



Parish of Wiverton in the Vale:
One flock, One Shepherd, Six Pastures
Notices 14th February 2021
SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

DIARY FOR THE WEEK *(correct at time of going to press)*

SUNDAY 14TH FEBRUARY – SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT

No Holy Communion



10.30am – Sunday Service (on our website)

Sid Mitchell will be leading the service this Sunday, Katharine Bacon will be preaching, Josie McGuirk will be leading us in intercessions, Pam Powell will be bringing us the bible reading and Dorothy Thompson will be leading us in sung worship. Please [click here](#) to join the service at 10.30am (or later). www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/online-services

11.30am – Time for a Cuppa (via Zoom)

Please join us for a cuppa after the online service.

MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY

9.00am – All Parish Morning Prayer (via Zoom)

All are invited to parish prayers via Zoom on Mondays and Fridays

10.30am-12.30pm – St Giles' Cropwell Bishop, open for private prayer

WEDNESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY – ASH WEDNESDAY

7.00pm – Ash Wednesday Meditation (on our website)

Please [click here](#) to join the service at 7.00pm (or later).

www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/online-services



FRIDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

9.00am – All Parish Morning Prayer (via Zoom)

5.00pm – Colston Bassett's Evening Prayer (via Zoom)

SUNDAY 21ST FEBRUARY – LENT 1

No Holy Communion

9.30am – JOY! Baby Moses in the bullrushes (via Zoom) For more information, please contact Vivien at:

vivien_s_hall@yahoo.co.uk

10.30am – Sunday Service (on our website)

11.30am – Time for a Cuppa (via Zoom)



THIS WEEK'S READINGS

2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 and Mark 9: 2-9

LOCKDOWN LETTERS *From The Rectory and Beyond*

Transfiguration – *by Peter Hills*

The cabbage white starts life as a caterpillar and is transfigured into a beautiful butterfly. This change in form is called metamorphosis and yet is really a 'transfiguration'.

The Transfiguration is a momentous event reported in 3 of the Gospels. In Mark's Gospel we read that, Peter, James and John were selected by Jesus to accompany him up a mountain. Imagine that was you. How would you have felt? Why has Jesus chosen you? Would you feel privileged, excited or nervous?

Helen and I like walking. In 2019 we undertook a mountain hike with an Austrian guide, high in the South Tyrol, walking over the ridge and down into Italy. Interestingly the night before we both slept fitfully, we were nervous. What had we signed up for? Perhaps Peter, James and John were similarly uneasy and yet, like Helen and I, really excited. Imagine the joy of walking with Jesus, the conversation, the thrill of climbing high.

The disciples walk peaceably together and reach their destination. Jesus is then transformed. Look at his face, his clothing – the accounts from 3 Gospels say

His face shone like the sun
His face became different
His garments became as white as light
His garments became radiant and
exceedingly white, whiter than anyone
in the world could bleach them.
His clothing became white and gleaming



Something very significant has occurred. In short Jesus' outward appearance became an expression of his inward Godliness and majesty. Perhaps you know someone whose face shines radiantly with God's Spirit, BUT this is Jesus, how much more will he shine. How would you react if you had been there? How were the disciples feeling? This transfiguration is incredible but it is only the beginning. Two visitors now appear out of nowhere adding to the drama. We read 'Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking to Jesus.'

To me it feels like God gives Peter, James and John a chance to peer behind the curtain to see who God really is. At that time, in the temple, it was only the High Priest that could go beyond the veil/curtain to the Holy of Holies. The Priest could get close to God. That said, I think the whole event was so big that Peter in particular was dumbfounded and responds, like I suspect I would have done, by wanting to DO something. He says to Jesus

‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish I will build 3 tabernacles (shelters/tents) one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah. Peter makes a very human response and blurts out the first thing that comes to his mind. He needs to do something. Peter was wishing to build 3 shelters thereby placing Moses, Elijah and Jesus as of equal importance – he had got it wrong.

We read on “While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice came from the cloud”. If they weren’t frightened before I bet they were now!

“This is my Son, whom I love, Listen to Him”



God speaks, the disciples listen.

Peter, James and John are given a revelation of who Jesus really is. We see quite clearly that Jesus is on a level with God himself. He’s not just a good teacher, he is God incarnate, he is not on a level with Moses and Elijah, He is the Son of God.

This amazing event on the mountainside made me wonder when it is that we really see or feel God’s presence. Indeed if we were to see God in all His glory wouldn’t we be exhilarated and yet also perhaps, perplexed and terrified just as were Peter, James and John. I’m not sure the experience they had was altogether comfortable.

And yet in our lives through the Holy Spirit we can experience the presence of God. We can at least begin to know and relate to our Lord and God. When might those times be for you? Perhaps at the top of a mountain or seeing a

wonderful sunset, God the creator, or perhaps in prayer as we feel and know God's presence in our dialogue with Him OR perhaps in that tough situation when we know it is God that it is carrying us through.

As the cloud enveloped the disciples, God speaks 'This is my Son, whom I love, Listen to Him!'

Listen to Jesus, there is our challenge. Read the stories he tells. Get to know him. We too need to change from the caterpillar to the beautiful butterfly.

What part of my life needs change, needs the greatest transfiguration?

What steps can I take to make this change?
Am I willing to make that change?

Helen and I have been part of the Parish of Wiverton in the Vale for almost a year now. God has been with us throughout, transforming us, giving us opportunities to grow and to get to know Him. We have given of ourselves to a variety of those opportunities but in whatever way we have given we have received so much more in return from you all and especially from God. It is certainly in giving that we receive and we receive in an overflowing measure.

I feel Myra Brooks Welch so wonderfully portrays transformation in her poem 'The Touch of the Master's Hand'. See if you agree.



The Touch of The Master's Hand

by Myra Brooks Welch

From A Box of Delights (J. John and Mark Stibbe, Monarch Books)

Twas battered and scarred and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth the while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But he held it up with a smile.

'What am I offered, good folks?' he cried
Who'll start the bidding for me?
A pound – a pound – now two, only two,
Two pounds, and who'll make it three?

‘Going for three,’ sang the auctioneer,
‘Going for three – but no,
From the back of the room an old grey haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow.

Then wiping the dust from the old violin
And tuning up all the strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet,
As sweet as the angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer
With a voice that was quiet and low
Said, ‘What am I bid for the old violin?’
And held it up with the bow.

‘A thousand pounds? And who’ll make it two?
Two thousand and who’ll make it three?
Three thousand once, three thousand twice,
Going, and gone,’ said he.

The people cheered, and some of them cried,
We do not understand
‘What changed its worth?’ a man replied
‘The touch of the master’s hand.’

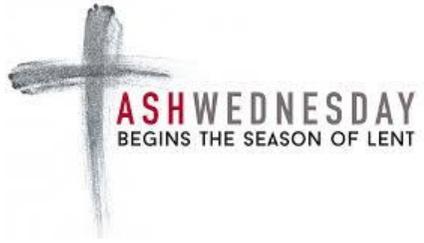
Many a man with life out of tune
And battered and torn with sin
Is auctioned cheap to a thoughtless crowd.
Much like the old violin

A mess of potage, a glass of wine,
A game, and he travels on.
He’s going once. He’s going twice –
He’s going and almost gone.

But the master comes. And the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul,
And the change that is wrought
By the touch of the master’s hand.

WHAT IS ASH WEDNESDAY?

Ash Wednesday — officially known as the Day of Ashes — is a day of repentance, when Christians confess their sins and profess their devotion to God. It generally derives from the period of the Old Testament, whereby worshippers would enter a period of 'fasting' and place ash on their heads as an act of penitence and devotion to God. This was an outward sign of public repentance. After the New Testament period, however, the Early Church would associate a period of fasting/ashes with Jesus' 40 days of trial and temptation in the wilderness. In loving devotion to God, worshippers too enter this period of confession and self-examination.



LIVELENT 2021: GOD'S STORY, OUR STORY

The Church of England's Lent resources theme for 2021 is '*God's Story, Our Story*' based on the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book *Living His Story* by Hannah Steele. Both the book and the accompanying daily reflections encourage all Christians to think about their calling, how to share their faith and reflect on the difference Christ makes in our lives.

From Ash Wednesday (17 February) to Easter Sunday (4 April), there are six reflections for each week, written by Stephen Hance, the Church of England's National Lead for Evangelism and Witness. Each reflection includes a short passage from the Bible, a brief exploration of the reading, and a prayer. Additionally, each week has a unifying theme and an action to be taken during the week.

The daily reflections are available through the booklet available to buy from Church House Publishing, as a free app, emails, audio and through the Church of England's social media accounts. The app version will include a daily Family Activity, offering a simple way to explore a story or a theme from the day's reflection.

For more information visit:

www.churchofengland.org/resources/livelent-2021-church-resources-gods-story-our-story



LENT 2021

“We can think of Lent
as a time to eradicate evil
or **cultivate virtue**,
a time to pull up weeds
or to **plant good seeds**.

Which is better is clear,
for the Christian ideal
is always **positive**
rather than negative.”

~ **The Ven. Fulton Sheen**



TIME TO PRAY

A prayer from Jeremy Taylor (written in the 17th Century)

Eternal God who has made all things subject to man, and man for thy glory; sanctify our souls and bodies, our thoughts and our intentions, our words and actions. Let our body be the servant of our spirit, and both body and spirit servants of Jesus; that doing all things for thy glory here, we may be partakers of thy glory hereafter, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Lord, we are called by your name and we are healed by your grace.
We have been appointed to be disciples and we have been enabled by your Spirit.

We are called to be your people and to walk as your children.

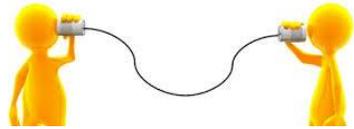
Now Lord, send us out to discover Christ in our Community;

To offer his love to our neighbours and to be Christ to all whom we meet.

Amen

IT'S GOOD TO TALK!

In these strange and worrying times, we realise that not everyone has someone to talk to, or that they may have concerns they'd rather not express to their nearest and dearest. If that's you, please feel free to give me a ring on 0115 9894836. If I'm not in, leave a message and I'll get back to you. We're all in this together! Hilary Tabron, RLM, Pastoral Care.



KEEPING IN TOUCH; STAYING INFORMED

These **notices** are posted week by week on the Parish website: www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk

To receive a copy of these notices by email every Saturday, please subscribe to the website notification service at:

www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/subscribe

KEY CONTACTS

Revd. Rachel - On sick leave

phone: 07944 992178 email: rector@wivertoninthevale.co.uk

Parish Administrator: Anna Hemati Kang Sofla:

phone: 07592 873751 email: administrator@wivertoninthevale.co.uk

Working hours: 10am-2pm Tuesday & Thursday

Pastoral Care Coordinator: Hilary Tabron RLM

phone: 0115 9894836 email: hilary.tabron@wivertoninthevale.co.uk

Parish Treasurer: Max Jordan:

phone: 0115 9899299 email: treasurer@wivertoninthevale.co.uk

Any concerns regarding a safeguarding issue should be directed to:

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Gareth Parker

phone: 07738 091338 email: gareth.parker@wivertoninthevale.co.uk

Further information and contact details can be found on the parish website at www.wivertoninthevale.co.uk/whos-who

**Copy deadline for items to be included in next week's Notice Sheet:
Wednesday 17th February, to the Parish Administrator.**