

POSTLEBURY NEWSLETTER

March 2022

From the Rectory:

The first day of spring falls on the 20th March. It marks the official end of winter, and though increasingly unpredictable, we look forward to generally warmer weather, switching off the expensive heating and spending more time outdoors. This year it coincides with the lifting of COVID restrictions, (at least for the time being), so this spring should also mark an eagerly anticipated period of recovery; psychologically, socially, and perhaps financially, for many of us. But I begin writing this on the 24th February, the day that Russian troops have invaded Ukraine, and Europe and 'The West' is once again faced with an indefinite period of worrying uncertainty and instability.

The early morning news tells us that the Russian military have targeted over eighty strategic defensive positions all around the country. On the surface, it is hard to believe that a sophisticated nation like Russia should be displaying such primitive aggression towards their peaceful neighbours. But as the news unfolds, we become aware of the complicated political, ethnic and religious background to the current situation; fault lines that President Putin is clearly exploiting for his own ends. There is much talk of sanctions and other reprisals, but these inevitably do most harm- at least initially- to those who cannot protect themselves from the 'collateral damage' of war. All of this comes at a time when the Church begins the season of Lent; a period of self-examination, repentance, and preparation for Easter: as the old English Hymnal puts it:

'Now is the healing time decreed,
For sins of heart and word and deed,
When we in humble fear record,
The wrong that we have done the Lord'.

These words put our present worries and concerns on another plain- they remind us we that we live our lives against 'the backdrop of eternity'.

On the day of the invasion, Archbishop Justin Welby gave the thought for the Day on radio 4 and ended with these words-

'Right at the end of his life, Jesus Christ, on the eve of his crucifixion, spoke to his disciples and he said something very memorable. 'In the world you will have trouble, but do not be afraid, I have overcome the world.'

Let us find our resolution, our peace and certainty, not by screwing up our courage, but in the knowledge that the eternal arms hold us. May God be with those who suffer today.'

With Every Blessing,

Fr Anthony

**Church Services in the Parish of Postlebury and the
Benefices of Stoke St. Michael, Leigh on Mendip and Downhead**

All services are taken by Revd Anthony Dickson unless otherwise stated.

2nd March - Ash Wednesday

19.00 Stoke St Michael Holy Communion

4th March (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 6th March - 1st Sunday of Lent

09.30 Wanstrow Holy Communion

11.00 Leigh-on-Mendip Family Communion

18.00 Stoke St Michael Evensong *Jane Evans*

11th March (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 13th March – 2nd Sunday of Lent

09.30 Stoke St Michael Holy Communion

11.00 Witham Family Communion

18.00 Stoke St Michael Soul Food *Revd Chris North*

18th March (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 20th March - 3rd Sunday of Lent

09.30 Nunney Holy Communion

11.00 Stoke St Michael Family Communion

18.00 Downhead Evensong

25th March (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 27th March - 4th Sunday of Lent

11.00 Marston Holy Communion

11.00 Cloford Matins *Jonathan Cheal*

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1st April (Friday)

10.00 Nunney Holy Communion BCP

Sunday 3rd April- 5th Sunday of Lent

09.30 Wanstrow Holy Communion

11.00 Leigh-on-Mendip Family Communion

18.00 Stoke St Michael Evensong *Jane Evans*

From the Registers:

Funerals:

2nd February: Christine Eagle - Wanstrow.

17th February: Rosalie Baker- Wanstrow- Burial of ashes.

18th February: Arthur Sheppard - Mendip Crematorium.

25th February: Linda Whittaker - Nunney, followed by burial at Byfields Cemetery.

Life events in March

3rd March: Funeral of Christopher Perkins - Stoke St Michael

9th March: Funeral of Delia Symes - Wanstrow

Note on the current Covid situation: if you wish to continue wearing a mask, please do so. Hand sanitiser will continue to be provided. Communion will continue to be given in one kind or by intinction for the time being.

Events for your diary

Meditation in Wanstrow Church - 10th March, 7.30pm.

Soul Food - an informal service of music, words and prayer -Stoke St Michael Church - 13th March, 6pm.

'Open Mic' session - Marston Church, 13th March from 3pm-6pm. www.marstonmusic.co.uk

Save the date: 22nd April in Nunney Village Hall - **"The Wedding Party"** theatrical experience in aid of Parish of Postlebury and Enterprise Players.

Living in Love and Faith - a series of discussions on Christian teaching and learning about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage organised by the Deanery in Holy Trinity, Frome on Tuesdays 1st, 15th, 29th March at 7.30 pm.

Arrangements for Lent:

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 2nd March and the Life Groups in Nunney, Witham Friary and Stoke St. Michael (with Zoom online option) will be starting a new course for Lent on Monday 7th March at 7.30 pm. If you would like to join any of these groups please email nunneychurchwardens@gmail.com for details. If you prefer to meet online, you are welcome to join the Stoke group by Zoom.

There is also a daytime course which will be held at Millards Hill, Trudoxhill beginning on Ash Wednesday at 1100, followed by a simple Lent Lunch at 1230 in aid of USPG. We will be following the Pilgrim course module on the Eucharist, learning about the origins of Holy Communion and its meaning for us today. If you would like to hold a Lent Lunch please let Revd. Dickson know- subsequent Lent lunches don't have to be on a Wednesday, but any day that suits you!

Key contacts in Parish of Postlebury

Priest-in-charge: Rev. Anthony Dickson, The Rectory, Nunney, Frome. BA11 4LZ Telephone: 01373 837337. Email: Nunney.rectory@gmail.com (day off is Monday)

PCC Secretary and Administrator: postleburysecretary@gmail.com

PCC Hon Treasurer: Mr Steve Elliott - treasurerpostlebury@gmail.com

If you would like to come off our mailing list please contact dataprotectionpostlebury@gmail.com

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From the Church of England Diocese of Bath and Wells



March 2022

You're welcome

While Lent is traditionally a time people associate with giving up things this year, with our 'Knowing You, Knowing Me, Knowing God' activities, we are encouraging people to consider how they can better know and understand others, themselves and God, through focusing on offering and receiving welcome, hospitality, inclusion and generosity.

Throughout Lent we will be sharing stories from people from diverse backgrounds across Bath and Wells so we can learn more about the people who live here and reflect how knowing more about others affects our actions.

Tony Cook, who leads our Everyday Faith and Growing Faith team says, "During the Covid pandemic we all had to withdraw into our own four walls and although things have started to return to 'normal' we want to encourage people, and particularly people of God, to renew and extend their welcome



beyond not only their own four walls, but the four walls of the church. It is also a challenge to go out into our communities to receive the hospitality of other groups and individuals as Jesus did.

"We hope the reflections and stories featured in 'Knowing You, Knowing Me, Knowing God' will help us all consider how we can contribute to becoming a more diverse church – one more representative of the populations we seek to serve."

Find out more about 'Knowing You, Knowing Me, Knowing God' at www.bathandwells.org.uk/Lent-22 and get involved in the conversations on our social media channels ■

News in brief

New local Ambassador for Children's Society

Nicky King from St Peter and St Paul's Wincanton has become the Diocesan Ambassador for the Children's Society. It is a voluntary role working with Jess Meale, Community Relationships Manager for the South-West. Nicky will work with Jess to identify areas in Bath and Wells that the Children's Society can work in and help build relationships with supporters or potential supporters across the area. This includes giving talks to interested groups ■



Nicky King



Moon for Taunton Minster

March will be a busy month for St Mary Magdalene's, Taunton. Not only will it be designated a Minster by Bishop Ruth at a service on Sunday, 13 March from the 18 – 31 March it will be hosting Luke Jerram's Museum of the Moon. Funded by Somerset West and Taunton Council, they said hosting the installation would 'inspire both locals and visitors.' Last year the exhibition drew crowds at both Bath Abbey and Wells Cathedral ■

100s explore God's call

Hundreds of people took part in our week of 'God Calls... everyone, everywhere' in February. At the opening service, on Accession Day, Bishop Ruth said, "Our calling won't necessarily be regal and royal like the Queen's, but each of us has sensed something of that call of

God, that's why we are here, and this week is an opportunity to consider further where that call takes us." Throughout the week we heard from people with a range of experience of God's call and joined together online at the end of the week to celebrate and reflect ■

The promise of new life

By Trevor Willmott, Honorary Assistant Bishop, Bath & Wells

"Lord, when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you?"

For any would be follower of Jesus, the teaching in Matthew 25 is surely some of the most challenging in the whole of the New Testament. What sort of disciples are we called to be? Will the world recognise Christ in us both in our words and in our actions?

Faced with persecution, with the temptation to instant popularity and self-aggrandisement, Jesus remains true to himself and to his call to be a servant leader. This, he says, is what is required of anyone who would follow me: "to love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself".

While we may talk a great deal about being a welcoming Church, the reality is much harder to achieve. To welcome is not to want the stranger to become just like us. It's about valuing the gifts they bring and about being willing to be changed ourselves by the new life coming among us. It begins, as Jesus began, by seeking to serve the stranger's needs and, to do that, we

first have to listen.

Some of the harshest of Jesus' words were directed to the religious people of his day, too occupied with their own agendas, their own self-righteousness, to notice the stranger in their midst. It is only when we are prepared to leave the security of our own home, "launching out into the deep", going onto the other's territory, can we begin to feel just how strange and at times threatening the community of faith can be to the outsider.

Lent, with its invitation to de-clutter our busy lives, brings also the promise of new life. Let's use this God-given time to pray that our hearts and the life of our communities may be opened such that we can truly welcome the stranger as a sister or brother in Christ.

With my blessing
+Trevor



A place of acceptance

Oosman Tegally, who worships at Christ Church, Bath share his thoughts on welcome and generosity.



Oosman Tegally

What does welcome mean to you?
Acceptance. I have gone into some places in the past and the faces tell whether you are accepted or if you are not and if you are received well then that to me is welcome. I have visited many places, many churches, and the moment I came into Christ Church I thought, yes this is the place I'd like to worship and be part of.

Have you experienced feeling unwelcome?

Oh yes, there have been times when comments have been made because of my ethnicity. It's what they perceive, what they see, they're not

looking inside to see what kind of a person you are, and I have been very hurt about that and I have never been back again. It's sad really because someone who could have been part of that community, cannot be when that happens.

How can we make people feel more included and less like an outsider?

We have to accept the person as they are, no matter what. It is accepting them for what they are, who they are and be accepting from both sides. Inclusivity means anybody - LGBT, disabled, learning difficulties and more.

How can we be more generous?

Generosity is being there for somebody who needs you, it doesn't matter in what form. It comes from the heart and it's what you feel capable of doing, not necessarily finances, it can be in many different ways, moral support, being there, a listening ear.

Read more stories of welcome at bathandwells.org.uk/news

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