

Dear friends

I hope you are all well this weekend. Today is the First Sunday of Lent, and here is the link to our video worship for today, which was filmed at St Michael and All Angels, Wood End. My apologies for the poor video quality of parts of this service, which is entirely down to my deficiencies as a cameraman, but I hope it doesn't spoil your enjoyment and participation in the service.

<https://youtu.be/aWa6ZQxifQM>



[A Service for the First Sunday of Lent](#)

A Service for the First Sunday of Lent (21 February 2021) from the Kingsbury and Baxterley Group of Parishes, filmed in the Church of St Michael and All Ange...  
[youtu.be](#)

There are various attachments to this email. As usual, there is the text of the worship if you find that helpful, and also this week's newsletter. The other two attachments relate to two of our Lent activities. On Wednesday at 7pm we shall be holding the first of our Lent Reflections, on the theme of 'Lenten Landscapes'. Some of you will have received the booklets for the whole of that course in the post this week; if you did not, and would like printed copies, just let me know and I will get a set to you. My hope is that we might all find this material helpful, whether we wish or are able to join in the discussion on Zoom, or simply use the material for your own reflections at home. The Zoom links for this, and for Tuesday evening compline, are as for previous weeks and are on the newsletter. I've also attached some readings and reflections that I've called 'Read Mark Lent'; the Lent reading that I have chosen to do this year is to read through the whole of Mark's Gospel, and offer a few reflections or comments for each day's reading. I have been posting these each day on the parish facebook page, but you may find it easier to have them as a Word document, so here are the readings and reflections for the first four days of Lent.

You will see from the newsletter that we shall be continuing with at-home worship only for the next couple of weeks. I am hopeful though that we may be in a position after that to gradually and carefully move back to having some services in the church buildings as well, but any firm decision will be made after consultations with the wardens and others this week, in the light of the Prime Minister's expected announcement tomorrow about the wider plans for moving out of lockdown. If you have any thoughts or concerns, do please share them with me.

Finally, congratulations to those of you who have received the vaccine. I was pleasantly surprised this week to receive my invitation to be vaccinated (I didn't think I was old enough!), and duly had the jab yesterday morning. All very painlessly and efficiently done!

With my prayers and blessings

Revd Dr John White

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**Morning Worship during Lent  
First Sunday of Lent 21 February 2021**

***Introduction***

***The Greeting***

The Lord our Redeemer be with you  
**and also with you.**

***Opening Prayer***

God of our days and years,  
we set this time apart for you.  
Form us in the likeness of Christ  
so that our lives may glorify you.  
**Amen.**

***Confession and forgiveness***

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,  
though we have rebelled against him.  
Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy  
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Wash away all my iniquity  
**and cleanse me from my sin.**

Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Against you, you only have I sinned  
**and done what is evil in your sight.**

Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
**and renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God,  
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,  
bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

***The Collect***

Heavenly Father,  
your Son battled with the powers of darkness,  
and grew closer to you in the desert:  
help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer  
that we may witness to your saving love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

***First Reading – Genesis 9.8-17***

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Psalm 130***

Out of the depths have I called to you, Lord.  
Let your ears be open to hear my voice.

**My hope is in God's word.**

If you recorded all our sins  
who could come before you?

**My hope is in God's word.**

There is forgiveness with you:  
therefore you shall be feared.

**My hope is in God's word.**

My soul is longing for the Lord,  
more than those who watch for daybreak.

**My hope is in God's word.**

O Israel, wait for the Lord,  
for with the Lord there is mercy.

**My hope is in God's word.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**My hope is in God's word.**

***Second Reading – Mark 1.9-15***

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Sermon***

### ***Affirmation of faith***

Let us affirm our faith  
in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.  
Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

### ***Prayers of intercession***

*The response may be used*

Lord, meet us in the silence:  
**Give us strength and hear our prayer.**

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

#### ***Final Prayer***

God of compassion,  
through your Son Jesus Christ  
you have reconciled your people to yourself.  
As we follow his example of prayer and fasting,  
may we obey you with willing hearts  
and serve one another in holy love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### ***Blessing***

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
rest upon you and those whom you love,  
this day and always.  
**Amen.**

## **Keep Singing from Sarah**

Hello All, I hope you have had a good week. Please see below a selection of music to accompany the first Sunday of Lent 2021.

483 - O for a closer walk with God - [O For A Closer Walk With God - YouTube](#)

190 - Forty days and forty nights - [Forty Days and Forty Nights \[with lyrics for congregations\] - YouTube](#)

221 - God is working his purpose out - [BENSON-GOD IS WORKING HIS PURPOSE OUT - YouTube](#)

343 - Jesu(s), lover of my soul - [Jesu, Lover of my soul \(\(Aberystwyth\)\) - YouTube](#)

some more for reflection...

On God alone I wait silently - [On God Alone I Wait Silently - YouTube](#)

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you - [Do Not Be Afraid \(Live\) - YouTube](#)

Oculi nostri - [Oculi nostri - YouTube](#)

View me, Lord - [View Me Lord - YouTube](#)

S S Wesley's "Cast me not away": Hereford Cathedral 1980 (Roy Massey) - [S S Wesley's "Cast me not away": Hereford Cathedral 1980 \(Roy Massey\) - YouTube](#)

A Prayer of St Columba McDowall - [A Prayer of St Columba \(SA, Men\) - YouTube](#)

In God alone my soul - [In God Alone \(Mon Ame Se Repose\) - YouTube](#)

It is strange to enter another season of Lent still in lockdown, I hope you are all managing to keep safe and well, and keep going. As always our thoughts and prayers are with you all and especially as we reflect at this time over the past year.

I am constantly amazed by how, especially the girls, but everyone has adapted. This afternoon Phoebe is going to a zoom birthday party with her friends; she is excited to see everyone online and join in with virtual fun, earlier today a doorstep drop of cupcakes and activities to do together was arranged. Similarly, earlier in the week, both girls went to an online shrove Tuesday pancake making zoom call. I am forever grateful to the amazing volunteers at Guides, sports clubs and other organisations who are arranging these things. Thank you too for all of your messages, apologies if I haven't got round to replying yet, we love hearing from you and all your news.

Last night as a family we streamed an online live theatre performance from the mischief comedy company which was excellent and had us all laughing outloud!

Emily continues to socially distance coach a junior disability tennis group which she enjoys very much, we are lucky she is able to volunteer in person still at this group still and it gives her and the young people she coaches a chance to have a small amount of normality too, all be it from behind face masks and hand sanitizer. Although we are sad that for another year the ball girl training and tournament opportunities are on hold.

And with that our half term break is over. The weather has been kind enough that we have managed several walks, bike rides and been outside as much as possible before the return to screens next week for us all. I did have to turn down the request to camp out in the back garden however, I am up for outdoor fun but felt I had to draw the line there!! Think we will save that for the Easter holidays and hopefully warmer weather ha ha!

Sending lots of love to you all and hoping you are managing to keep singing!  
Sarah and the family xxxx