



Sunday 5th March 2023

Second Sunday of Lent

In Memory: Peter Byrom, Ann Hockin Higby, Mary Cleave, Derek Reed, John Harris, Ron Paston, Margaret Maddicott, Vernon Kerslake, Teresa Irish, Mabel Gallon and Fran Howells.

Points of Prayer: We pray for peace as conflicts are seen throughout our society and the world. We pray for the leaders of nations and communities that they will work towards peace and justice and begin the long road to forgiveness and reconciliation. We pray for the people of Ukraine, Israel and Palestine and those caught up in violence in our own country.

The Second Lent Group based on 'The Book of Forgiving' by Desmond and Mpho Tutu is this Tuesday 7th March at 6.30pm at St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen. We will be discussing chapters 4 and 5. All are welcome. In our third session of our Lent Group will be discussing Chapters 6 and 7. Some questions to ponder as you read these chapters: Why do we need to forgive others? What are the effects if we don't: on ourselves and on others?

'Coffee Time!' At St Andrew's Church on Saturday 11th March from 10.30am to 12 noon (ish).

Everyone is welcome to the first 'Coffee Time!' on Saturday 11th March. There is no charge, donations only. We are hoping that you will come and enjoy a cup of delicious fresh coffee and tea and a piece of cake or biscuit. Bring friends and enjoy the space in our historic building. The coffee morning will be held on the 2nd Saturday of each month from March 2023.

Saturday 18th March, 10am - 4pm Mission Community Retreat Day (based on the book 'The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse') at The Parish Rooms and The Church of St John the Baptist, Woodland. Please sign up on the sheets at the back of our churches.

Dr Paul Russell, Churchwarden from Broadhempston, is running the London Marathon for Compassion UK, a Christian charity, supporting children in extreme poverty. Please read his article in The February and March 2023 edition of The Beacon Magazine.

<https://challenges.compassionuk.org/profile/4850/paul-russell>

Readings

	This week	Next week
Readings for this Sunday:		
1st Reading	Genesis 12:14-4a	Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm	121	95
2nd Reading	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	Romans 5:1-11
Gospel	John 3:1-17	John 4:5-42
Readings for the week ahead:		
Mon 6 th	Luke 6:36-38	Thurs 9 th Luke 16:19-End
Tue 7 th	Matt 23:1-12	Fri 10 th Matt 21:33-43, 45-46
Wed 8 th	Matt 20:17-28	Sat 11 th Luke 15:1-3, 11-End

Readings can 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/

Today - Sunday 5th March

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 with Children's Activities	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

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

All our churches are open for private prayer and reflection throughout the week from approximately 9am to 5pm each day.

Mid-Week

Rev Andrew Down - Day off on Mondays.

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
	6.30 pm	Lent Group: "The Book of Forgiving"	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Wednesday	10.15 am	PCC Meeting	- Broadhempston
	10.30 am	Coffee Mates	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	7.00 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Mary the Virgin, Denbury
	7.30 pm	Bellringing Practice	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Thursday	10.15 am	Holy Communion	- Church Cottage, Denbury
	12 noon	Funeral & Burial Service for Sarah Long	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
	4.30-5.30pm	Sta*x Youth Choir Practice	- Ipplepen
Friday	11.00 am	Interment of Ashes followed by Memorial Service for Mabel Gallon	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen
Saturday	10.30 am	Coffee Time!	- St Andrew's, Ipplepen

Next Sunday 12th March – Third Sunday of Lent

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



Reflection by Rev'd Anne Burden

Lent 2
Genesis 12,
1-4 Romans 4,1-5 & 14-17
John 3, 1-17
5th March 2023

Have you ever been asked to do something, or to take on a new role - and have said “I’m too old for that - you need somebody younger.” I’m not picking on anybody or criticising - let’s be clear - and sometimes this is exactly the right response. But sometimes it’s an almost automatic reaction - which can be born of fear of change, or arising from feelings of inadequacy or anxiety about failure. And that may be something in need of attention and healing.

What started this train of thought was the Old Testament reading set for today - Genesis 12, 1-4 - when God tells Abraham to uproot himself and his family and start a new life in a foreign land. This happens when Abraham is 75 years old (a time of life familiar to an ever increasing number of us!). I’ve always felt quite sorry for Abraham - I’m happy in my bungalow in Ipplepen and hate the thought of moving anywhere else. But Abraham doesn’t question or challenge God, or say “I’m too old for that” - he just ups and goes. We’re not told why he simply accepts this major disruption, this new beginning to his life - so we can only guess. My guess is that Abraham is very sure that the voice telling him to go - is God’s voice - and that he trusts God, his wisdom, his power and his promises, as well as his love and care. Abraham is called to a new beginning by his loving, heavenly Father- and he sets out in faith and trust, ready to receive whatever God has in store for him.

You may be able to think of other examples in the Bible of God calling his people to new beginnings, both in the Old Testament

and the New. When Jesus calls his disciples he says “Follow me” - and they leave home and family and do just that.

And in the curious story of Nicodemus which is the Gospel reading we’ve just heard, Jesus says that being ‘born again’ - another way of talking about having a new beginning - is a necessary part of entering the kingdom of heaven.

Nicodemus is a Pharisee - interested in Jesus’s teaching and a seeker after truth. He is doing something quite risky in talking to such a controversial person as Jesus - so he approaches him at night, and tries to engage him in what might be thought of as a theological debate. He wants to gather information and exchange opinions, but although Jesus joins him in discussion, the conversation doesn’t seem to lead them anywhere. It is as if Jesus is saying - “words will only take you so far - what you need is a new beginning, which he describes in the phrase “to be born again”. Part of that new beginning is the faith and trust to start a new life - to live differently with God at the centre. It doesn’t sound as if Nicodemus is ready for that.

Gathering information is one thing - living it is entirely different. But this is what the Christian faith is about - a way of life, not a parcel of knowledge. The heart of the Christian faith is about new beginnings with God - the new life of resurrection which emerges from the death of crucifixion. God wants to engage with his people, to share with us the life of his kingdom. We have to decide whether we want to respond - whether we trust him enough to follow him on paths which may be new and challenging but will lead to peace and love and blessing. All this can be part of our Lenten pondering as we try to discern a little better the voice of God, and develop the faith and trust to follow it.