38 |
| Wed 23 rd | Matthew 5:17-19 | Sat 26 th Luke 18:9-14 |

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

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Today's Sunday Services

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|----------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 9.30 am | Holy Communion | - St John the Baptist, Woodland |
| 11.00 am | Holy Communion | - St Andrew's Ipplepen |
| 5pm | Lent Course | - St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen |

Morning Prayer

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

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| 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:

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|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| 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 day off Monday

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| Monday | 3pm-5pm | T-Pot | - Church Cottage, Denbury |
| | 7.30 pm | Bellringing Practice | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston |
| Tuesday | 10.15 am | Holy Communion | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| | 7pm | Compline | - St Andrew's Ipplepen |
| | 7.30 pm | Bellringing Practice | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| Thursday | 10.15 am | Holy Communion | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| Saturday | | Interment of Ashes – Andy Vickerstaff | - St Andrew's Churchyard, Ipplepen |

Next Sunday 27th March 2022 – Mothering Sunday

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|----------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 9.30 am | Holy Communion | - St Mary the Virgin, Denbury |
| 11.00 am | Holy Communion | - Ss Peter and Paul, Broadhempston |
| 11.00 am | Churches Together – Family Service | - St Andrew's, Ipplepen |
| 5.00 pm | Lent Course 'Surprised by Generosity' | - St Andrew's Church Hall, Ipplepen |

In Memory: Gwendoline Marks, Michael Binmore, Andy Vickerstaff, Michael Dow and Edith Mortimore.



Surprised by Generosity Reflection for the Third Sunday of Lent

The Venerable Andrew Beane – Archdeacon of Exeter

Here's some common and sound advice you may already know; there are two kinds of people – drains and radiators! Well, it's not probably that simple but bear with me!

On the one hand, we have our Radiators; they are the people who put life into the saying 'smile, and the world smiles with you.' Radiators are infectious. They naturally make people feel good about themselves. They radiate something of the generosity of God, the kindness of Jesus and the joy of the Holy Spirit. They are inquisitive and playful but focused too. They have a cup that is not just half full but overflowing! Do you know any Radiators? There's always someone in the Church or community who you could describe as a Radiator. Then, on the other hand, there are the Drains people in your life who one way or another leave you feeling diminished after you've been with them. You know the feeling – you started off a conversation bright and positive, and you came out of it dull, negative and frustrated, or maybe unexplainably cranky and irritable. Do you know any Drains? There's always a few in the Church or community who you could describe as Drains.

The sad things about Drains are that;

- They don't realise they're a Drain;
- They don't actually gain the energy that gets drained away from those they are around;
- And they drain their own energy too.

It might not be as simple as this, and at times we might all be Radiators or we might be feeling more like Drains, but there is some truth in the analogy.

So, what have Radiators and Drains got to do with Fig Trees? Well, perhaps this parable told by St Luke is a first-century story about Radiators and Drains. Here's a fig tree, and the man comes looking. Does it bear fruit (a Radiator) or does it have none (a Drain). The parable goes on to say there is no fruit and the man suggests giving up, walking away; he has had the life drained out of him. Yet the gardener gives it one more go, dig down, add manure and hope that it might bear fruit; hope that the Drain might become a Radiator.

So, I want to suggest the fig tree teaches three things about Drains and Radiators or how we Radiate something of the generosity of God and not Drain the life out of Church.

First, the parable teaches us that doing the same thing over and over again bears little fruit; Albert Einstein supposedly said, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." The man kept coming back to the fig tree to see if it had fruit; he did nothing, and each time, no fruit. In Church, do we keep doing the same thing over and over again, expecting something different to happen? Sunday by Sunday, does anything change other than the readings and the hymns? Yet we expect new people to come? How do we bear new fruit? Are we Radiating generosity, or is Church Draining the life out of us! The parable is challenging us!

Second, we can't keep taking and not giving. We need an attitude of gratitude if we want to see our churches, lives, and communities flourish. The fig tree was basically sucking the life out of the soil it was growing, yet there was no fruit. It was Draining life and not Radiating generosity. John Wesley said, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." What would our churches look like if we started to Radiate this kind of generosity, "Helping one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you", as Mother Teresa said.

Thirdly, the parable tells us of the gospel of second chances. The gardener didn't cut the fig tree down but dug around it, fed it with manure and gave it time. It's always Jesus' way to give people a second chance. We have a moment in this season of Lent to ponder our lives to think of the times when we're Radiators and when we've been Drains. What sucks the life out of us that we need to stop and what gives us life. What small steps can we take to start to change? Desmond Tutu said, "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

One last thing, the parable teaches us that if we do nothing, then the tree is cut down! There comes a time when that's it. God has utter faith in us; there is no Plan B we are it. The Church is always just one generation away from failure; if we don't pass on the Good News, who will? The parable is a challenge to us: are we going to Radiate the generosity of God, the kindness of Jesus, the joy of the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps this Lent you can plant a tree as a response to this parable or set up a prayer tree in your church.

Are we Radiators or Drains?